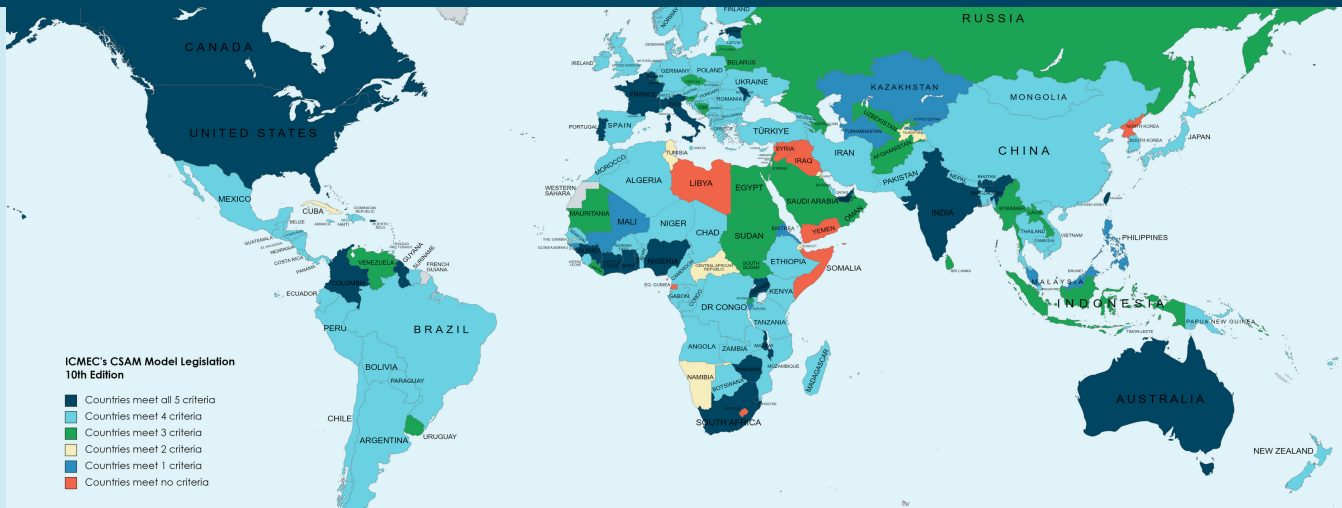


CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL: MODEL LEGISLATION & GLOBAL REVIEW - 10th Edition

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



Every day, children worldwide endure the sexual abuse and exploitation perpetrated by individuals who actively target them. As global accessibility to technology platforms and the internet has increased, these technologies have permeated every aspect of our personal, professional, and social lives. According to UNICEF, one in three internet users worldwide is a child. And while the digital world offers countless benefits and opportunities, it also vastly multiplies the risks to children.

Nearly twenty 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). We examined national laws on CSAM and developed model legislation – a menu of concepts – to increase global understanding and concern and enable governments around the world to adopt and enact appropriate legislation necessary to combat this crime and better protect children.

The model contemplated in ICMEC's groundbreaking report, Child Sexual Abuse Material: Model Legislation & Global Review (10th Ed.), includes sections regarding definitions; offenses; mandatory reporting; industry responsibility; sanctions and sentencing; and law enforcement investigations and data retention.

The first edition of the report was released in 2006, and ICMEC has engaged in a global review of national legislation to assess progress every few years since then. Our core criteria continue to include whether national legislation:

- exists with specific regard to CSAM;
- provides a definition of "child sexual abuse material";
- criminalizes technology-facilitated CSAM-related offenses;
- criminalizes the knowing possession of CSAM, regardless of the intent to distribute; and
- requires Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to report suspected CSAM to law enforcement or to some other mandated agency.

The problem of CSAM has proven to be persistent, and strong anti-CSAM legislation is needed in every country in order to combat it. Since the first edition was initially published, there has been significant improvement in the global awareness of the issue of CSAM and its impact on children and greater recognition by policymakers of the scope and impact of CSAM in their countries and regions. As a result, more than **156 countries** have refined or implemented new legislation combating CSAM.

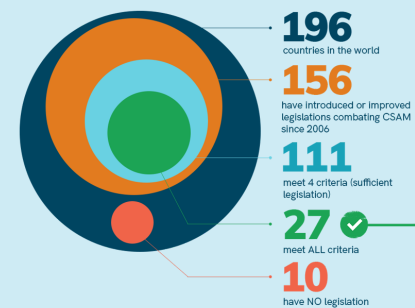
With this latest edition, we continue our efforts to improve the legislative landscape and strengthen child protection efforts by introducing new and updated sections in the model law, incorporating additional international as well as regional legal instruments, and featuring new initiatives related to implementation.

While the latest edition has shown substantial progress, it continues to be important that we be diligent and persist in bringing the remaining 10 countries without anti-CSAM legislation into the fold to make the world's children safer.

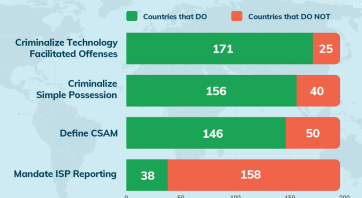
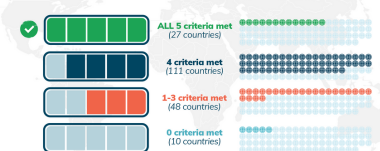
The heightened awareness, evident as 138 countries now have legislation that is sufficient in the fight against CSAM, has fueled a collective determination to find enduring solutions. In response to this determination, collaborative initiatives have emerged, uniting child protection professionals across various sectors who share a common objective: safeguarding children from sexual violence in all its forms. Numerous legislative improvements have been achieved, but they represent just one component of a comprehensive response, albeit a crucial one.

To ensure a safer future for children worldwide, it is imperative that more countries take decisive action. The challenge of combatting CSAM domestically and internationally is formidable, but it can be surmounted through harmonized legal measures, technological innovations, and sustained collaborative efforts. Together, we can make the world safer for all children.

10th Edition at a glance



CSAM Model Legislation and Global Review



Download the report today @ www.icmec.org/csam-model-legislation/