

**Conference  
Preventing sexual abuse of children  
Madrid, 10-11 December 2013**

**Engaging the experts: The importance of working with  
young survivors of sexual violence in prevention efforts**

**Ms Claire Cody, The International Centre:  
Stopping the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children (United Kingdom)**

**Summary**

This presentation will explore why it is important to involve young people, particularly those affected by sexual violence, in prevention efforts.

Two examples of recent projects undertaken by the International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking at the University of Bedfordshire will be discussed. One of these projects involved working with young people to produce films exploring gang associated sexual exploitation and violence in England. The other project, the 'Be Healthy Project' was a partnership between the Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) and the International Centre. This project involved working with ten young people affected by sexual exploitation, over a period of two years. These young people were recruited as Health Advocates and took part in a series of workshops and produced a number of resources to share health-related messages with professionals and other young people.

The presentation will share some of the learning from being involved in this work and share details of a new pan-European project 'Our Voices', that will promote the involvement of young people in efforts to prevent the sexual violence of children and other young people in Europe.

**Useful link:**

<http://www.beds.ac.uk/research/iasr/centres/intcent>