



British Deputy
High Commission
Mumbai

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UK-India child protection workshop in Pune

The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA)'s Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) Command will be running a series of child protection workshops across India during February 2015, including Pune, Mumbai and Delhi.

In Pune, the workshop will be held on Saturday, 14 February in association with the Rotary Club of Pune Gandhi Bhavan and will be attended by the Deputy Head of Mission of the British Deputy High Commission in Mumbai, Mr Colin Wells, Rotary International President Elect, K. R. Ravindran, President Rotary Club of Pune Gandhi Bhavan Mr Atul Joshi, Padma Bhushan Dr S. B. Mujumdar and leading advocate and Chevening Scholar Ms Vaishali Bhagwat.

Funded by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partly by Rotary Club Pune Gandhi Bhavan, this activity aims to share knowledge and raise awareness of some of the emerging trends and key issues surrounding child sexual exploitation. The project aims to strengthen the UK's relationship with India tackling the mutual threat of online crime – particularly in the area of internet-enabled child sexual exploitation.

Since 2006, NCA-CEOP has handled numerous cases involving offences being committed in India and the surrounding countries. These cases include both UK nationals offending overseas but also a number of Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals, resident in those respective countries and offending against UK victims over the internet.

Through working with partners in India, the NCA wants to contribute to making the country more hostile to child sex offenders, and in turn making children in the region and in the UK safer. Currently, four states in India are providing free laptops to all children through schools, but these are not accompanied by safety messaging and there have been reports of extortion and blackmail through self-generated imagery. This project will support the development of a safer online community across India and aims to build on existing operational cooperation and safeguarding partnerships.

While in India, NCA-CEOP is partnering with the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Rotary Club of Pune Gandhi Bhavan RID 313, local charity Prerana, Nahar International School Mumbai, the British School New Delhi and the British Council, to create a comprehensive online safety awareness program run by local and international trainers. This will be delivered to law enforcement officers, child protection professionals, charities, schools and government agencies within India.

The program is designed to empower children and young people in India to better protect themselves from a number of risks in both online and offline, including sexual exploitation and abuse, improve our partnerships with Indian law enforcement and make India a more hostile place for child sex offenders.

Pune Workshop: Safeguarding Children

The objectives of the Safeguarding Children Workshop are for delegates to:

- understand the context of child sexual exploitation on and offline in India
- deliver a 45 minute lesson plan to children, young people and parents supported by NCA-CEOP educational resources
- raise awareness to other appropriate colleagues
- empower children and young people to stay safe

Expected outcomes are that practitioners can teach other professionals about risks and opportunities for children and young people online, be more comfortable talking to young people about what they are doing online, know how to signpost young people to support mechanisms available in India, and teach out lesson plans to further aid their discussions with young people about how to keep themselves safe online.

These workshops will also help start a more in depth conversation about online behaviours in India, help to break down barriers between adults and children in regards to the online world and how to report if something goes wrong online and ultimately help safeguard more children across India.

Notes to Editors:

1. For further information please email [Vaishali Bhagwat](#), Mobile: 9822050602 or [Atul Joshi](#), Mobile: 9823074666. For information on NCA-CEOP UK please email [press office](#) or call the National Crime Agency press office on 00 44 207979 5835.
2. The [National Crime Agency](#) (NCA) is a UK crime-fighting agency with national and international reach and the mandate and powers to work in partnership with other law enforcement organisations, to bring the full weight of the law to bear in cutting serious and organised crime.
3. The NCA's [CEOP Command](#) works with child protection and law enforcement partners within the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account.
4. The International Child Protection Network (ICPN) brings together experts from all walks of life to share expertise, build knowledge and limit offender opportunity. The ICPN is active in many parts of the world where it has worked to build up partnerships and knowledge and where, from experience, we know that children have been targeted, in particular by offenders travelling from the UK.
5. Since initiating the ICPN in 2010, the CEOP Command has directly trained over 2,010 multi-sector professionals across Europe, South and Southeast Asia by delivering Child Safeguarding Workshops and awareness raising sessions. Officers from CEOP have also directly trained over 420 law enforcement professionals through the delivery of courses to enhance knowledge and understanding on the threat area including investigation skills for cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse.
6. The NCA is a member of the [\[Virtual Global Taskforce\]](#) which also includes the Australian Federal Police, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Italian National Postal and Communication Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Interpol.

British Deputy High Commission, Communications & Public Affairs Department
Naman Chambers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400 051
Tel: 022 6650 2236 / 5 Fax: 022 6650 2341. Web site: www.gov.uk/world/india