

Child Pornography and Sexual Exploitation of Children Online



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This version is adolescent-and young people-focused.

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This document is based on the thematic paper of the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. The original paper, Child Pornography and Sexual Exploitation of Children Online, written by Ethel Qualye, Lars Loof and Tink Palmer, contains many references, examples and studies that are not included here. Readers are encouraged to consult the original thematic paper for more detailed information at: <http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/index.php>. The first draft of this document was prepared by Stephanie Delaney.

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Introduction

The problem of child pornography was recognised and discussed at both the First and Second World Congresses. Information on the issue prepared by specialists in the thematic papers for those congresses, and in particular for the Yokohama Congress in 2001, has needed updating, but many of the key concerns raised then are still true today. For example, there are still problems with a lack of clear definitions to help people understand what child pornography is; there is limited information on the aspects of production and distribution of child pornography (that is, who is involved in producing and distributing it, and how it is passed to others across the world); and not much is known about who looks at and uses the images of children being sexually abused (this is called 'consumption').

At the Second World Congress held in Yokohama in 2001, participants from around the world acknowledged that the Internet was a major part of people's lives, and that expansion presented new challenges worldwide for putting an end to the sharing and selling of tapes and other materials showing images of children being abused, or what is known as child pornography. A thematic paper was prepared for World Congress III to examine the changes that have taken place since 2001, in terms of what action has been taken, ways that all those working to protect children from child pornography view the progress in combating these crimes against children and what still needs to be done. This paper provides a synopsis of that work. Since 2001, there have been some positive changes:

- More countries are developing laws to prevent and punish this type of abuse;
- There is now more knowledge and capacity for law enforcement to take action against this crime, both nationally and internationally;
- There is more recognition in society that tackling the problem requires all people to cooperate. There needs to be more involvement from organisations, the public and young people, and countries across the world also need to work together;
- More hotlines are available which means that members of the public will find it easier to report any illegal images, abusive exchanges, websites they come across or content they are concerned about;
- There has been an increase in education and raising awareness of the harm that such images represent, and on the potential dangers in new technologies.
- Children and young people have become more aware of how they can protect themselves and others.

Since the Second World Congress, four important legal agreements that relate to child pornography have been developed internationally:

- Council of Europe's *Convention on Cybercrime* (2001)
- United Nation's *Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography* (2002)
- European Union's *Framework Decision on combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography* (2004)
- Council of Europe *Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (yet to come into force)

Child pornography and abusive images: The meaning behind the terms sexual abuse and sexual exploitation

One of the important changes since the Second World Congress is that laws now make use of clearer terminology to describe child sexual abuse materials. For example, it makes clear that child pornography refers to the representation of the child in a sexual way (act, pose) and includes not only pictures but also written, audio and other types of files.

Questions have been raised about whether it is correct to use the term 'child pornography' at all as many consider that this does not really describe it is a record of the sexual abuse of a child or young person. For example, this is true of sexual abuse materials which are written or sound recordings. There is also confusion about some pictures that may not be clearly classed as being pornographic, but which may still be distributed and used for sexual purposes. The types of images of children that are of sexual interest vary widely according to the person interested in this type of material. Another reason why some people do not like to use the word 'pornography' is because they think that it might give the impression that the child had agreed to participate in the serious abuses shown in the images and to have them recorded.

For these reasons, many children's rights organisations now tend to also use the term 'child abusive images' instead of 'child pornography', although 'child pornography' is still widely used in the majority of law and policy documents worldwide. No final changes have been made to the term because some people argue that the change to using 'abusive images' is still confusing and does not accurately describe the content, audio and other materials. Therefore, an appropriate term is still to be developed.

Generally, public understanding of child pornography is that it involves pictures of children who are naked, or in scenes showing sexual abuse (such as rape or sexual torture). However, sexual interest in children may be demonstrated in less 'obvious' ways— for example, some people might become sexually excited by images of children posed in certain ways, even if they are partially or fully clothed. Other people may become sexually aroused by much more 'normal' pictures of children, for example wearing swimwear or playing. However, in both of these examples the images they collect or use would not necessarily be considered illegal, while those of a clearer sexual nature would be.

