



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Making the Internet Safer for Children and Families

Internet Safety 101 Launch

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Hello, I'm Alicia Kozakiewicz.

At 13, I was lured from my home by a sadistic Internet predator who held me captive, chained, and tortured.

As I had disappeared without a trace ... It was a million to one shot against my recovery - a million to one. As easily as that, a child's life is reduced to a simple statistic.

But, by the grace of God, I was rescued. I was gifted with a miracle-with my life, and with a mission, sharing my experience, so I might spare others the agonies that my family and I have endured.

And so I am with you today, because I have faith that everything happens for a reason.

My abduction ended with the best possible outcome of the worst-case scenario. But, in actuality, my abduction began long before this man physically touched me.

It began 8 months earlier. It began the very day we first made virtual contact, when the predator, discovered in me those vulnerable characteristics for which predators search. Shy, naïve, and, curious like most children, like your own, I was confused by the societal pressures which increasingly demanded a sexual maturity for which I was completely unprepared - and defenseless against.

In the course of our online relationship, this monster, was able to befriend the young girl I was through his constant online presence and feigned support, and by answering my hesitant questions. Through that incredibly effective process of Internet grooming, he impaired my ability to rationalize. He molded me byte by byte, slowly twisting me into someone I was not.

And throughout this process, I was alone, my parents, like most, recognized the net as an incredible educational tool, but were clueless and unable to speak the digital language in which their children were daily becoming increasingly more fluent. Most barely knew how to turn on the computer let alone install a program to monitor activity or search the history. This lack of parental educational preparation - the cultural disconnect - has allowed children unprecedented freedom to dance with danger, to push that envelope like never before. Even the best of parents, trusted that we would behave accordingly online, unaware that the core values which they had so lovingly instilled in us did not translate to the web, where we were reinventing

ourselves daily, embracing fantasy and suspending reality in ways which they could never fathom.

Had there been a training tool like "Internet Safety 101" this horrible tragedy may not have befallen my family. For in any scenario, parents remain their children's first line of defense.

Sadly, as mine weren't armed with knowledge ...neither was I. Had my parents been made aware of the incredible power of the web, they would have been able to better prepare me, and to harness those web monitoring safety softwares to stand guard in their absence.

Over the course of the past 3 years, I've spoken to thousands of children and their parents, and I am terrified by what I've learned: Adults are no less clueless! Wake up! Recognize that each and every one of your beloved little prince and princesses are equally at risk!!!!

If there is any one bit of information I can share with you today, it's that your child can access pure evil on the web, and while my horrific experience is on the extreme end of the spectrum, the damage that is being done to each and every web-surfing child, who is not properly monitored, may be no less significant. My parents would give anything – anything – to have protected their precious child from the hands of that monster.

There is a quote that my mother lives by: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." She and my father are here with us today – to join Donna and Enough Is Enough in her mission to do just that: To protect America's families with Internet Safety 101.

Thank you, Donna.