Preventing Digital Harms in Childhood: A Global Policy Update

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Children’s Rights Online

- Protection
- Privacy
- Participation
- PLUS
  - Rights to recovery and full community reintegration when child trafficking and/or child pornography/CSAM is involved
Children’s Positive Experiences Online

- Family & Community Identity and Integration
- Friendship and Social Networks
- Educational Opportunities
- Information Access
- Entertainment
- Identity Formation and Affirmation
- Opportunities for Self-Expression
- Cultural and Religious Experiences
Children’s Negative Experiences Online

- Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
- Exposure to Adult Content
- Cyber-Bullying
- Grooming
- Sexting
- Revenge Porn
- Remote Live Sexploitation
- Gaming Addictions
- Economic Exploitation
- Sextortion
Examples of Potential Impacts of Negative Online Experiences

- Shame
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicidal Ideation/Suicide
- Relationship Issues
- Regressive Views towards Women
- Impulsivity
- Violence
Challenges Faced

• Multiple jurisdictions worldwide
• Numerous platforms
• Countless offenders
• Anonymity
• Industry Interests
• Lack of Training, Resources, and Capacity of Law Enforcement & Other Frontline Service Providers
Legal Protections of Children Online

1924 Declaration on the Rights of the Child (League of Nations)
1959 U.N. Declaration on the Rights of the Child
1998 Convention on Cybercrime
2001 Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)
Legal Protections of Children Online

- **2002**: Second Optional Protocol goes into force
- **2007**: Lanzarote Convention (Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse)
- **2014**: “Right to be Forgotten” Recognized by European Court of Justice
- **2015**: Amy Vicky & Andy Act Signed into Law
- **2018**: California’s Online Eraser Law for Minors Takes Effect
What’s Active?

- Australia’s Online Safety Act (‘22)
- UK’s Age Verification Law (‘17)
- Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 (Immunity for ISPs)
- More State Legislation re Sexting
- More State Legislation re Revenge Pornography
Looking Forward

- Copyright Should be Held by Person Portrayed in CSAM and Intimate Photographs
- Expand Eraser Law for Children
- Search and Destroy Software
- Data Disintegration
- Content Moderators
- Shift to Encryption
- Effective Filters
- Ratification of UNCRC & 3rd Optional Protocol
- Federal Level Child Advocate
Questions & Discussion