



TURN THE TALK

An evidence-inspired program that seeks to equip adolescents with tools to address child sexual abuse

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Change the Conversation partners with educators and administrators in Maryland and beyond. This allows us to supplement existing programs with much-needed resources to bring comprehensive awareness and training to school communities.

About Us

Change the Conversation (CTC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2004 to provide services to those impacted by child sexual abuse. CTC's mission is to engage all communities in the prevention of and healing from child sexual abuse. The organization fulfills its mission by providing grants for counseling to adult survivors of child sexual abuse and by the delivering prevention and recovery trainings to parents, professionals, and mandated reporters. We leverage partnerships to expand our reach and impact. CTC envisions a world where we all understand the innumerable impacts of child sexual abuse and are compelled to eliminate this abuse.

All individuals seeking to schedule a presentation should email Chelsea McGonigle at chelsea@cethec.org to discuss availability or scan the QR code.



Professional Development

To identify best practices for engaging with adolescents on sensitive subjects while also receiving up-to-date information around trends in the field of child sexual abuse prevention and recovery.



Classroom Presentations

To define child sexual abuse and discuss relevant laws, policies, and effects. Additionally, we teach adolescents how to report child sexual abuse and minor sex trafficking, as well as how to investigate community resources and advocate for those who have experienced abuse



Parent Support

To equip parents and caregivers with the tools to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Trends in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Staff will identify warning signs of child sexual abuse, investigate the correlation between technology and child sexual abuse material and exploitation, and discuss best practices for reducing harm. Throughout the session, staff will also review trends identified by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Maryland Children's Alliance to determine effective strategies to prevent child sexual abuse.

Turn the Talk, Modeled

Staff will receive a modeled presentation of the curriculum presented to students.

Supporting Online Safety in Students and Families

Staff will learn about the realities of sexting, sexual content, and risk of sextortion among youth with access to technology, the ways that traditional messaging about these topics has missed the mark for youth, and a multi-pronged approach to prevention to share with parents and youth that includes online tools, key information, and effective communication and supervision strategies.

Responding to Child Sexual Abuse in the Classroom

Staff will define child sexual abuse, dispel myths, and review prevalence in Maryland. Staff will also discuss the impact of child sexual abuse on language, social and emotional regulation, relationships, and play, and how to create trauma-sensitive climates while also practicing bystander intervention skills by reviewing mandated reporting requirements as defined by Maryland Family Law Code 5-705.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is an early intervention public education program. It teaches adults how to recognize the signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge, how to listen nonjudgmentally, give reassurance to a youth who may be experiencing a mental health challenge, and refer a person to appropriate professional support and services. This course is offered virtually (2 hours self-paced; 4.5 hours instructor-led training) and in-person (6.5 hours). YMHFA also satisfies HB 920 (Youth Suicide Risk) and HB 947 (Lauryn's Law) requirements.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Strategies in School-Based Settings

Staff will identify strategies to promote safety, assertiveness, and healthy boundaries for youth in the school setting.



CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

Child Sexual Abuse 101

Students will define child sexual abuse and discuss relevant laws, policies, and effects, learn how to report child sexual abuse, investigate resources and advocate for those who have experienced abuse.

Internet and Tech Safety

Students will define child sexual abuse material and discuss relevant risks, rewards, and effective responses, discuss federal and state laws regarding child sexual abuse material, and investigate best practices for online safety settings on devices, accounts, apps, and 3rd party services.

Policies

All teachers must remain in the classroom during the entire duration of the presentation in order to provide the presenter with a safe and effective learning environment. In addition, all teachers must remain in the classroom if a student requests to speak with the presenter following a presentation. School-based staff are responsible to connect with the appropriate personnel when there is an urgent risk matter involving a student (CPS, Suicidal, Homicidal, etc.). Turn the Talk is responsible for completing a Child Abuse report when a student discloses current or historic child abuse, even if the perpetrator is deceased.

Additional Support

The content, discussion, and activities in this course will necessarily engage with topics surrounding child sexual abuse, which may be emotionally and mentally challenging to engage with. Turn the Talk will ensure each classroom remains a space in which students may engage bravely, empathetically, and thoughtfully with difficult content. Turn the Talk is available for staff and student consultations immediately following a classroom presentation, when requested. Presenters will provide students with additional community-based resources to encourage in-depth safety planning and deliver ongoing support.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Students will define domestic minor sex trafficking, identify risk factors and protective factors, reduce risk by online safety planning, and investigate resources and advocate for those who may be involved.

Child Sexual Abuse and the Law

Students will defend positioning on various laws, consequences, and effects in the field of child sexual abuse, assess the impact of morality and influences on decision-making, and review legal support services for survivors of child sexual abuse.

Bystander Prevention and Intervention

Students will identify preventative measures as a bystander in both prevention and intervention roles, discuss harm reduction techniques in sensitive situations, and practice refusal skills and supporting a friend following a disclosure.



PARENT SUPPORT

Stewards of Children

Parents will recognize the power and impact they have within their spheres of influence, distinguish between the myths and facts of child sexual abuse, examine ways to minimize opportunities for abuse in a variety of situations, and discuss strategies to bridge gaps that may inhibit open communication.

Promoting and Practicing Body Safety at Home

Parents will learn about typical and atypical sexual development for school-aged youth, basic sexual behavior rules, and strategies for promoting and maintaining body safety within the home and in relationships.

Foundations of Effective Online Safety

Parents will learn about the ways that the brain is impacted by the Internet and social media use, youth's perceptions, effective communication strategies for conversations with youth, and practical steps to take for general online safety.

Risks and Responses for Children Sending or Receiving Explicit Material Online

Parents will learn about the realities of sexting, sexual content, and risk of sextortion among youth with access to technology, the ways that traditional messaging about these topics has missed the mark for youth, and a multi-pronged approach to prevention that includes online tools, key information, and effective communication and supervision strategies.

Build-Your-Own-Training

Please note that CTC can create professional development, student, and parent trainings based on the unique needs of each audience. If you do not see a training listed here that interests you, email chelsea@cthec.org to schedule a consultation to discuss alternate topics.

To download an electronic version of Turn the Talk's Information Sheet, please scan the QR code.

