HOW TO REPORT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

If you have been sexually abused or you know a child that is or has been sexually abused report the abuse to:

Department of Child and Family Services
Kids line: 278-9111

After Hours: 295-0011
(This is the Police Service - they will contact a social worker from Child & Family Services)

OR
Bermuda Police Service
Telephone: 211 or 295-0011

OR
Vulnerable Persons Unit
247-1678

P.O. Box HM 3003, Hamilton HM MX
Bermuda

Tel: (441) 297-2277 **Email: info@scars.bm**

www.scarsbermuda.com

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Do the right thing.
Break the Silence!

Email: info@scars.bm
Website: scarsbermuda.com

SCARS®
SAVING CHILDREN
AND REVEALING SECRETS

Registered Charity #922

FACTS

- **Protecting and loving children is an adult's responsibility**
- **Prevention begins at home**
- **Start early and talk often about body safety with your child**
- **The affection a child gives to another person should always be their choice**
- **The role a person plays in a family, or community does not necessarily make a child safe**
- **Teach children the correct names for their body parts**
- **Unmonitored internet access creates a major risk to your child**
- **Sexually abusing a child is a crime**
- **Child molesters groom victims and their families**
- **Child molesters are controlling, manipulative and seduce their victims**
- **Child molesters choose to set children up through secrecy and fear**
- **Child molesters look and act like everyone else**
- **Child molesters can be well-liked, respected, and the best at what they do**
- **Most child molesters deny their actions or minimize the seriousness**
- **Children may be confused because the lines between right and wrong are blurred. They may lack knowledge about their bodies and personal boundaries. They may be too young to understand the behavior is inappropriate, harmful or wrong**
- **Children don't' reveal because of fear of being blamed or not believed**
- **Child molesters use tricks, bribes, and threats to keep children from telling**
- **For many child molesters it is not always about the act itself; it's about how it makes them feel - powerful**

OUR MISSION

To reduce the risk of child sexual abuse and to be an advocate and voice for children who have been sexually molested as well as their affected family.

WHAT WE DO

SCARS provides prevention education through evidence-informed child sexual abuse prevention training curriculums developed by Darkness to Light® in the United States. These programs are designed for parents, guardians and organizations that serve youth, and individuals concerned about the safety of children. They teach adults how to prevent, recognize and respond responsibly to child sexual abuse. **SCARS** provides information on body safety, supporting families through the prosecution process, and supporting survivors.

SCARS delivers a one-hour virtual awareness presentation called SAFE (**SCARS** Arms Families with Education) to PTA meetings across Bermuda. The presentation provides parents and guardians with practical information about body safety, consent, boundaries, online safety, and important questions to ask organizations responsible for their children.

Because of the generosity of corporate and community donors, **SCARS** prevention programs are provided at no cost to Bermuda residents or organizations working with Bermuda's children.

Through its Survivor Hour Cable TV and Radio programs, **SCARS** provides awareness and prevention education, shares survivor stories, engages industry experts, and highlights the emotional, physical and psychological impact of child sexual abuse. **SCARS** also champions the rights of children and adult survivors of child sexual abuse by advocating for legislative reform.

WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

Any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors, when one exerts power over the other. Forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act. It also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet. **Child Sexual Abuse is a crime!**

Learning the facts about child sexual abuse helps prevent it. Talking about it helps prevent it. Getting involved helps prevent it. These are some of the founding principles of **SCARS**. The truth is, if child sexual abuse can be recognized, it can be stopped. That is why **SCARS** exists– to empower adults through awareness and educational programs; to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

STATISTICS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

SCARS' community survey examined the prevalence and effects of child sexual abuse (CSA) in Bermuda, as well as **SCARS'** impact on prevention and awareness. This survey found that close to **one in three adults** in Bermuda disclosed that they had been sexually abused as children, underscoring the critical need for continued action.

Nearly 1 in 3 girls were sexually abused before their 18th birthday

1 in 6 boys were sexually abused before their 18th birthday

8.6 years old was the average age at which respondents first experienced child sexual abuse

94% of children who are victims of child sexual abuse know their abuser

54% of children experienced abuse from a family member

65% of children experienced abuse from another acquaintance

42% of children experienced abuse from someone under the age of 18

79% reported experiencing mental health challenges as a result of their experience

78% reported experiencing interpersonal or relationship difficulties as a result of their experience