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Managing Cybersecurity During Covid-19

Protecting Kids Online: Emerging Challenges & Making It Safe

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About Us - Strategic Advisory



Technology Policy



Cyber Risk & Privacy



Investment Strategies



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Millions of children are at increased risk of harm as their lives move increasingly online during lockdown in the COVID-19 pandemic - UNICEF



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Challenges – Increased Screen Time

Spending more time on virtual platforms can leave children:

- Vulnerable to online sexual exploitation and grooming
- Lack of face-to-face contact with friends and partners may lead to heightened risk-taking such as sending sexualized images,
- Increased and unstructured time online may expose children to potentially harmful and violent content as well as greater risk of cyberbullying.



Making It Safe



- Governments - step up awareness raising and educational initiatives on child online safety, and make sure social service providers, schools, parents and children are aware of local reporting mechanisms and have support numbers of local helplines and hotlines.
- IT & Telecommunication industry - Ensure online platforms have enhanced safety and safeguarding measures, especially virtual learning tools, promote and facilitate child safety referral services and helplines; develop standard moderation policies that are aligned with children's rights; employ built-in protection measures while innovating as appropriate
- Schools - Update current safeguarding policies to reflect the new realities for children learning from home; promote and monitor good online behaviours and ensure that children have continued access to school-based counselling services.
- Parents - Ensure children's devices have the latest software updates and antivirus programs; have open dialogues with children on how and with whom they are communicating online; work with children to establish rules for how, when, and where the internet can be used; be alert to signs of distress in children that may emerge in connection with their online activity



Guidelines – ITU



ITU's Guidelines for Parents, Carers, Guardians, and Educators for Child Online Protection:

1. Set up parental control
2. Talk with your children about online safety
3. Help your children be tech ready
4. Stay aware of the online and mobile services used by your children
5. Know how to report problems and seek help
6. Create a culture of support so that children and young people feel comfortable seeking help
7. Manage children's screen time



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"Children everywhere have the right to a safe environment, even in the cyberworld. Because while the connection might be virtual, the danger is real."

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré, ITU Former Secretary-General

References

ITU - <https://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/guidelines.aspx>

UNICEF - <https://www.unicef.org/csr/childrensrighsandinternet.htm>



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