Dear Colleagues,

Since the formation of the International Task Force on Child Protection in early May, the international community response to our efforts and willingness to serve as volunteers has been broad and deep:

- 8 international organizations supporting international education
- Over 50 volunteers from international schools
- 3 volunteers from companies owning international schools
- 3 counselors and criminologists from private organizations
- 10 international recruiting agencies and organizations
- 4 accreditation and inspection agencies

Governmental participation and support is also growing:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crimes Against Children Unit, USA
- International Center (and U.S. National Center) for Missing and Exploited Children
- Interpol
- Netherlands Ministry of Security and Justice
- U.S. Department of State, Criminal Investigations, and the Office of Overseas Schools
- Westminster City Council, UK

**INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON CHILD PROTECTION | CHARTER, COMMITTEES AND ACTIONS**

Our charter is to apply our collective resources, expertise, and partnerships to help international school communities address child protection challenges.

Three sub-committees have been formed, and Chairs and/or Co-Chairs for each have now been appointed following conferral with their respective members. They will undertake the following actions.

**School Evaluation Committee** (accreditation and inspection agencies; school leaders)
Collect, review and assess current external processes, standards and indicators used to regulate, evaluate and monitor school practices designed to ensure Child Protection and Well-being, and determine what measures need to be put into place to ensure their effectiveness.

- **Ray Davis Co-Chair** (link with external evaluation organizations)
  Associate Director, School Support & Evaluation, Council of International Schools

- **John Bell Co-Chair** (link with school personnel)
  Education Executive, Cognita

**Next steps:**
1. Ray Davis and Colin Bell of COBIS are reaching out to the organizations that carry out inspection of British Schools Overseas, to gain their participation on the committee. Each of the U.S. regional accrediting agencies has been contacted.
2. Ray Davis will confer with the external evaluation agencies to collectively review the effectiveness of existing standards and make recommendations for deliberation by the School Evaluation Committee.
3. John Bell will confer with school personnel to review the criteria and standards of their respective agencies and make similar recommendations.

**School Recruitment Committee** (international recruiting agencies/organizations; school leaders)
Assess processes used by international recruiting organizations to screen educators seeking positions in schools and determine what measures need to be put into place to ensure their effectiveness.

- **Bridget McNamer Co-Chair** (link with Recruitment agencies/organizations)
  Senior Associate, Search Associates
**Chris Akin Co-Chair** (link with school personnel)
Secondary Principal, Colegio Franklin D. Roosevelt

Next steps:

1. Bridget McNamer will confer with the recruiting organizations/agencies to collectively review the effectiveness of existing screening procedures and make recommendations for deliberation by the School Recruitment Committee.
2. Chris Akin will confer with school personnel to collectively review the effectiveness of existing screening procedures and make recommendations for deliberation by the School Recruitment Committee.

**School Policies and Resources Committee (school leaders)**
Collect, review, create and provide resources for school communities to establish effective operational policies and practices for the selection, employment and training of educators to ensure Child Protection and Well-being.

**Greg Hedger Chair**
Superintendent, American International School, Caracas

Next steps:

1. Greg Hedger will ask committee members for actual examples of alleged and confirmed child abuse (anonymized) that they have experienced at their schools to use as case studies as they review school policies and resources.
2. Committee members will share current policies and resources, such as the AISA Child Protection Handbook, review their effectiveness, and make recommendations for the future.

The committee's recommendations will be consolidated in four groups:

- Preventative
- Reporting
- Crisis/Conflict resolution
- Recovery

The Task Force continues to gather information and resources from governmental agencies and private organizations for review by the committees. In September, we will meet as a group to review our progress and identify the best means to begin sharing resources and expertise with the international community. The next update will be posted following our September meeting.

If you have recommendations that may guide or support our work, please contact any one of the Task Force Members.

On behalf of the Task Force Members, in your service,

**Jane Larsson, Chair**
[mailto:janelarsson@cois.org](mailto:janelarsson@cois.org)
International Task Force on Child Protection

**MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE:**

- Colin Bell, Executive Director, Council of British International Schools
- Bambi Betts, Executive Director, Academy of International School Heads
- Christine Brown, Regional Education Officer for Europe, U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Schools
- Linda Duevel, President-elect, Association for the Advancement of International Education
- Roger Hove, President, International Schools Services
- Jane Larsson, Executive Director, Council of International Schools (Chair)
- Kevin Ruth, Executive Director, ECIS