Virtual child pornography images are pictures that have been altered in some way so that the person in the picture is not a 'real child' or a young person. This can be done, for example, by placing the head of a child upon the body of a woman. Another example of virtual child pornography is animation made using computer programmes or cartoons, sometimes referred to as 'manga'. While some of these images include scenes of young people and children involved in sexual intercourse, others show very violent scenes of abuse, including gang rape. Another area where the terms used to describe what actually happened to the child can sometimes be confusing is, for example, when the terms 'sexual abuse' and 'sexual exploitation' are used interchangeably without explanation. While both terms are used to describe a sexual criminal act against a child, they do not mean the same thing. One way to define the difference between 'sexual abuse' and 'sexual exploitation' is that sexual abuse is a violation against

the child that is not related to any form of payment, whereas sexual exploitation is a violation against the child that includes a form of payment or has a commercial motive. This means that the person exploiting or taking advantage of the child or young person is using money, gifts, or favours to get access to a child for sex. A child sex exploiter may pay a third person (pimp) to obtain the child for sex, keep a child silent or entrap them with money or gifts. In many cases, pictures are made both of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and these are both kept by abusers and also sold commercially.

It is important to understand that there is no agreement about making a distinction between abuse and exploitation, and it is argued by some that exploitation is always a form of abuse. While there are problems in establishing a shared understanding of what terms mean, being able to explore and better understand the motives (or reasons) behind creating sexual material of children – that is, why it is made, who makes it and who uses it – will help in the fight to stop it.

Law enforcement and protection

The First and Second World Congresses which were held in 1996 and 2001, respectively, asked governments to improve national and international laws and make both equally as strong so that there could be better protection for children and prosecution and punishment of offenders. This has not happened yet in many countries.

One of the difficulties in enforcing the law, especially regarding abusive sexual images of children, is that laws differ from place to place. In some countries, only sexual photographs of children are illegal, not audio or written descriptions of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child. In other countries, the images are only illegal if they show the whole child, not the parts of the body. Nowadays, not all laws and legal instruments consider the purposeful viewing and possession of child pornography from the Internet as a crime. The banning of viewing and possession of child pornography within the laws of countries helps law enforcement to reduce production and distribution of pornography and to stop the use of children in these crimes.

Many countries are now also including 'virtual child pornography' under their laws because they recognise that while a virtual child does not involve an 'actual' child, such images have a similar purpose to showing the sexual abuse of a child. As they are available to the public, they can make people believe that showing such acts of sexual violence is acceptable and thus to also abuse real children is tolerable, which can lead to an increase in such crimes.

The lack of international agreement on what is against the law in terms of such images of abuse of children is a particular problem because online/new technologies enable people to connect internationally, crossing numerous country and legal boundaries. Another problem is that until now, many legal efforts seem to focus mainly on criminalising and prosecuting offenders and not as much on identifying the children in the images and providing comprehensive care and support for the children who were harmed. Providing support to children is difficult because it is hard to identify the children and their ages, and the lack of common understanding on this type of violation makes it even harder to acquire cooperation by different actors in different countries.

What is known about the Internet sex offender?

The causes behind a person's interest to see abuse images of children/child pornography are complex and vary widely, just as the type of images that such people seek or how they go about getting them and sharing them on the Internet does. The pattern can range from those who stumble across child pornography without meaning to (but then do not delete the images), people who actively search for the images either to keep them, use them themselves or to use them to show and encourage a child to become involved in sexual activities (either in the real world or online), and also those who make and produce such pictures and distribute the material for money or trade them to obtain others.

It is estimated that worldwide there are between 50,000-100,000 people involved in child pornography rings (where groups of people share and swap child abuse images). Furthermore, it has been suggested that there are more than 1 million child pornographic images circulating on the Internet at any one time.

The number of people who commit offences on the Internet is unknown, although it is possible from conviction rates (people who have been caught and found guilty) to make some assumptions. Obtaining figures is made more difficult by the fact that many offenders are not caught, either because there is a lack of resources to investigate or insufficient effort made to catch offenders, or because the laws are not strong enough to gain a conviction. For example, one offender in the UK was found to have more than 450,000 child abuse images. In the US, the number of child pornography offences increased by 200% from 1997 to 2000. Recently in Norway, as many as 15,000-20,000 attempts were made per day to access websites that had been blocked by police because they show child pornography.

