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Maggie Eno
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Dear Sir

Re: Government consultation process – Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre

I am a British national working to protect children in Cambodia, as founder of M'Lop Tapang, a Cambodian NGO working with over 2,500 street children and their families. Formed in 2003, it provides support, protection, positive choices and hope to vulnerable children in Sihanoukville Cambodia. M'Lop Tapang has a large focus on all child protection issues and works closely with partner NGOs, Local authorities CEOP and other international law enforcement agencies.

During 2006 – 2009 I held the position of British Honorary Consul for Sihanoukville, Cambodia, on behalf of the British Embassy.

CEOP have been active in Cambodia since 2006 and have worked directly with M'Lop Tapang by training our staff to recognise offending behavior, interviewing victims to a standard of achieving best evidence, and assisting with many other interactions concerning the safeguarding of children in Cambodia.

I am aware that in 2009, the Home Office decided that CEOP should become an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB). I now understand that in July 2010 the present government published its consultation paper on reforming UK policing, 'Policing in the 21st Century'. One of the proposals in this consultation paper is that CEOP would become part of a National Crime Agency (NCA), whose main focus will be on tackling serious and organised crime and better protecting UK borders.

CEOP's approach has been one of engaging with all sectors regarding the safeguarding of children here in Cambodia and within the South East Asia region from a dedicated child protection position; they have a highly credible reputation with many agencies not just law enforcement. The new proposal currently being considered of their becoming part of the NCA would inhibit the benefits currently afforded to organisations such as mine as the dedicated focus on child protection would be diluted in this much larger agency. I fail to see the compatibility.

As a founder member of the CEOP Advisory Panel in Cambodia I see firsthand the wider benefits they bring in working with all sectors ranging from local to UN agencies. This allows for many mutual benefits including support, information sharing and access to resources and expertise.

In order to maximise the effectiveness that CEOP provides on behalf of UK policing to the multiple sectors involved in safeguarding children I believe their status is important to all stakeholders. Operating within the confines of the NCA will not allow for the cover they provide now I fear.

Yours sincerely

Maggie Eno