



# **Contribution by the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC)**

## **ADDRESSING ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (OCSE) IN THREE ASPECTS: THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY'S CRITICAL ROLE IN COMBATTING OCSE; OCSE AS A PREDICATE CRIME; AND VICTIM COMPENSATION FOR OCSE SURVIVORS**

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### **Purpose**

The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) builds capacity and fosters systemic change to keep children safe. Criminal justice systems — composed of law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, social workers and other professionals— play a crucial role in the protection and recovery of any child who is abused, exploited, or who goes missing. As the internet is increasingly leveraged to exploit and harm children, the way these crimes are investigated and prosecuted must evolve.

The fight against online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) is a global challenge that requires multi-disciplinary, cross-border approach. From a stakeholder perspective, public-private sector partnerships are critical, with the technological and financial industries being highly involved in this growing crime.

ICMEC, in its intervention for ITU CWG-COP 2025, shares three aspects of its work globally in addressing online child sexual exploitation, focusing on the pivotal role of the financial aspect of OCSE. More particularly:

- 1 the Financial Industry's critical role on child protection and the best practices from the Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FCACSE),
- 2 ICMEC's 2025 Study on Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) as Predicate Crime, and
- 3 framework on Victim compensation and Restitution for and in support of OCSE survivors.

### **Action required**

This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection **for information.**



International Centre<sup>™</sup>  
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

**ITU-COP**

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**Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

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# I. Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FCACSE)

## Enhanced Industry Collaborative Action

Industry-wide, and cross-sector collaboration

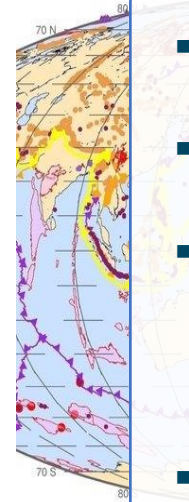
## Strong Industry Awareness

Financial Toolkit  
Cryptocurrency paper

### ***ONE Goal: disrupt the economics of the trade***

- What can the financial industry do to lead investigations against child exploitation?
- What can financial information tell us about OCSE?
- How can financial information support OCSE investigations?

***Detect, Report, Disrupt***



- UNICEF 2019 study | **800 million are active on social media**
- Children make up almost 1/3 of trafficked persons
- NCME (2023), **36.2 million NCMEC referrals** into the suspected CSAM vs 17 million in 2019.
- UK's IWF (2022): in one webpage, **every TWO minutes** showed a child being sexually abused.
- Europol (May 2021) took down a CSA dark web site with **more than 400,000 registered users**.
- INTERPOL (Dec 2023) CSE database holds **~4.9 million CSAM**

# I. Financial Coalition Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FCACSE)

The **Financial Coalition's** impact goes beyond financial disruption.

It fosters **cross-sector partnerships** that drive **industry-wide best practices**, supports legislative action, and empowers financial players to meet their legal and ethical obligations in protecting children.

**“The power of collective action”** in addressing one of the most pervasive forms of child exploitation.



## II. 2025 study on online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) as predicate crime

- OCSE generates illicit profits processed through financial systems. High-profile cases that paid penalties amounting to billions of dollars.
  - **ICMEC 2025 report: “Online Child Sexual Exploitation as a Predicate Crime under AML-CTF Laws”**, examines the inclusion of OCSE as a predicate crime under anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML-CTF) laws
  - **Goal: OCSE as a predicate crime.**
  - With the financial sector’s role in facilitating or obstructing OCSE, the report encourages institutions to take proactive steps to prevent child exploitation, fulfilling their obligations under the SDGs.
  - **SDG 16.4, which seeks to *significantly reduce illicit financial [...] flows [...] and combat organized crime by 2030.***
- **6 countries: (including United States, the Philippines, and Argentina), explicitly list OCSE as a predicate crime,**
    - 14 others, (Canada, the UK, and Australia) follow an “all-crimes approach,” provided it is criminalized under national law.
    - France and Turkey adopt more individualized approaches.
  - **To this end, ICMEC advocates for comprehensive awareness in the financial sector.**

# III. Framework on victim compensation for and in support of OCSE survivors

## The Gap

- For OCSE, certain jurisdictions award victim compensation and survivor restitution.
- **Restitution allows victims to seek compensation for both personal and economic losses and damages suffered as a result of criminal offenses, specifically focusing on.**
- This compensation or restitution is typically awarded through foreign courts in cases where perpetrators are outside of the victim's home country.
- **Challenges arise on transfer and management of funds to victims from a foreign country to another country, where systemic issues such as lack of identification and bank accounts complicate the process.**

- Restitution
- Victim Compensation
- Reparation

## The Framework

- **ICMEC and a Financial Industry Partner worked on a Victim Compensation Framework.**
- The Framework proposes a comprehensive framework aimed at streamlining the restitution process for minor victims of OCSE and trafficking.
- **Partnering with stakeholders in the Philippine financial sector, the initiative aims to ensure that minors can receive and manage these funds with oversight until they reach adulthood, addressing both legal and practical challenges in restoring their dignity.**



# Thank You



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