



Global Threat Assessment 2025: Exploring the Prevention Framework

A world where children are **safer** online.

weprotect.org

Speakers

- **Iain Drennan, WeProtect Global Alliance**
- **Yana Mayavskaya, Dr Ling San Lau & Prof Sabrina Hermosilla, CPC Learning Network (Columbia University)**
- **Ruth Dannehy, Lantern (Technology Coalition)**
- **Rangsima Deesawade, Leaked (Evident)**
- **Amanda Ruzicka, Responsible Behaviour with Youth and Children (MOORE)**



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Global Alliance

Preventable not inevitable:

Prevention framework for technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse

Insights from the Global Threat Assessment 2025

A world where children are **safer** online.

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Overview

1. The CPC Team
2. Methods
3. Why we need to act: key findings from the Global Threat Assessment 2025
4. Prevention framework
 - a. Enablers
 - b. Overview of the Prevention Framework
 - c. Action areas
5. Key take-aways and next steps



Care & Protection of Children Learning Network (CPC) team



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Project team members

Cécile Fanton d'Andon
Hannah Thompson
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Claire Cunningham



2. Global Threat Assessment 2025: Methods



Research methods

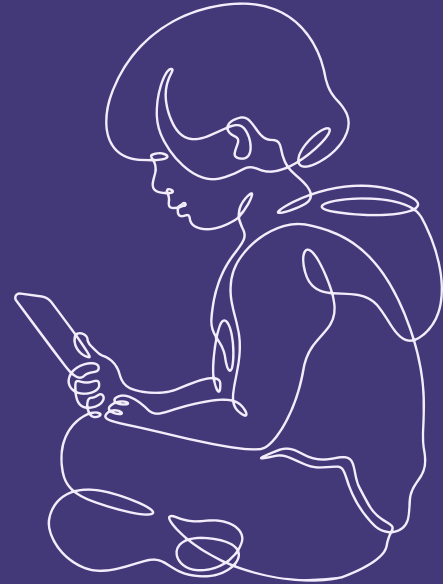


- 1 Scoping review**
 - Academic and grey literature
 - English language. Published Jan 2023 – October 2025.
- 2 Semi-structured interviews**
 - 32 globally diverse stakeholders
 - Cross-sector expertise
- 3 Online survey**
 - 77 experts
 - Multi-sectoral perspectives
- 4 Youth and survivor workshops**
 - Survivor- and youth-led organisations
 - Prevention framework and interview tools reviewed by youth and survivors
- 5 Case studies**
 - Showcasing promising and innovative practice from across the globe.



Approach

- Ethical and inclusive
- Survivor- and child-centred,
- Trauma-sensitive design with strong safeguards for wellbeing of data collectors and research participants
- Collaborative and practical
- Co-developed with an expert steering group
- Designed for global adaptability and real-world application



3. Why do we need to act?

Key Findings from the GTA 2025



Technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse refers to:

- The use of digital technologies to prepare, commit, or disseminate sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of a child (<18 years).
- Harms that occur in both physical (offline) and digital (online) spaces.
- Technology plays a role in facilitating the abuse, and perpetuating the harms caused by abuse.



Children under 18 years
represent approximately one-
third of the **6 billion** internet
users globally

- 1 in 5 children experience sexual harm before the age of 18, both online and offline
- Global economic cost of violence against children: \$7 trillion (~8% global GDP)
- Rapidly evolving technologies introduce new risks to children that outpace our ability to prevent and respond
- Critical evidence gaps - particularly affecting marginalised children and Global Majority contexts

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) facilitates production and dissemination of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), complicates detection and enforcement, and lowers barriers to harm.
- Intersecting harms online and offline – including self-harm, violent extremism, and trafficking.
- Children are at risk both of being harmed and causing harm (children displaying harmful sexual behaviors)
- Gendered patterns of victimization: girls depicted in >98% of reported CSAM; boys account for >90% of reports of financial sexual extortion.

NCMEC: documented a 1,325% increase in AI-related CSAM reports between 2023 and 2024.

Thorn: 1 in 17 adolescents report being victims of deepfake sexual imagery.⁶²

NCMEC: documented a 1,325% increase in AI-related CSAM reports between 2023 and 2024.

In 2024, NCMEC received approximately **100** reports of financial sexual extortion each day.¹²

Preventable, not inevitable:

Prevention framework for
technology-facilitated child
sexual exploitation and abuse



The Public Health Prevention Approach:

PRIMARY: prevent harm before it happens by changing systems, environments, and norms.

