

# Break the Silence Philippines



## Type of intervention



Classroom setting



Film

## Target group/s, level/s of prevention and sub-group/s:

### Primary prevention



Children (6-11 Years), Young People (12-17 Years) | Male & Female | Classroom Setting | English, Filipino, Cebuano, Khmer, Nepalese, Thai, Sinhalese, American Sign Language, Filipino Sign Language

## Target population

Children aged 10-15 years.

## Delivery organisation

TASK (Talented, Ambitious, Street Kids; Stairway Foundation), based in the Philippines.

## Mode and context of delivery

Three animations on DVD accompanied by discussion delivered by trained facilitators. Any organisation that wishes to learn how to prevent child sexual abuse may apply for facilitator training for an individual from their organisation.

## Level/Nature of staff expertise required

Ideally, people who deliver the Break the Silence programme should be trained by The Stairway Foundation. The foundation provides various levels and modules of training to become a facilitator:

- Level 1: Introduction to Child Sexual Abuse
  - Module 1: Gender Sensitivity (1 day module)
  - Module 2: Introduction to Child Sexual Abuse (3 day module)
  - Module 3: Basics of Handling Disclosures (1 day module)

- Level 2: Advanced Topics on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
  - Module 1: Advanced CSAP Topics (1 day module)
  - Module 2: Technology Related Crimes Against Children (1 day module)
  - Module 3: Personal Safety and Protective Behaviour for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (3 day module)
- Level 3: Training of Trainers
  - Module 1: Training of Trainers (3 day module)
- Level 4: Communication Skills Handling Sexually Abused Children
  - Module 1: Communication Skills Handling Sexually Abused Children (5 day module)

A manual is provided, along with the DVDs, for delivering the Break the Silence programme. The manual is not designed to be used without initially undergoing facilitators' or trainers' training. However, inclusion of the manual, along with the DVDs, means that even those who have not attended the Stairway's training would know how to discuss the films with the children.

### **Intensity/extent of engagement with target group(s)**

DVD running time:

- 'Daughter' – 12 minutes
- 'A Good Boy' – 18 minutes
- 'Red Leaves Falling' – 23 minutes

### **Description of intervention**

With the realisation that the issue of child sexual abuse is not something that people could easily talk about, Stairway has found out that using creative means helps them connect more with the issue. The decision to use animation considered the fact that children are Stairway's primary targets. Animations are colourful and non-threatening so their attention is easily caught. Even adults, however, find the animations engaging. Used in trainings and capacity-building activities, the animations provide a concrete and realistic picture of a child sexually abused by her father ('Daughter') and another child abused by a paedophile ('A Good Boy').

The animations, when distributed or sold to partners, come with their own toolkits so that even those who have not attended Stairway's trainings would know how to discuss and process the films with the children. Included as well is a section on handling disclosures, to prepare for the possibility that a child in the audience would find the courage to break their silence about the abuse.

The value of the animations in the drive against child sexual abuse has been recognized internationally. Both the *Daughter* and *A Good Boy* toolkits have won international awards. These have also been widely distributed and translated in several languages, including Spanish, French, Khmer, and Thai. The animations are also in both the Filipino and Cebuano languages.

'Daughter';

How many times does a child have to tell an adult about being sexually abused before he or she is believed? 'Daughter' is a heartfelt story about a young girl who is left with the responsibility of taking care of her father and her

siblings while her mother works overseas. The role becomes distorted when her father starts to have an incestuous relationship with her. She attempts to tell various adults about the abuse, but no one believes her.

Written by Monica D. Ray

Directed by Monica D. Ray, Paw Rayn and Oscar Perez

Storyboard by Paw Rayn

Animation by Philippine Animation Studies

Translations: English, Filipino, Cebuano, Spanish, Khmer, Thai and French

Running Time: 12 minutes

‘A Good Boy’;

A powerful depiction of the crime of paedophilia. It is a tale about how a young street kid named Jason is entrapped by Bob, a paedophile. Bob befriends Jason and his family with money and gifts. He gains their trust and invites Jason on a little “business trip” where he abuses him. Out of deep obligation to provide for his family, Jason keeps the abuse a secret until one day, Raffy, a street educator, helps him.

Written and directed by Monica D. Ray

Produced by Stairway Foundation

Animated by Dog n’ Bone

Post Production by Wild Fire and Katrina Nyholm

Translations by International School Manila and Euro-Campus

Languages: English, Filipino, Cebuano, Spanish, Khmer, Thai and French

Running Time: 18 minutes

‘Red Leaves Falling’;

A story of child sex trafficking and online pornography. Under the stress of poverty and a dying child, a mother agrees to send her daughters off to work in the city as house help--but the girls end up as sex slaves in a brothel.

Written and directed by Monica D. Ray

Produced by Stairway Foundation

Animation by Neko Animation Studio Manila

Post Production by Wild Fire and Hit Sound Studio

Languages: American Sign Language (ALS), Cebuano, English, Filipino, Filipino Sign Language (FLS), Khmer, Nepalese, Thai and Sinhalese

Running Time: 23 minutes

The three animations were adapted from short stories found in the collection called ‘Black Angels, Street Children Realities’ by Monica D. Ray. It has been used extensively in Stairway’s Personal Safety workshops and the films have proven an innovative and invaluable tool for children and young people to help them open up and to discuss the issue of sexual abuse. As young people watch, listen, discuss and tell their stories, they learn to connect to themselves, to each other and to the world of ideas, which cultivates the imagination and heightens social awareness by exploring the conflicts depicted with simplicity and wisdom.

## **Evaluation**

The Stairway Foundation (2013). *Evaluation Research on the Effects of “A Good Boy” and “Daughter” Animations*. Available from: <http://www.stairwayfoundation.org/stairway/index.php/articles>.

This evaluation utilised questionnaires to explore the effects of showing ‘A Good Boy’ and ‘Daughter’. Effects are gauged in terms of the learning in the areas of (1) disclosure, (2) knowledge about the dynamics of sexual abuse and (3) pre-empting abuse that takes place among the audience, after watching the two videos. The variables included in the study are gender (male and female), grade level (Grades 5-6, High School Year 1-2, High School Year 3-4), type of school (private, public) and the type of community (urban, rural). 935 students were included in the sample from the areas of Manila, Pasay, and Oriental Mindoro; 44 further students served as a control group. The intervention subjects learned significantly more than the control subjects about the dynamics of sexual abuse after watching the videos, across gender, grade level, type of school and type of community. They also learned more than controls about disclosure and how to prevent abuse. These videos could play a significant role in protecting children from sexual abuse.

## **References**

The Stairway Foundation (2013). *Break the Silence Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention Training Package Information*. Available from: <http://www.stairwayfoundation.org/stairway/index.php/articles>.

The Stairway Foundation (2013). *Evaluation Research on the Effects of “A Good Boy” and “Daughter” Animations*. Available from: <http://www.stairwayfoundation.org/stairway/index.php/articles>.

## **Contact details**

Telephone: +63 917 843 1922

Email: [info@stairwayfoundation.org](mailto:info@stairwayfoundation.org)