



**SAFETY N US**  
T R U S T

*Prioritizing Children & Youth Online Safety*

# CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

An ounce of prevention will save you a ton of heartache down the road.

You are the first and best  
defense against online  
threats.



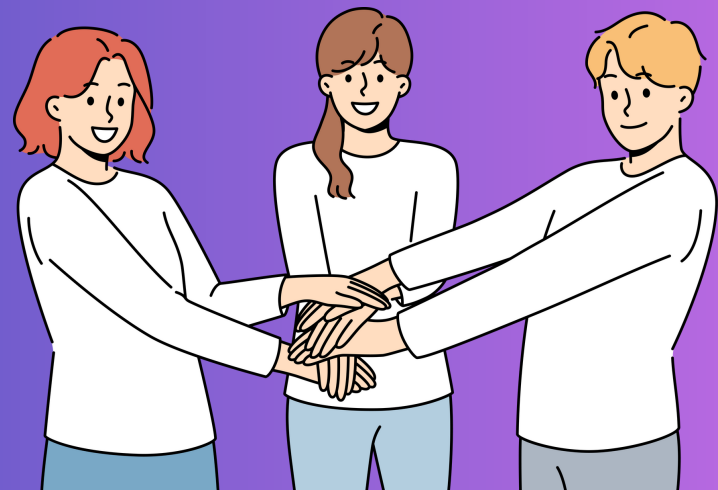
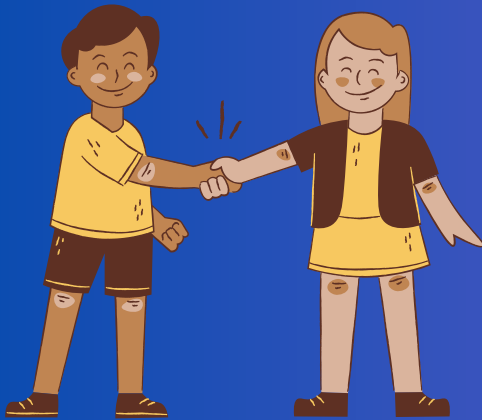
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# Online Sexual Abuse: A Call for Action

The rapid advancement of technology and the widespread use of the internet have brought numerous benefits to society. However, it has also given rise to new forms of sexual abuse that exploit the online realm with children and young people being the victims. Online sexual abuse encompasses a range of activities, including sextortion, grooming, cyberstalking, sexual harassment, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, only to mention but a few. This is why there is great need for increased awareness, education, and regulation to protect children and youths from the harmful consequences of the internet. According to a report from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 1 in 10 children and young people have experienced online sexual violence or harassment. In addition, a study by the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) found that 1 in 3 children aged 10-17 years old have been exposed to sexually explicit material online. These statistics highlight the need for more education and awareness about online safety, particularly for children and young people.

# Safety n Us Trust

As an organization dedicated to preventing and responding to online violence and child sexual abuse, we are committed to raising awareness and educating both children and young people, as well as adults, about the dangers of online abuse and how to protect themselves. We are working to create a world where every child is safe from harm, both online and offline.

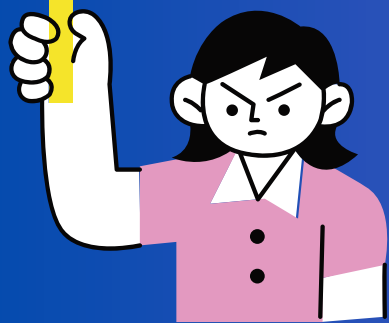


# Sextortion



This involves blackmailing individuals, often through the threat of sharing explicit images or videos already obtained, into providing more sexual content or engaging in sexual acts. Sextortion can have devastating effects on both victims and their loved ones. In some cases, victims have experienced extreme emotional distress, including feelings of shame, embarrassment, and humiliation. Some victims have even been driven to self-harm or even suicide. It is important for people to know that help is available and that they are not alone. With the right support, victims can recover from this type of abuse. It is crucial for everyone, especially young people, to understand the risks of sharing nude images online even to a trusted individual. The aftermath might be devastating. Saying "NO" can be incredibly difficult, but it is absolutely the right thing to do if someone is pressuring you to share an image or video that you do not want to share. If you are in a situation where someone is pressuring you to do something you do not want to do, it is important to remember that you have the right to say no, and that no one has the right to make you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