Even more difficult to assess is how many child-related images and material produced for valid and legitimate reasons ends up being used in inappropriate ways. An example of this could be material on medical sites, such as images that are developed to assist with the diagnosis of child skin problems but which are accessed in order to look at images of children's naked body parts, or changed to appear as child pornography.

Although it is believed that the users of online abuse come from many backgrounds, studies to date show that they are generally white males from the Western part of the world. They are more likely to be educated and less likely to be known as child sex offenders (that is, they have not been caught and/or convicted before). However, this may not be a true representation of the overall situation. This group may be more visible because the countries documenting these crimes are the ones with laws to prosecute and where there has been interest in carrying out studies and putting resources in for this purpose. It is also not known whether social and economic factors, such as better access to new technologies (personal computers) are a reason for the larger presence of this type of offender, rather than other factors.

There is limited published research regarding children or young persons involved in such behaviours, although there have been some studies which demonstrate that some young people have been implicated in problematic and harmful sexual activity with children. Where children are involved in accessing sexual abuse images of other children, it is known that this is sometimes by accident, but there are also those cases that are not accurate and where there is

evidence of serious problematic behaviour. It is important and argued that such children should receive appropriate help and treatment, and not be treated as criminals.

Technologies used

As the years pass, and after each of the Congresses, we have seen advances in technology. For example, there is more accessibility, increased ability to upload and download images, and better ways to interact and also to hide identity data. Being able to store and share materials without being identified and to access illegal materials without being easily detected (such as using wireless connections in public places) make it more difficult for law enforcement to identify offenders. There has also been increased use of peer-to-peer networks for this purpose, as these enable file sharing between users. Many studies show that a large amount of abusive imagery and content of children are distributed using peer-to-peer exchange networks and that this type of exchange is increasing.

The increase of social networking sites has also enabled people to make contact more easily with others who might share the same interests. These platforms also now bring together email, messaging and photo sharing, together with music and video downloading. In addition to providing opportunities to create and share the latest cultural and news content, there is also an increase in harmful and illegal content and these spaces can offer chances for adults to be in contact with children and adolescents, and gain their trust to form abusive relationships.

Grooming, which is the process of gradually befriending, sharing, encouraging, and/or tricking the child into a sexual type of exchange or relationship, tends to happen faster online than in the real world. This is mainly because when they are online rather than face to face physically, children tend to build up a relationship more quickly and are less restricted about giving information. Abusers are also less restricted to approach children online as they would be offline and these exchanges can get personal very quickly.

Does viewing pornography lead to other offences against children?

There is not enough information to know without any doubt if viewing child pornography leads to other sexual offences against children offline, in the real world. This is largely due to a lack of research to date and also because as technology changes so does the way in which offending changes. This lack of knowledge is especially serious because it means that those working with offenders have little to inform their judgements of the risks to children.

Since there has been limited investigation as to the content of abuse images made and collected by offenders, it is impossible to know whether the nature of the images themselves might help predict future risks. For example, if an interest in one type of image would make it more likely for a person to abuse a child in the real world than someone who was interested in another type of image.

Despite this lack of knowledge, we know that abuse images of children are used by abusers for some of the following purposes:

- To expose children to such images and gradually create an impression that such images are made by many people and therefore it is normal and acceptable to engage in sexual activity with children, preparing and leading to actual abuse;
- To increase fantasies that offenders have, stimulate and lead them to actual abuse; and
- To use the images to break down defences in children, stimulate their curiosity and groom children (that is to trick or tempt them) into involvement – by falsely claiming this type of exchange is normal and not harmful.

In addition, as most child pornography is produced using real children, the viewer of child pornography is contributing to child abuse by creating a market for it.

Offline encounters and meetings

While children can be abused online, some online meetings also lead to meetings in the real world. One study in 2003 found that almost one in five children had been invited to an offline meeting with someone they had met online.

It would seem that children abused offline as a result of online meetings come from three groups – those who are tricked, those who take risks, and those who are self destructive, seeming as if they want to cause themselves harm. Not all children therefore may identify themselves as being victims.

From current research it would appear that most sex crimes which occur as a result of the Internet involve adult men who use the Internet as a way to meet adolescents. While some teenagers are unaware of what might happen to them, it also appears that others do know and take risks. One US study showed that the children knew that the meeting would lead to sex in half of the offline abuse cases.

What is known about child victims and how they are affected?