SECONDARY: proactively detect and disrupt harm.

TERTIARY: reduce harm and prevent re-victimisation and re-offending.





ENABLERS

- Research and data
- Sustainable financing
- Political will
- Strong digital governance and accountability
- Harmonised terminology and data systems
- Coordination
- Supportive social norms
- Trained professionals and providers
- Strong child protection systems

The Prevention Framework: Four Action Areas

Child Participation and Leadership

Meaningfully involve children in defining problems and shaping the policies, programmes, and services that affect them.



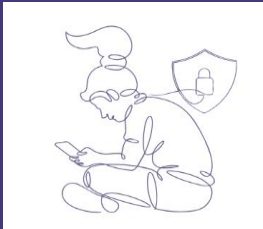
Community Education and Support

Equip children, caregivers, and communities with the knowledge, skills, and tools to keep children safe and appropriately respond to risks and harms. Provide early interventions for children and adults at risk of causing harm.



Digital Safety

Protect children by prioritising their safety, well-being, and rights in industry culture and the design and development of digital products, services, and infrastructure.



Law, Policy, and Justice

Strengthen legal and regulatory systems to prevent abuse, secure justice, and hold duty-bearers accountable.



CHILD PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

Meaningfully involve children in defining the problems and shaping policies, programmes, and services that affect them.



| Primary Prevention PROACTIVELY PROTECT | Secondary Prevention DETECT AND DISRUPT | Tertiary Prevention SUPPORT AND RESPOND |
|---|--|--|
| Co-design contextually sensitive education and awareness-raising initiatives with children that reflect how they use technology, whom they trust, and where they turn for help if they are harmed or have concerns about their own thoughts and behaviours. | Partner with child-led and survivor-led organisations to co-design, implement, and evaluate accessible, easy-to-use, and trusted reporting channels, including non-formal channels, such as trained peers. | Use insights and data from both child and adult survivors to improve the accessibility and quality of support services, justice systems, and redress mechanisms. Explore survivors' own concepts of harm, justice, and accountability, including non-formal and restorative justice approaches. |



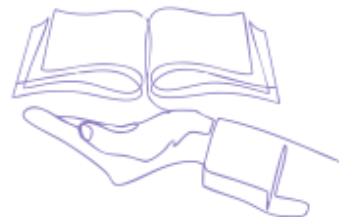
Consult children only when trained staff, safety measures, and support services are in place. Otherwise, consult youth and adults who can represent children's perspectives, including adult survivors.

Create safe, welcoming spaces - both online and offline - for children to share their views, and influence policies, programmes, and services.

Engage children across age groups, genders, and backgrounds, and address barriers to inclusion. Seek input from children who have experienced harm, as well as children who have caused harm.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

Equip children, caregivers, and communities with the knowledge, skills, and tools to keep children safe and appropriately respond to risks and harms. Provide early interventions for children and adults at risk of causing harm.



| Primary Prevention PROACTIVELY PROTECT | Secondary Prevention DETECT AND DISRUPT | Tertiary Prevention SUPPORT AND RESPOND |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Implement and evaluate evidence-based education and awareness raising initiatives that promote digital safety, reporting, and help-seeking. Ensure they are accessible, available in multiple languages, and delivered across schools, communities, and digital platforms that children use.</p> <p>Teach children how to keep themselves and others safe online and offline, where to seek help, safe adults they can turn to for help, and how to report concerns about their own or someone else's safety or behaviours.</p> | <p>Establish multiple accessible, child-friendly formal and non-formal reporting channels, including helplines, trained peers, and trusted adults who can provide early support and resources.</p> <p>Train peers, caregivers, educators, and service providers to help children stay safe online and offline, and respond appropriately to concerns or reports of harm.</p> <p>Deliver evidence-based early interventions for children and adults at risk of causing or experiencing harm.</p> | <p>Support survivors and ensure they know their rights, options, available services, and actions they can take to protect themselves from further harm, request image removal, and seek justice.</p> <p>Provide trauma-informed, survivor-centred services for both child and adult survivors that address both online and offline harms, promote safety and dignity, and prevent further harm. These should include legal, health, and mental health and psychosocial support services.</p> <p>Provide evidence-based, non-carceral responses for children who have caused harm to rehabilitate and prevent re-offending.</p> |

