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**The National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation Announces
their “Six Pillars for Prevention”**

*Document developed by the Prevention Coalition outlines the required elements of a
comprehensive policy agenda aimed at preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation*

ALEXANDRIA, VA – For ten years a group of leading experts and organizations has worked together to pool their knowledge and resources about how to end child sexual abuse and exploitation. Together, they have developed a national plan and now are releasing an innovative approach to policy change.

The Prevention Coalition released today their “Six Pillars of Prevention,” a guiding document that outlines six critical components to the prevention of abuse. With the release of this document, the Prevention Coalition is hoping to build a dialogue around the creation of a comprehensive policy agenda to benefit children and prevent sexual abuse.

Explaining that there is no one policy that can combat child sexual abuse and exploitation, the Prevention Coalition chose instead to identify six areas in which policies can have the most impact on prevention. The Six Pillars are:

1. Strengthen Youth Serving Organizations (YSOs) sexual abuse and exploitation prevention capacity,
2. Support the healthy development of children,
3. Promote healthy relationships and sexuality education for children and youth,
4. End the demand for children as sexual commodities,
5. Have sustainable funds for prevention, and
6. Prevent initial perpetration of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

“We believe deeply that in order to truly prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of children we need a comprehensive policy agenda that carves out a role for not only legislators, but businesspeople, community leaders, and citizens across the country,” said James Hmurovich, the Prevention Coalition’s 2015 President. “The dialogue we hope to advance with the Six Pillars will hopefully lead to meaningful policy changes that will make a positive impact on the lives of children and families.”

The Six Pillars of Prevention document can be found on the National Coalition’s website at preventtogether.org. In addition to defining each pillar, the National Coalition has also identified specific initiatives, contacts, and resources to aid in their adoption.

“Our focus is on America’s children and making sure they are able to have great childhoods that are free of sexual abuse and exploitation,” said Past President Karen Baker. “We know we can’t do this alone. We hope that the dialogue begun with the Six Pillars will help provide the momentum to move these needed policies forward. We encourage you to visit our website at www.preventtogether.org to learn what role you can play in helping us achieve our goal.”

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Since 2005, The National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation has worked to promote the healthy development of children and youth and end their sexual abuse and exploitation. The National Coalition is comprised of more than 40 national organizations and individuals with expertise in the field of sexual abuse prevention. Member organizations include the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Prevent Child Abuse America, the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds, and more. For more information on the National Coalition, visit www.preventtogether.org or email PreventTogether@gmail.com.