



Beyond Every Five Minutes Child Rescue Alert
Tesco Posters Emcor van posters Missing Children TV
missingkids.co.uk website National Resource Centre
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PACT's update for 2007

The past year has certainly been a busy one for PACT. And I think that we can be proud of what we have achieved. We launched new initiatives continuing our campaigns to help find missing and abducted children; we completed another major report; and we testified before a parliamentary committee – amongst other things. But there is always more to be done.

Our major goal for 2008 is to push for the creation of a National Resource Centre to assist missing children and their families, and provide a free nationwide 24-hour telephone line, based on the American model. We also plan to continue building upon the successes of 2007.

And there were many successes. In November this year we published *Beyond 'Every Five Minutes'*, a follow-up to our 2005 report *Every Five Minutes*. Back in 2005 we found that it was impossible to obtain an accurate and comprehensive picture of how many – and why - children go missing each year. For a start, as there is a distinct lack of clear government leadership. Missing children fall under the remit of at least five different departments (including the Home Office, Department of Health, Ministry of Justice, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Department for Education and Skills) which causes considerable duplication and confusion. A year later, our second report showed a vast geographical disparity in support for runaway children – *A Postcode Lottery*.

Beyond 'Every Five Minutes' brings together these two reports and concludes that the response to missing children is still woefully fragmented and disorganised. We believe that this is not acceptable, and are campaigning to change the current situation. Following Madeleine McCann's disappearance, our campaign to raise awareness of the problem of missing and abducted children has become all the more urgent.

The creation of a National Resource Centre has been a priority for several years, but only now have we been able to obtain the support of major children's charities (including Barnardo's, the Children's Society and Missing People) as well as the Association of Chief Police Officers and possibly the government itself. But, as ever, we will need your financial support.

We believe that a National Resource Centre is the best – albeit most ambitious – solution for remedying the problems set out in *Beyond 'Every Five Minutes'*. We hope that this will bring together central government, local authorities, the police and voluntary sectors to work as a united front. This will eliminate layers of frustrating bureaucracy and help coordinate more effective policies for supporting missing children and their families.

However, the building of a National Resource Centre is not the only thing which PACT has been successfully working on. Over the past twelve months we have continued to work with the Police National Missing Persons Bureau to promote the website www.missingkids.co.uk and the Child Rescue Alert – which flash up immediate alerts on radio and television as soon as a child is reported missing.

This year, several children have been found as a direct result of our posters which are displayed in Tesco supermarkets and on vans belonging to our other partner, Emcor Group, UK. We have also launched *Missing Children TV* with Electronic Health Media. This initiative, which reaches over one million people a month, displays photographs of missing children on screens in hospital waiting rooms.

Meanwhile, our documentary, *Victims Of Another War*, showing the long-term effects of abduction continues to be shown worldwide. We are now looking to produce a short film following the story of Professor Glenn Gebhard's 12-year struggle to gain the right to visit his abducted children. We hope that the film will heighten public awareness of parental child abduction – the agony which it causes families, and the weaknesses of international laws.

So as you can see, we have achieved so much over the past year. We are very proud of how far we have come. But we have so much more to do, so many exciting projects in the pipeline, and so much essential work to continue. For this we rely, as ever, on your continued generous support.



Lady Meyer
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