



CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET: PROTECTION AND PARTICIPATION

Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007)

States parties

Albania, Denmark, Greece, Netherlands, San Marino

Signatory states

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

- The Convention represents major progress towards preventing sexual offences against children, prosecuting the perpetrators and protecting their child victims.
- It is the only international treaty to make sexual abuse a criminal offence, with criminal penalties for:
 - those who recruit children into prostitution and those who have recourse to them;
 - the production, supply, distribution and possession of child pornography and on-line access to it;
 - soliciting children on chat rooms or on-line games sites for sexual purposes, so-called grooming.
- As a preventive measure, the Convention recommends that primary and secondary school children be informed of the risks of Internet use.
- It is open to non-Council of Europe member states



www.coe.int/childprotection

Transversal programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”

Objectives

- building children’s rights into all Council of Europe policies.
- eliminating all forms of violence against children.

Achievements

- Recommendation by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the promotion of Internet and online media services appropriate for minors (September 2009).
- Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on protecting the dignity, security and privacy of children on the Internet (February 2008).
- “Through the Wild Web Woods” game, to teach children aged seven to ten how to browse the Web in safety; available in 24 languages (Albanian, Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romani, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish and Ukrainian). The game also promotes key values that guide the work of the Council of Europe, including democracy, respect for others and children’s rights. The game is accompanied by an online teaching pack proposing ways for teachers to discover Internet safety together with their pupils, which exists in 14 languages. Since its launch in late 2007 more than two million visits have been recorded worldwide.



- Guidelines for Internet service providers and the designers and publishers of online games to help and encourage operators from these sectors to respect users’ privacy, safety and freedom of expression (October 2008).

Next step

- The internet will play an important role in facilitating participation of children and young people in the new Council of Europe campaign on sexual violence against children, to be launched in Rome on 29 and 30 November 2010.