

Dr. Keith Miller International Innovative Leadership Award

**TO: Co-founders of the International Task Force for Child Protection:
Jane Larsson and Christine Brown, jointly**

Challenging the Status Quo for Child Safety

Jane Larsson and Christine Brown were among the first people to learn of the long-term sexual misconduct and abuse of a widely known international school teacher. The unexpectedness and breadth of the allegation triggered the determination on many fronts that action was needed. While neither candidate needed to take on this challenge both embraced it realizing the problem was significant and children were at risk.

Christy and Jane realized that skills and knowledge had to be acquired to enable broad change across all roles in international education. It was clear that no one sector, organization or individual could move the international community forward in a meaningful way. The international education community is so interdependent that for meaningful change to occur they needed to convince colleagues, collaborators, and competitors across the education space to fundamentally change long held processes and beliefs.

Christy and Jane led the strategic response to improving child protection in international schools. Their work has been truly international in scope and impact. They have reached out to and involved a diverse range of stakeholders in extensive consultation around the construction of a network of schools, law enforcement agencies, safeguarding experts, accrediting bodies, and education associations. and more.

Each brought different connections and engaged differently with their constituencies, but both empowered key stakeholders broadly, identifying the ‘movers’ in each region and role.

Jane Larsson’s energetic, determined and persuasive actions encouraged key organizations to come together to form the International Task Force for Child Protection (ITFCP). As Chair, Jane has been instrumental in the creation of the task force and set the tone of importance and urgency for the work.

Christy Brown provided an important balance to Jane’s contributions as task force Chair. The ability of her office to engage one-on-one across disciplines—healthcare, law enforcement, child advocacy, and education is unmatched and she took up the challenge. She used her platform and, like Jane, made it the single most important part of her job.

The impact on international Schools Around the World

Many people now speak of a 'pivot' towards prevention across the globe. Awareness and knowledge now informs policies, procedures, and more importantly, school culture. Short-term initiatives that continue to pay dividends include the professional engagement of more than 100 volunteers to the task force: many recruited or suggested by the nominees.

The continued existence of the ICPTF is itself a long-term legacy. The unfaltering commitment to the promotion of child protection and the intellectual and time investment from individuals and organizations that contribute to the ICPTF is set to continue. Accreditation bodies have agreed to adopt and respect a shared commitment to safeguarding. This is irrespective of the curriculum a school follows.

Successful long-term establishment of the ICMEC Education Portal ensures the movement is not confined to a few well-resourced and committed groups. It enables a continuing dialogue with schools wherever they are in the process of making schools safer. The portal was incubated with funds from the Office of Overseas Schools but is now fully funded by outside grants.

The International Protocol for Managing Allegations of Child Abuse by Educators and Other Adults is the first resource developed for the international education space to help leaders respond to abuse allegations against adults. Model practice has been identified, and school leaders have a road map for ethical, nuanced response to allegations wherever they are in the world.