

In 2021, when the Child Safety and Protection Network (CSPN) asked Ruth Van Reken to be their keynote speaker on the topic of "Historic Abuse and Restorative Justice," Ruth consulted with MK Safety Net (MКСN) board members and other MK advocates so that her presentations would include their concerns about abuse in mission settings. After the conference, at Ruth's request, CSPN asked to meet with MКСN to further discuss that topic and other issues.

After much planning, a meeting took place in Pittsburgh on September 10, 2022. Those in attendance were CSPN board members Tom Hardeman, Nikki Aldum, Jody Hilt and Phil Morrison; MКСN attendees Dianne Coutts, Rich Darr, Sarah Klingler and Nathan Morse; facilitators Stephanie Hixon of JustPeaceUMC and Mike Yoder of GuideSpring; advocate Amy Stier and TCK expert, Ruth Van Reken.

The goals of the meeting were for MКСN to tell their stories, explain historical harms, and for both parties to seek understanding. Other topics of conversation included: roles of each organization, function of CSPN, accountability of mission organizations, and transparency.

MКСN was aware that, in 2017, CSPN stopped holding their member organizations accountable for implementing the CSPN child safety *Standards* which they renamed *Key Organizational Elements*. In Pittsburgh, we also learned that CSPN's resources, trainings and conferences are all optional for their members. CSPN does not oversee in any way if or how their members implement their *Elements* or how they respond to abuse; in fact, they are sometimes totally unaware of abuse issues going on in their member organizations.

We are thankful that CSPN has created policies for safeguarding children and for responding to abuse in overseas mission settings. However, as long as mission groups decide for themselves if and how they will make child safety a priority, MКСN fears that vulnerable children now and adults deeply harmed in the past will not be safe nor protected.

As examples, MКСN attendees shared with CSPN very recent situations where their member missions' responses to historic abuse have ranged from good (Greater Europe Mission and Mission Aviation Fellowship) to okay (Christian Academy in Japan) to terrible (Sending in Mission and Hillcrest School.) While CSPN agrees with MКСN that overseas organizations who work with children should be held accountable for having and enforcing safety and protection measures, they are adamant that this cannot be, and

will not be, their role with their members - even though their name - Child Safety and Protection Network - seems to imply that this is what they do.

Beyond MKSN's ongoing work of walking with adult MK survivors on their healing journeys, providing MK survivors with networking opportunities and supporting them if they choose to confront their mission boards, MKSN occasionally addresses abuse concerns directly with mission entities. We thank CSPN for allowing us to meet with them to do just that. If any of their member organizations are serious about learning how to respond in compassionate, trauma-informed ways to wounded adult MKs, MKSN would be glad to share with them how mission organizations can do better based on our decades-long interactions with survivors of historic MK abuse.