Despite the high number of images that have been seized by law enforcement, there is a lack of knowledge about the children who are abused through pornography. This is partly because images made by abusers can come from anywhere and often have little or no evidence of location or traces to help police search. Thus, only a small number of children are identified. Where identification takes place, the way information is collected varies, making it difficult to compare. Without such studies most of the information comes from the stories of those working with law enforcement. This information suggests that most of the new images made by abusers are of white, western and Asian children. However, there are increasing reports about the production of abusive images across the world and as technology becomes cheaper and reaches new areas, this pattern is clearly changing.

Identification of children needs to be made a top priority in order to understand which children are at particular risk.

Children are also involved in creating their own cyber worlds, and this creates other types of risks. While the majority of children, especially young males, take risks, it appears most children are not at risk. However, young people who send out personal information, such as their names and addresses to strangers or talk online to people about sex, seem to receive more aggressive sexual advances.

In a recent study in Sweden, nearly half of 16-year-old girls surveyed said that they had been approached sexually by an adult while online. Requests to strip in front of a webcam or to watch an adult while they stripped or behaved sexually were common. For those who received sexual advances, those who were younger or children using a computer away from their home seemed to be more distressed by the experience.

A study in the UK suggested that young people who are less satisfied with their lives spend more time on the Internet and value it more as a way of forming relationships with others, which can lead to more risk taking.

There are links between pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation but these are not always well understood. Many people, including caregivers and parents, sometimes consider pornography offences against children as less serious than other forms of exploitation, such as prostitution. Being made the subject of abuse images can be seen as less harmful, for example where young people take images in anger and distribute them, however, the harm to the young person involved can be great. When images are made in the context of prostitution and trafficking of children for sexual purposes, it is an added child abuse form of sexual exploitation of that child or young person.

For some children from disadvantaged backgrounds where there is pressure to make money in order to support their families, abuse through pornography may be seen as a better choice than prostitution. There are also some connections between the use of new technologies and child sex tourism, with images online acting as advertisements for locations where it is possible to sexually abuse children offline.

The effects of sexual abuse are many and well known. In addition to physical problems (for example infections), emotional problems such as fear, grief and guilt are common. Children may find it difficult to trust others, have confused ideas about sex and relationships, and may have problems with development. They may also harm themselves.

However, little is known about the effects of being sexually exploited and abused using new technologies. It is difficult to separate the consequences of abuse from the consequences of being photographed and having the abuse images documented for others to see. Few attempts have been made to describe and study how technology has become a growing part of the abuse and how this affects children.

One thing that seems to emerge from the information available is that the child's abuse experience is made worse by new technology. There is a pattern of 'enforced silence' and children tend not to speak about the photography, or will deny it even when they face the evidence. When the child does speak of their abuse, they tend to limit this to what they think

people already know. Children can experience shame and humiliation, though it is not clear if this is because of photographs having been taken or because they have disclosed their abuse. It is also thought that if children have been made to smile in photographs (common tactic of abusers), they may fear that others think they were 'enjoying it'. They may also worry about being recognised throughout their lives.

The longer term effects of being photographed may be even more difficult to deal with than the immediate abuse, with children spending their lives worrying about either seeing the images themselves or other people seeing them. This is especially true as they recognise that once loaded on the Internet, their images cannot be fully removed. Images that are taken when a child is very young can make it difficult for the child to be identified as they get older, due to physical changes in growing up. For children who are older when abused, the fact that the images are 'out there' may lead to a continuous fear of discovery.

Case study: Ukraine

A recent study from Ukraine demonstrated the connection between the trafficking in children and the production of child abuse images. In 2002, girls were trafficked from Moldova to Ukraine where they were photographed for pornographic purposes. The Ukrainian militia was told by the girls that they had received money from foreigners for modelling for pictures in the nude.

Working with children

Most of what we know about working with abused children, both in terms of investigation of offences and the assistance provided to children as part of a recovery programme, is based upon knowledge of how children are abused in offline/real world situations.

At the moment it is not known to what extent children who have been identified as being abused in the making of abuse images and through new technologies have been given assistance or the type of support they received. It is hoped that increased identification will also lead to ensuring that children are given the appropriate and specialised support they need.

