
Advocacy toolkit case studies

PROTECTING SURVIVORS OF ABUSE IN PERU

THEMES:	Children and education Human rights Sexual abuse and pornography
ADVOCACY APPROACHES:	Government officials: lobbying Government officials: meeting with Using human rights

Agape, a Tearfund partner in Peru, witnessed such an escalation in sexual abuse of vulnerable children, and resultant media publicity surrounding these cases, that it decided to lobby the Congress of the Peruvian Republic to amend the national code on children and adolescents. They asked for the code to include a new provision protecting the identity of children, their families and their locations in sexual abuse cases. They argued their case on the basis that Peru had signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that this treaty should be enshrined in national legislation. They stated that children in these cases were ‘double victims’, firstly because of the abuse and secondly because of the media publicity. They also said that the media needed to take responsibility for its past actions, and act responsibly towards the individuals involved when reporting sexual abuse cases in the future. Agape was supported by many organisations that promote the rights of children and adolescents and, after several years of lobbying, the bill was passed for immediate implementation.