

### CATS trainer's biography

#### **Tink Palmer**

(CEO Marie Collins Foundation)

Tink has been in social work practice since 1973 and gained her professional qualifications in 1975. Since that time she has participated in numerous post-graduate training courses – including counselling and family therapy. Tink has worked with children and their families for the past thirty five years. In the past twenty-five years she has specialised in child sexual abuse and is an experienced clinical and forensic practitioner, manager, trainer, policy maker and strategist.

Tink first began working with children abused via the new technology in 1999 and has since developed a professional interest and expertise in this area – particularly regarding the forensic and recovery needs of the children and young people. In 2004, she jointly authored a report entitled “Just one click!” which outlined the ways in which the new technology can act as a conduit for the abuse of children, the differential impacts on the young victims and new approaches to intervention programmes. In 2008, she co-authored the thematic report for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents entitled “Child pornography and sexual exploitation of children online”

Tink has an eclectic interest in all issues regarding the sexual abuse of children and, to this end, has written on numerous matters pertaining to child sexual abuse. She is experienced in working with the media and takes every opportunity to highlight the issues facing children abused via the internet and their families. Tink is a member of numerous government steering groups, committees and boards that aim to raise public awareness, to improve service provision and to ensure that best practice ensues on a national and international basis. Her current membership is as follows

1. Chair of the Board of Trustees of Childnet- international
2. Chair of the Board of Trustees of ECPAT UK
3. A member of UKCCIS – the UK Council for Child Internet Safety
4. A member of the Government's Sexual Violence and Abuse Stakeholder Advisory Group
5. A member of the Crown Prosecution Service Disability Hate Crime Panel
6. A member of the Home Office Steering Group for Vulnerable and Intimidated Witnesses, including Children
7. Consultant to the Department of Health Strategy on sexual violence against women and children July 2009 to present day

Tink has just completed a six year commitment as a Board member of the IWF Board of Trustees

Between 2004 and 2008 Tink was the Director of Stop it Now! UK & Ireland which is an awareness raising campaign regarding child sexual abuse. In January 2009 she commenced the setting up of the Marie Collins Foundation the purpose of which is to raise awareness regarding the abuse of children and young people via the internet and mobile phones and to offer services to children, young people and their families affected in this way – training, consultancy, responding to media and lobbying for change regarding these aspects of child sexual abuse are the other services that the foundation provides. An identified priority is the need to establish relevant responses to the investigative, forensic and recovery needs of children and young people abused via the new technology.