DIGITAL SAFETY

Protect children by prioritising their safety, well-being, and rights in industry culture and the design and development of digital products, services, and infrastructure.



| Primary Prevention PROACTIVELY PROTECT | Secondary Prevention DETECT AND DISRUPT | Tertiary Prevention SUPPORT AND RESPOND |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Prioritise children's safety, rights, and well-being across all levels of company culture, decision-making, and workforce training.</p> <p>Make Safety by Design the default, integrating child rights impact assessments and due diligence in development processes. Consult children and youth to inform design choices, and ensure safety features are functional, accessible, and equitably available across all locations and languages in which a product or service is offered.</p> <p>Harmonise terminology and transparency reporting metrics to improve comparability across products and services.</p> | <p>Detect and disrupt harmful content and behaviours using real-time tools that respect users' privacy and rights (e.g., hash matching, warning pop-ups, redirection to support services, detection of grooming behaviours and risky financial transactions).</p> <p>Fund and provide mental health and psychosocial support for digital frontline responders.</p> | <p>Provide child-friendly, accessible in-platform reporting channels. These should directly link users to helplines and support services and provide timely feedback.</p> <p>Ensure safe, stigma-free processes for survivors to request takedown of their images.</p> <p>Strengthen transparency and accountability, disclosing material child rights impact of digital products and services in every country where they are available.</p> <p>Collect and share anonymised, disaggregated safety data to strengthen industry-wide and cross-sectoral learning.</p> <p>Collaborate across industry to take down CSAM and other harmful content.</p> |

LAW, POLICY & JUSTICE

Strengthen legal and regulatory systems to prevent abuse, secure justice, and hold duty-bearers accountable.



| Primary Prevention PROACTIVELY PROTECT | Secondary Prevention DETECT AND DISRUPT | Tertiary Prevention SUPPORT AND RESPOND |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Strengthen, harmonise, and enforce laws and regulations using universal terminology and defining clear duties and sanctions.</p> <p>Consult with survivors, child rights groups, industry, and other stakeholders to align legislation with child rights laws, evidence, and good practice, and enable responsible industry innovation.</p> <p>Design laws that recognise developmental differences between children and adults, emphasise rehabilitation of children who cause harm, and avoid criminalising mutually desired behaviours between close-in age peers.</p> <p>Establish national/regional regulators with the power, resources, and technical expertise to set standards, monitor compliance, and ensure strong industry oversight and accountability.</p> | <p>Establish proactive systems to detect, investigate, and respond to technology-facilitated CSEA, rather than relying solely on survivor reports.</p> <p>Require financial institutions to actively detect and report transactions linked to sexual exploitation of children.</p> <p>Establish accessible, child-friendly, trauma-informed reporting channels linked to support services, and provide clear information about where people should make reports or seek help in their country.</p> | <p>Train law enforcement, judiciary, and prosecutors in child-friendly, trauma-informed, survivor-centred processes that uphold children's rights, dignity, and best interests.</p> <p>Establish anonymised national victim databases to inform prevention and response.</p> <p>Use evidence-based monitoring and rehabilitation to prevent re-offending.</p> <p>Treat children in conflict with the law in line with international child justice standards. Use rehabilitation, diversion, and alternative sentencing. Avoid detention, registration, and notification.</p> |

Key takeaways:

This is a real threat that requires action.

Preventable, not inevitable

Technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse is preventable.

We need systems-wide action

Systems-wide, cross-sector change and collaboration is needed.

Listen to children

Children and survivors are sharing their experiences and saying what they need. We must listen and act on what they tell us.

Three actions for prevention

Three actions we can all contribute to from today

1. Address technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse as a preventable public health issue.
2. Generate and use evidence to inform and support prevention.
3. Collaborate across sectors to coordinate prevention efforts and share lessons learned.





“The future of our digital world doesn’t have to be scary – it can be exciting and enriching. But we have to approach it with care, responsibility, and transparency. As we step into this new era of AI, we need to make sure the younger generation is not only equipped to navigate these spaces but also empowered to shape them into something better.”

- Youth advocate



Thank you.



A world where children are safer online.