Ways of working may need to change as knowledge about the effects of this form of abuse through technologies is more clearly understood. While in many parts of the world there are special programmes and policies that have been developed to both make abusers accountable, and to assist children with their recovery, it is still recognised that it is difficult to know exactly how best to help children due to:

- Lack of experienced professionals;
- Lack of specific knowledge and expertise on the impact on the victims;
- Limited access to services worldwide;
- Need to share good practice between professionals; and

- Need to build on existing ways of working that are culturally sensitive because of the international nature of the abuses that occur online.

One of the main difficulties for children abused through new technologies, especially when they are made aware of the images, is that the child loses all control over when, how and who to tell.

This may make them feel even more powerless. Some children may see what is happening to them as 'normal' and reject any assistance.

Careful thought needs to be given to the timing and methods of any investigation, including interviews by law enforcement. A study in Sweden highlighted that what children 'least wanted to remember' was the photography, and this combined with 'enforced silence', may mean that rather than the police expecting the child to tell their story, it would be more helpful to ask for specific information needed, such as if a camera was used.

The method of interviewing children may also need to be reviewed. For example, do children need to be interviewed at all if photographic evidence exists? Similarly, if a child is recognised from an image of child pornography it is unlikely that if they are traced, being interviewed at home with their parents present (as is the current practice in the UK) will lead to the child saying much about what has happened. This is especially true where children seriously believe that they are meeting a friend and perhaps would not want to own up to the nature of the abuse they experience.

In Europe, it has been identified that children sometimes need/want support after having experienced abusive or worrying encounters online. One effective way to offer support is by establishing a helpline.

What is known about the way children behave online?

Accessing pornography online

Pornographic materials existed long before the Internet. The difference is that the Internet has made production, distribution, viewing and downloading easier and the range of materials greater. In addition to children deliberately looking for pornography, they may also find the material by accident. These materials can be of an extreme, violent, shocking and repulsive nature.

There is little research as to whether the frequency of children accessing pornography online leads to the child being a victim of exploitation. However, some argue that if a child is exposed to pornography then this is exploitation, and in any case it breaks taboos and gives the child the impression of its normalcy, separate from the affective relationships where sexuality normally occurs.

Apart from any immediate distress at viewing different forms of pornography, it is not known how much harm a child might experience from viewing such pornography. There is concern, and some suggestion, that pornography may influence ideas about sexual behaviour and attitudes

towards sex, including violence. Although there is little evidence that children are harmed by pornography, many experts believe that sustained exposure can impact on them. For example, one study found that the majority of children who were exposed to pornography did not regard it as distressing. However, other studies show that some children, such as those who are already aggressive or exhibit harmful sexual behaviours do seem to be negatively affected.

One difficulty with understanding the nature of the pornography that children were exposed to, and hence its effects on children, is that most studies that consider pornography do not distinguish between the different types. There is no distinction, for example, between pornography involving adults, violent pornography or pornographic images of children abused by adults.

Self-victimisation

A further harm that has been identified is when new technologies are used by young people to express themselves in potentially dangerous ways which bring harm either to themselves or other children. An example of this would be where a young person takes a nude or sexually explicit photograph of themselves which they either upload on to the Internet, or send to another person (such as a boy or girlfriend) who then forwards this onto others. This can be done via the Internet, mobile phones and webcams.

While young people may initially distribute such pictures of themselves for 'fun' or because they are in a relationship, they may not realise that they are at risk of the images being distributed more widely. Alternatively, children may have been tricked or persuaded to send images of themselves to an offender they have met online who then pressures and threatens disclosure to get more.

One harm that has recently been recognised is the fact that children can be witnesses to their parents' Internet activities. There have been reports of children contacting helplines because of the behaviour of their parents (such as repeated accessing of violent pornography or sex chatting online).

Staying safe on the Internet

It would appear that children are often aware of the risks that they are exposed to on the Internet and how to keep themselves safe. Despite this, evidence indicates that older children especially, tend to ignore what is necessary to ensure greater safety for themselves online. It is not that children do not understand potential risks, but more that they ignore, minimise them, or feel they can manage them.

Children do not generally tell their parents or other adults of problems and concerns, although some research has suggested that when a parent actively monitors or engages in discussion with their children about their online activities, risky behaviour may be reduced. However, research also suggests that when attempts are made to stop certain behaviour, especially of older children, this can lead to an increase in that behaviour.

