

PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

ITU Council Working Group on Child Online Protection
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children

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UNICEF's Framework for Action

International standards

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)
- ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour
- The Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons
- Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
- Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime

UN Study on Violence against Children (2006)

World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2008)

UNICEF Child Protection Strategy and ICTs

- Create greatest possible **opportunity for *all* children** to take advantage of the benefits offered by ICTs, minimizing risks and potential harm
- **Balance** the **right to protection** from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation with **the right to information, freedom of expression and association, privacy and non-discrimination**
- Requires a **multi-stakeholder and sectorial approach**: collaboration with governments, parliamentarians, civil society, the private sector, professionals working with children, parents and children themselves
- **Four strategic areas** should underpin national and international response:
 - Empowering children and enhancing resilience to harm
 - Preventing impunity for abusers
 - Reducing availability and access to harm
 - Promoting the recovery of children exposed to harm

UNICEF's Work at Country Level

- Increasingly UNICEF country offices address children's use of ICTs
- Strategies to address ICT related violence and exploitation must be part of **wider national strategies** to address violence, exploitation and abuse taking place through other modalities. Focus on:
 - **Strengthening national child protection systems to support prevention and service response to violence, exploitation and abuse facilitated through ICTs**
 - Laws, policies, regulations and comprehensive services for all abused/exploited children, across all social sectors - justice, social welfare, education, health and the ICT sector
 - **Support norms, attitudes and behaviors that prevent violence and exploitation**
 - Promoting positive, protective norms and behaviours working with communities, parents, teachers, children and industry

UNICEF's Work at Global Level

Research and knowledge generation to the enhance understanding of children's use of ICTs, risks opportunities, gaps and challenges

- *Child Safety Online: Global Challenges and Strategies* (2011), UNICEF Innocenti Research Center in collaboration with UNICEF HQ
 - Analysis of children's attitudes, behavior and risks they face; policy responses and services available to children; and suggestion of a framework for action
- *Digital Citizenship and Safety Project* led by the Youth Section, Division of Communications, UNICEF Headquarters
 - Exploratory research on young people's use of ICTs in South Africa, Russia, Ukraine Turkey, Vietnam, Indonesia, Zambia and Argentina
- *A Global Agenda for Children's Rights in the Digital Age: Recommendations for Developing UNICEF's Research Strategy*, UNICEF Office Research (2013)
 - Scoping study on global research needs and gaps
- *Integrating Information and Communication Technologies into Communication for Development Strategies to Support and Empower Marginalized Adolescent Girls*, Communication for Development (2013)

UNICEF's Work at Global Level

Various partnerships at global, regional and national levels

- *Child Online Protection Initiative -ITU*
 - Be Safe, Be Smart Session at the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit in Costa Rica
 - Review of industry guidelines for Child Online Protection
 - UN Roundtable on Communication for Development (C4D) (2011) and Special Joint Meeting of the UN Second and Third Committees on the role of ICTs for social and economic development
- *Together for Girls initiative to End Sexual Violence*
 - National household surveys on sexual, physical and emotional violence undertaken by national Governments with support from UNICEF and the U.S Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, within the Together for Girls Initiative
 - Questions about child sexual abuse and violence through the use of ICTs
- **Guidance note on child online protection to UNICEF field offices and partners** to inform policy advocacy and programming in this field

Thank You !