

CHILD PROTECTION IN A BORDERLESS DIGITAL WORLD

Co-designing child-centred
privacy policy



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

ChildFund Australia recognises the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land; and recognise their continuing connection to the land, water and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.



SESSION AIMS

This session surfaces global, regional and child-rights perspectives on children's digital privacy, moving participants from shared understanding to co-designed, practical policy recommendations.

- Understand the international privacy landscape
- Ground it in Southeast Asian cross-border realities
- Centre children's own voices in the solutions



WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

FIRESIDE CHAT PANELISTS



Rys Farthing
Director of Children's Policy,
Reset.Tech; Professorial
Research Fellow, University of
Canberra



Yanti Kusumawardhani
Representative on Children's
Rights, ASEAN Commission on
the Promotion and Protection
of the Rights of Women and
Children (ACWC)



Muhamad Nuzul
Regional Online Safety Lead,
ChildFund Australia

Key documents on Violence Against Children

Adopted by ASEAN Leaders

- ASEAN Declaration (2013) and ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (ASEAN RPA on EVAC) (2015)
- Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (2019)
- Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children against All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (RPA COEA) (2021)

Relevant Events on the Protection of Children against All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN

- Regional Dialogue for Advancing Cross-border Collaboration between ASEAN Member State Law Enforcement Mechanisms Responsible for Cases Linked to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation during 17-18 July 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand



7 Key Focus Area in ASEAN RPA on COEA

1. Promote, develop, and implement a comprehensive national legal framework in each ASEAN member state.
2. Enhance the capacity of law enforcement, the judiciary, and legal professionals.
3. Encourage the establishment of national specialized units to lead, support, and coordinate investigations.
4. Ensure the effectiveness of rights-based, gender- and age-responsive child protection and support services, as well as social welfare programs.
5. Strengthening data collection, monitoring, reporting, and referral mechanisms.
6. Promoting national education programs and school curricula to raise awareness of sexual exploitation and other forms of child exploitation in order to empower children.
7. Engaging with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to actively involve them in monitoring prevention and response measures through regulations, corporate social responsibility, and collaboration for the development of effective measures to detect, take own and report illegal content related to child sexual abuse and exploitation..



The RPA COEA highlights that:

- *"It is important to promote children's access to the Internet and respect and ensure their rights to freedom of expression, **privacy**, access to information and right to play and leisure, while at the same time recognising their rights to protection from all forms and risks of violence and exploitation online"* (Section VI, Guiding Principles)
- The RPA explicitly mandates that AMS should: *"Develop adequate **data protection and privacy rules for minors**"*
- The RPA requires establishment of: *"a toll free, accessible, **anonymous and confidential** national child helpline(s) to provide a child friendly and accessible mechanism to report child abuse" which **respecting the privacy rights of the children involved**.*
- Legal requirement for private sector companies to implement **well-being by design** and **safety-by-design principles** for digital platforms.



RPA on COEA 2026-2030

Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children from all forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (RPA on COEA) 2026-2030)

RPA COEA 2026–2030: Key Updates

- Strengthened alignment with international guidelines
- Updated to reflect emerging technologies

New focus areas:

- Private-sector accountability & safety-by-design
- Prevention & rehabilitation for OCSEA
- Support for law enforcement and judiciary
- Child-friendly reporting mechanisms
- Teacher training on digital safety
- Institutionalisation of ASEAN ICT Forum & industry working group



RPA on COEA 2026 and Relevant Events

Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children from all forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (RPA on COEA) 2026-2030)

The current RPA on COEA covers a 5-year period. **Several related events are scheduled around November 2026, with the following timeline:**

1. ASEAN ICT Forum (4–5 November 2026)

- modality (online or onsite) to be confirmed with the Philippines (UNICEF Philippines).
- The RPA on COEA could be launched at the ASEAN ICT Forum in November, subject to ministerial endorsement.

2. 49th ASEAN Summit (November 2026). (ASEAN Leaders' Notation)

3. 2nd Global Ministerial Meeting in the Philippines.

Updated timeline for Endorsement (After discuss with UNICEF & ASEC) :

- **The RPA on COEA is expected to be endorsed at the 49th ASEAN Summit for notation in November 2026.**



FIRESIDE CHAT PANELISTS



Rys Farthing
Director of Children's Policy,
Reset.Tech; Professorial
Research Fellow, University of
Canberra



Yanti Kusumawardhani
Representative on Children's
Rights, ASEAN Commission on
the Promotion and Protection
of the Rights of Women and
Children (ACWC)



Muhamad Nuzul
Regional Online Safety Lead,
ChildFund Australia

THE PROBLEM: WE HEAR CHILDREN, BUT DO WE BUILD THEIR VOICE INTO THE SYSTEM?

Children are increasingly consulted on digital policy.



But participation **can still be:**



Episodic → one-off consultations



Project-based → tied to a particular initiative



Advisory → children provide views, adults make decisions



Disconnected → little feedback on what happened afterwards



The question:

How do we make children's participation **part of the regulatory system,** not just part of individual consultations?



DON'T ONLY ASK CHILDREN ABOUT TODAY'S PROBLEMS

Children
are often experiencing:



-  New forms of data collection
-  AI-driven profiling
-  Algorithmic recommendations
-  Location tracking
-  Behavioural advertising
-  Age assurance
-  Generative AI
-  Emerging forms of online fraud and manipulation



So children can provide something regulators may struggle to obtain:

Early signals about emerging risks.



This means participation shouldn't only happen when legislation is being drafted.

It should also be part of horizon scanning.



1. CHILDREN

Share their lived experiences and emerging concerns



2. EMERGING EXPERIENCE

Patterns and signals of new risks are identified



3. REGULATORY SIGNAL

Inform regulators and policy makers about emerging risks



4. POLICY RESPONSE

Policies and regulations adapt to protect children effectively



Children's voices today can help shape safer digital environments tomorrow.

WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL?

Voice → Influence → Accountability



Being heard is not the same as having influence.

We must close the loop so children can see the connection between what they said and what changed.



FIRESIDE CHAT PANELISTS



Rys Farthing
Director of Children's Policy,
Reset.Tech; Professorial
Research Fellow, University of
Canberra



Yanti Kusumawardhani
Representative on Children's
Rights, ASEAN Commission on
the Promotion and Protection
of the Rights of Women and
Children (ACWC)



Muhamad Nuzul
Regional Online Safety Lead,
ChildFund Australia

FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION **POLICY LAB**

POLICY LAB

Imagine your group has been appointed as a National Policy Taskforce on Children's Online Privacy.

Because government resources and political attention are limited, your taskforce must prioritise three reforms related to your group's policy challenge that would have the greatest impact on strengthening children's online privacy and protecting children's rights in digital environments.

Step 1 – Understand the Challenge for your Taskforce

Step 2 – Generate Policy Options

Step 3 – Prioritise Your Recommendations

Step 4 – Finalise and Write Up Your Recommendations

**THANK
YOU**

Join us
swipesafe.org