The need to understand the reasons why children do not use their knowledge of risks or follow their own advice in terms of how to keep safe highlights the importance of involving children and young people in the design of strategies to input on the best forms for delivery of education

and raising awareness.

Some children may fail to understand that in using technology they are potentially used by it and may be at risk. This may be especially true for young people who find few avenues to explore their sexuality in their life context and who can, in addition to finding the Internet a safe space for sexual exploration, expose themselves to being exploited.

Prevention and education

Education and awareness raising

The risks to children grow as they increasingly interact and communicate using the Internet, mobile phones and other new technologies. This is especially true as they are seen as valuable sources of income – websites that can show high use by young people attracts advertisers and can make large profits.

There have been a number of initiatives aimed at educating children on the dangers of new technologies and in assisting law enforcement to catch and prosecute offenders. Examples of these initiatives include the setting up of hotlines so that websites can be reported and the development of software technology to filter inappropriate or dangerous sites.

Education materials have taken many forms. At first they were 'don't messages', for example 'do not meet anyone in real life.' These messages were later altered to ways to stay safer, such as bringing along a friend to the first meeting with someone who was met online. One reason that messages were changed was because they did not reflect children's experiences.

While it is important to keep safe, it must be remembered that the benefits of using new technology outweigh the dangers for most children. Education packages for school settings have also been widely developed and introduced globally, not only for children but also for teachers and parents.

A more recent development has been online safety tools, such as abuse buttons which have been added to websites to allow children to report any concerns, and also chatrooms that require the presence of a moderator. Moderation of chatrooms involves following conversations (using special software tools with keywords and phrases identified) in order to try and find out where improper use of the site is taking place (sexual harassment, etc.).

Although there has been a lot of work in creating and introducing awareness raising and education materials, it is not clear how effective they are in changing behaviour as opposed to just increasing knowledge. There is little evidence that existing materials are changing behaviour and more research is needed.

Children's online behaviour and education – Two examples

A Canadian study carried out in 2003 measured the effectiveness of the 'Missing Program', which was an interactive computer game designed to assist students in developing their own Internet safety guidelines. The study found that children demonstrated more knowledge about Internet safety after being involved in the programme but that their attitudes or behaviour did not change.

Similarly, a larger study made in the UK focused on how children applied their knowledge on safety guidelines when interacting in chatrooms. The study included 1369 children between the ages of 9 and 16 and concluded that children are well aware of safety guidelines but did not know when to apply this knowledge.

One of the recommendations made by the thematic paper for the Second World Congress was that more hotlines were needed to assist with reporting of suspicious websites and removal of pornography. Since 2001, there has been an increase in the number of hotlines that are part of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE) from 15 to 28. INHOPE receives reports and makes referrals to law enforcement. However, it seems that hotlines very rarely receive feedback. Without feedback it is difficult to understand how the effectiveness of hotlines can be measured.

One of INHOPE's member hotlines is the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), which made a significant contribution in the development of a list of web pages that contain child abuse images. This list is updated twice a day, and is accessible to law enforcement agencies.

The Internet industry itself has responded positively to attempts to protect children by providing education materials and tools to improve online safety (such as blocking mechanisms). However, action currently undertaken by the Internet industry is voluntary and limited, although some people believe it should be compulsory and include assessments of the potential impact of any new technological developments on children at the initial stages of research, and design of these tools and innovations.

Recommendations

Despite many positive developments, there are a number of challenges that still exist. The main challenges include a lack of understanding of the harms that children experience, together with a lack of training, expertise and capacity to investigate, protect and assist with recovery for those children that experience harm.

Suggested key actions to be achieved in the immediate future include:

- More research into effectiveness of education and information programmes in terms of their impact on changing behaviour online;

- Identification of current provisions and ways of working with victimised children through new technologies, and improvement of systems for investigation of crimes together with appropriate support and assistance for children; and
- Work with children and young people to identify what factors protect children.

Suggested key actions to be achieved by 2013:

- Amend legislation to include all sexually abusive and sexually exploitative behaviour and materials in all forms, and including appropriate protection and support of children;
- Allocate increased resources for the identification of children whose images are on the Internet;
- Introduce a research programme that includes considering the nature of risks posed to children through new technologies, the changing characteristics of children at risk; and
- Promote, expand and define the responsibility of the IT industry within the framework of human rights and child rights.

ECPAT International is a global network of organisations and individuals working together to eliminate child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.



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