

The Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (FCACP)

The Internet has enabled instant access to child pornography (child sexual abuse images) by thousands and possibly millions of individuals around the world. Consumers are able to use traditional payment methods, such as credit cards, as well as new, alternative payment schemes, to purchase child pornography on the Internet. The Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (FCACP), initially launched in the United States in 2006, is a groundbreaking alliance between private industry and the public sector with a targeted mission – to follow the flow of funds and shut down the payments accounts used by these illicit enterprises to buy and sell child sexual abuse images online. The Coalition provides industry and law enforcement with a platform for real-time collaboration to disrupt the payment flow and understand the business model of such e-commerce. In the longer term, this cooperation helps preempt the abuse of legitimate payment platforms from facilitating illegal transactions.

The U.S. Financial Coalition is managed by the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) and its sister organization, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and is made up of 34 of the world's foremost financial and Internet companies – representing nearly 90% of the U.S. payments industry. The European Financial Coalition Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online (EFC) was re-launched in 2012, with Europol as the chair. Since 2009, ICMEC has been actively expanding the FCACP in the Asia Pacific region. The Asia Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (APAC-FCACP) consists of 29 industry partners, NGO groups, and law enforcement agencies working towards a common goal.

The APAC-FCACP continues to take a region-wide approach, with a recent focus on country-specific efforts. The APAC-FCACP is hosting country-specific roundtables in New Zealand, Australia, and several other countries bringing together law enforcement, the financial payments industry (banks, credit card and third party payment companies), technology companies, Internet Service Providers and NGOs to discuss collaboration across sectors and to better understand the commercial business models of illegal merchants involved in the sale, access and distribution of child sexual abuse images in order to develop tools towards their prevention. In addition, the U.S. FCACP and the APAC-FCACP have published a series of best practices paper for industry on addressing child pornography and continue to work to raise awareness amongst industry players on this issue.