

## 150 countries have made significant progress; the need for awareness and action continues

Children, every day, all around the world suffer sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. As global accessibility to technology platforms and the Internet has increased, so has a new dimension in which the sexual exploitation of children can flourish if unchecked.

12 years ago, ICMEC recognized the need to gain a better understanding of the global legislative landscape as it related to child sexual abuse material (CSAM) (then referred to as “child pornography”). After careful consideration, ICMEC launched an initiative that some have called our “Rule of Law” project. We conducted a global review that has grown to include 196 countries, and developed model legislation, enabling governments around the world to adopt and enact appropriate legislation necessary to combat this crime and better protect children.

A comprehensive legislative strategy that is aimed at combating CSAM and allows law enforcement to aggressively investigate and prosecute offenders must extend beyond the criminalization of certain actions by child sex offenders. Accordingly, the model contemplated in ICMEC’s groundbreaking report, *Child Sexual Abuse Material: Model Legislation & Global Review*, includes sections regarding clearly defined terminology; CSAM related offenses; mandatory reporting; industry responsibility; sanctions and sentencing; and law enforcement investigations and data retention.

Since 2006, ICMEC has engaged in a global review of national legislation to assess progress every two years. Our core criteria continues to assess whether national legislation:

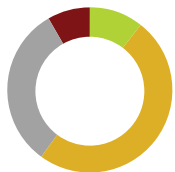
1. Exists with specific regard to CSAM;
2. Provides a definition of CSAM;
3. Criminalizes technology-facilitated CSAM related offenses;
4. Criminalizes the knowing possession of CSAM, regardless of the intent to distribute; and
5. Requires Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to report suspected CSAM to law enforcement or to some other mandated agency.

The results of our reviews are shared with embassies and country missions in Washington, D.C. and New York so that interested parties may review our work before publication.

ICMEC is proud to note that since we first published this report in 2006, **150** countries have refined or implemented new anti-CSAM legislation. While this is excellent progress, there is more to be done – this is the time to be diligent, to persist and push forward to bring the remaining 16 countries without anti-CSAM legislation into the fold to make the world’s children safer.

*\*With this 9<sup>th</sup> Edition report, ICMEC replaced the term “child pornography” with the term “child sexual abuse material” to align with the terminology now accepted by the international child protection community as it more aptly describes the true nature and extent of sexually exploitive images of child victims.*

## 9<sup>th</sup> Edition at a Glance:



21 countries met all 5 criteria  
97 countries met 4 criteria  
62 countries met 1-3 criteria  
16 countries have no CSAM legislation



125 countries define CSAM  
71 countries don't



140 countries criminalize simple CSAM possession  
56 countries don't



32 countries require ISP reporting of suspected CSAM  
164 countries don't