



As an extension of Viva Network* , The Asha Forum exists to inform, unite, equip and mobilize Christians worldwide; a) in preventing all forms of child sexual abuse, and b) in working with sexually abused children in the context of family and community, helping them become all God created them to be.

We believe:

- Children are loved deeply by God, are uniquely created in God's image and are full members of the human race (Ps139:14-16, I Sam 3; II Kings 5:2-3).
- God expects adults to train, nurture and protect children, especially those orphaned and oppressed (Deut6:6-7; Prov22:6; Eph6:4; II Tim3:14-15; Prov31:8-9; James1:27).
- Sexual intimacy is God's gift for expression of physical, emotional and spiritual intimacy and joy, and ultimately procreation within a monogamous marriage relationship of an adult woman and an adult man (Gen2:23-25; Ex20:14, 17; Song of Solomon 4; Prov5:15-19; I Cor7:4-5; Ex 20:14; I Cor 6:15-20).
- Any sexual activity that involves children is destructive spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically to all involved and is to be strongly opposed (Prov24:11-12, 29:7; Is58:6, Matt 18:6).
- God fervently condemns, with warning of great punishment, causing any harm to, or not helping a child (Luke17:2).

We are:

- **A global movement of Christians** caring for children at risk of all forms of sexual abuse.
- **Autonomous entities** working together to provide better help to more children.
- **A focal point** for information and resource exchange and the development of outcome driven collaborations.

We are committed to:

- **Informing** people everywhere, regardless of their beliefs, about the evil of child sexual abuse, of the Biblical mandate to respond and of the varying opportunities to do so.
- **Uniting** a global movement of Christians working to address child sexual abuse in any form, so that we may improve the quality, quantity and impact of services offered.
- Developing partnerships with government and Non-Governmental Organizations, networks and individuals, without compromising Christ-centered values.
- **Equipping** Christians to confront child sexual abuse effectively by addressing prevention, awareness raising, advocacy, education and rehabilitation primarily through partnership with local Christian churches.
- **Mobilizing** Christians everywhere to get involved by providing clear service opportunities that honor people's gifts and abilities.

We encourage those who endorse The Asha Forum Declaration to:

- *Update a questionnaire annually (i.e. contact details, services provided, key prayer needs and answers)*
- *Make a financial contribution to the forum annually (amount is subject to donor)*
- *Implement an organizational child protection policy*
- *promote and/or participate in forum events and activities (i.e. articles in newsletters, emails to list serve, distribution of materials to constituents, participate in consultations and/or working groups)*

Partners agree to the publication of their name, either organizational or individual, on Asha Forum literature as a partner.

* Viva Network is an international movement of thousands of Christian organizations, individuals and networks working to get better help to more 'children at risk' by working together - linking and enhancing the Christian response (www.viva.org).

Date: February 14, 2003

RE: The Asha Forum Associate Declaration (1page)

Dear Friend,

In December of 2001 The Asha Forum gathered together Christian leaders at the 2nd World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. One of the recommendations of this group was that The Asha Forum develop a clear declaration of position, which Forum Participants could endorse to officially recognize their support of the movement.

In October of 2002 The Asha Forum convened the first ever international gathering of Christians for the express purpose of linking and enhancing the Christian response to child sexual exploitation worldwide. A draft declaration was presented and the delegation recommend the declaration be condensed to one page to increase the likelihood of its practical use. Since this consultation, the forum Advisory Team and many others have worked do develop this one page declaration.

The Asha Forum is meant to be your forum, and this declaration is meant to be your declaration. Please take the time to consider practical ways that you can be a part of The Asha Forum's growing network of Christians working together to put an end to the sexual exploitation of children, and let me know if you would like to become a partner with The Asha Forum.

I strongly believe that by working together we can create a synergetic force that will do much to end this evil.

Sincerely,

Mike McGill ~ The Asha Forum Facilitator

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