**NO!**



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# Grooming

Grooming refers to the process by which an individual builds an emotional connection with a child or vulnerable person online, with the ultimate goal of engaging in sexual activities. Predators often exploit the trust and naivety of their victims, gradually manipulating them into engaging in sexual conversations or even meeting in person. Grooming is a serious concern as it can lead to long-lasting psychological trauma and physical abuse. When it comes to online safety, be aware of the signs of grooming and take action immediately if you see anything suspicious.

Grooming can be subtle, and it can happen quickly, so it is important to be vigilant. If you see someone behaving in an inappropriate or suspicious manner, report it to a trusted adult or to the authorities. Remember, it is always better to be safe than sorry when it comes to online safety.



# Cyberstalking

This refers to repeatedly contacting or harassing someone online, often with sexual motives or content, causing fear or distress to the victim. It can also include actions like sending unwanted messages, tracking someone's location, or spreading rumors or lies about them. If you are the victim of cyberstalking, it is important to document the behavior, report it to the authorities, and get help from a trusted adult. No one should have to live in fear, and there are people who can help.



# Sexual harassment



Sexual harassment is another serious issue that can happen online. It involves any unwanted sexual comments, advances, or other behavior that makes a person feel uncomfortable. Sexual harassment can take place on any platform, from social media, gaming sites to chat rooms.

Sexual harassment does not only happen online, it can also happen in person and it can happen between people of any gender. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination, and it is illegal under the law. Safety n Us Trust offer many resources to victims of sexual harassment, including counseling, legal assistance, and support groups. Do not hesitate to contact us if you are or have faced any form of sexual harassment.



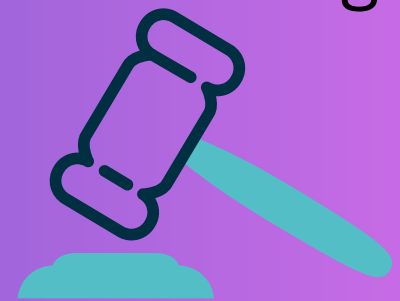
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# Online child sexual exploitation

Online child sexual exploitation, or OCSEC is a serious crime that is taken very seriously by law enforcement. It is a form of child abuse that involves the production, distribution, or consumption of sexual images or videos of children or minors. It can take place on any electronic platform, including the internet, social media, or mobile apps. Anyone who engages in this type of behavior, whether they are the producer, distributor, or consumer, is breaking the law and committing a serious crime. This type of abuse is particularly harmful to children, as it can have long-term negative psychological and emotional consequences and an impact on their cognitive development as well. The consequences for online child sexual exploitation are severe. One of the most effective ways to combat child sexual exploitation is to encourage people to report. By reporting the crime, you can help law enforcement to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.



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# Non-consensual sharing of intimate images

One prevalent form of online sexual abuse is the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, commonly known as "revenge porn." This occurs when explicit images or videos are shared without the consent of the individuals involved, often with the intention to humiliate, blackmail, or seek revenge. Such actions can have severe emotional and psychological consequences for the victims, leading to feelings of shame, anxiety, and depression.



Online sexual abuse violates fundamental human rights, including the right to privacy, dignity, and freedom from harm. It is crucial to recognize and protect these rights in the digital realm, just as we do in the physical world. The consequences of online sexual abuse can be severe, leading to long-term psychological and emotional distress for victims. By addressing this issue, we can help prevent the devastating impact it has on individuals' mental health and overall well-being. Efforts to combat online sexual abuse should include comprehensive education and awareness campaigns. By equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to recognize and report abuse, we can empower them to protect themselves and others. It is essential for society, policymakers, and technology companies to work together to develop effective strategies to prevent and address online sexual abuse. By doing so, we can create a safer online environment and protect the rights and well-being of individuals.

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