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### Should There Be a Nation-wide Sex Offenders Registry?

We are all familiar with horrific stories from people who have been victims of sex offenders. Partly, the root of the problem lies in the fact that there is no national sex offender registry in the majority of the countries on the planet. What is vital to highlight is that organized sex offender registries have been around only for 19 years. Speaking about the United States of America, the first registry was created in Minnesota in 1991.

It is quite clear that it is not enough to simply register sex offenders. It is vital to notify the community of all registered sex offenders that reside in the same area, as well as provide details in regards to their punishment and the number of years they are going to spend in prison for committed crimes. A part of the problem with registering sex offenders lies in inconsistent state laws. As a result, some offenders remain undetected (Sax 2009).

The main reason for creating a nationwide sex offenders registry is that the whole country will have access to it. Thus, citizens will have the opportunity to stay informed and get constant updates. It is not the burden of a citizen to monitor sex offenders. It is the task of the government and the police force. Yet, it does not mean that people should stay ignorant when such a big problem exists. Here are a few ways that might help make this whole situation at least a bit more manageable:

- Trying not to search for a particular 'sex offender look,' as it can be anybody. A lot of sex offenders are known to the victim. That is the reason why it is so important to take this aspect into account when explaining the problem to a child.

- Not all 'safety lessons' should be explained to a child at once. Turn various experiences and situations into teachable moments. For instance, talk about internet safety when a child is online.
- Do not be afraid to talk to your child about the things that make you uncomfortable. It will help create trust. What is more, your child will realize that you treat them like adults. If you see somebody suspicious on a street and want to cross it, you should explain to your child why you have decided to do so.

Taking everything into account, it is of great importance to create a national sex offender registry, as the public will finally be provided with a trusted resource of sex offenders not only in their area, but also in the whole country. Furthermore, sex offenders typically move around the country, which is why having such a list would be very useful.

Works Cited

Sax, Robin. "What Is the Point of a Sex Offender Registry?" *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, 10 Sept. 2009, [www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/crime-time/200909/what-is-the-point-sex-offender-registry](http://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/crime-time/200909/what-is-the-point-sex-offender-registry).