

# State of Global Child Abuse and Strategic Response Report | 2025

Office of the Founder, President & CEO

Save One Another Foundation (SOAF)

Dr. Gregg Tyler Milligan | June 2025

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## Global Landscape of Child Abuse

Globally, child abuse remains one of the most urgent and complex crises of our time. According to Stoltenborgh et al. (2015), over **1 billion children** are subjected annually to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.

- **Sexual Abuse:** Global prevalence estimated between **8–30%**, depending on region (*Barth et al., 2013*).
- **Emotional Abuse:** Universally under-recognized, yet pervasive.
- **Neglect & Physical Abuse:** Often co-occurring, and deeply connected to systemic poverty.

⚠ *Challenges:* Underreporting, cultural taboos, lack of legal alignment, and definitional inconsistencies prevent a comprehensive response.

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## us United States – Trends & Interventions

- **Prevalence:** 1 in 7 U.S. children experience abuse annually (CDC, 2024).

- **Suicidal Ideation:** Notably high among youth in child welfare systems (*Child Maltreatment*, 2025).
- **Racial Disparities:** Black and Latinx youth are disproportionately criminalized.
- **Human Trafficking:** Dual-system-involved children face elevated risk.
- **Maternal Reporting Barriers:** Bureaucracy and stigma weaken early intervention.

#### System Responses:

- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- National data systems (NCANDS, AFCARS)
- Mandated reporting protocols

⚠ *Limitations:* Underfunded prevention, mistrust among families, and fragmented systems.

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## Digital Threats – CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material)

A 2025 study by Cross et al. analyzed 2,980 CSAM filenames across U.S. peer-to-peer networks:

- Most referenced children aged 5–12; over 50% described penetrative abuse.
- Themes of **racialization**, **incest**, and dehumanization were prevalent.
- Urgent recommendation: integrate CSAM detection into CPS and justice systems.

#### Reference:

Cross, T. P. et al. (2025). *Child Maltreatment*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595251314035>

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## TH Thailand – Contextual and Cultural Overview

- **Prevalence:**
  - Physical abuse: 17–23%
  - Emotional abuse: 25–32% (*East Asia & Pacific Study, 2015*)
- **Underreporting:** Widespread, especially in rural and religious communities.
- **Cultural Barriers:** Corporal punishment, deference to authority, family shame.
- **Vulnerable Populations:** Children in faith-based homes, institutions, or low-income regions.

#### National Efforts:

- Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
- NGO Partnerships: *SOAF, CHF, Mahidol University*

⚠ **Challenges:** Shortage of trauma-informed professionals, fragmented data, and absence of safe school-based reporting tools.

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## สรุปนโยบาย | Policy Brief

จัดทำโดยมูลนิธิ **Save One Another (SOAF)**

ดร. เกร็ก ไทเลอร์ มิลลิแกน | มิถุนายน 2025

### บทสรุปสำหรับผู้บริหาร | Executive Summary

ทั่วโลก เด็กมากกว่า 1 พันล้านคนเผชิญกับการล่วงละเมิด แต่ระบบข้อมูลและกลไกตอบสนองยังล่าช้า

ในสหรัฐฯ เด็ก 1 ใน 7 คนประสบกับการทารุณกรรม

ในประเทศไทย มากถึง 32% เผชิญการล่วงละเมิดทางอารมณ์

ความยากจน ความเจ็บป่วย และการละเลยจากภาครัฐยังเป็นวิกฤต

Globally, over 1 billion children face abuse annually, yet systemic silence and fragmented care deepen the crisis.

From racial disparities in U.S. courts to stigma in Thai villages, this epidemic transcends borders.

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## **Strategic Global & Local Response Themes**

### **1. Integrated Surveillance & Data Justice**

- Unified child abuse tracking system across nations
- Transparency in adoption/foster care records (e.g., CFSR-3)

### **2. Faith-Based Resilience Networks**

- Discipleship-based healing curriculum
- Christ-centered mentorship across schools and churches

### **3. Policy Levers & Legal Advocacy**

- Racial bias audits (USA), trauma curriculum (Thailand)
- Global standardization of abuse definitions via WHO/UN

### **4. Education & Institutional Safeguarding**

- Required child protection training for teachers, staff, and pastors
- Monitoring for cyberbullying and educator-led maltreatment

### **5. Economic Risk Mitigation**

- Poverty alleviation through family planning and caregiver grants
- Attention to rural isolation as a neglect predictor

### **6. Workforce Empowerment**

- Spiritual care for caseworkers
- Sabbaticals, trauma wellness retreats

## 7. Domestic Violence Integration

- Unified DV and CPS tracking and intervention models
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## What SOAF Is Doing About This

**SOAF** กำลังดำเนินการในด้านต่อไปนี้

- “The Light Within” – Trauma recovery program for girls in CHF Thailand
  - “The Dream Builders Project” – Vocational, identity, and faith curriculum
  - Pastoral trauma certification in partnership with **Bangkok Institute of Theology**
  - Training village responders with Thailand's Ministry of Justice
  - Youth camps and peer healing programs with the **CHF Foundation**
  - Global publication in **Springer Nature** and **IGI Global**
  - Launch of **Thailand’s first bilingual LMS** focused on trauma and theology
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## Spiritual Reflection from the Office of the CEO

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

— *Proverbs 31:8–9*

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart...” — *Psalms 34:18*

“Let the little children come to Me...” — *Matthew 19:14*

“Bear one another’s burdens...” — *Galatians 6:2*

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## Final Declaration from SOAF

SOAF declares with unwavering clarity:

Child protection is **not merely social reform**—it is **spiritual obedience**.

Through research, advocacy, discipleship, and system-wide collaboration,

We will not merely **respond**—we will **restore**.

“We do not retreat.

We advance the light.”

— *Dr. Gregg Tyler Milligan*