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Lantern: Shared signals, safer platforms

WeProtect Prevention Framework
February 2026

Our members



FOUNDATIONAL




MISSION



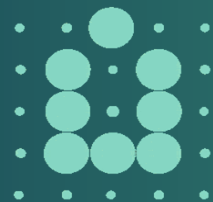
CORNERSTONE



BRIDGE



ASSOCIATE



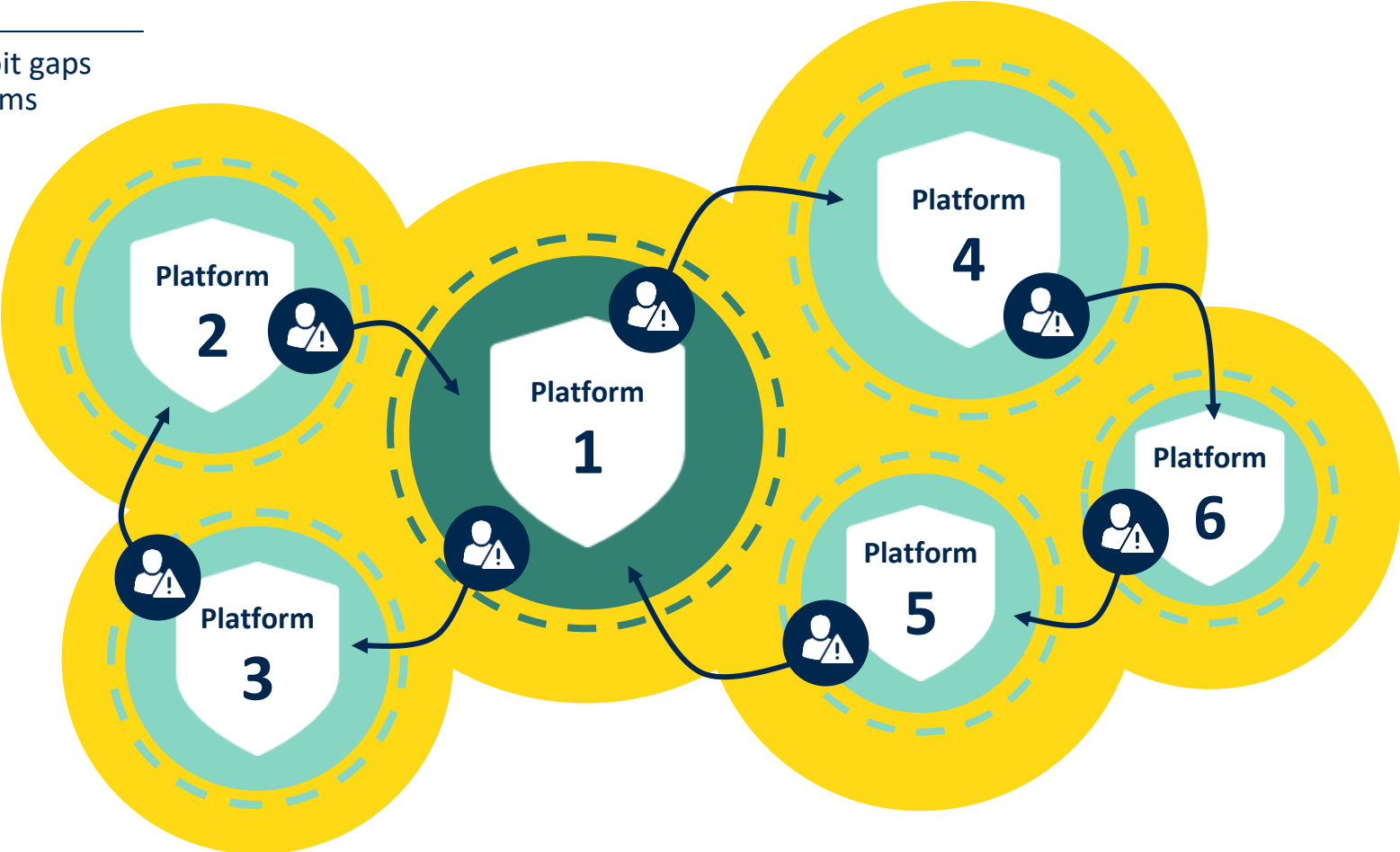
Lantern

Advancing child safety through signal sharing

A Tech Coalition program



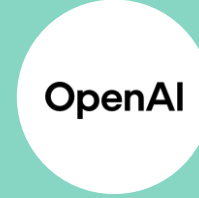
Bad actors exploit gaps between platforms



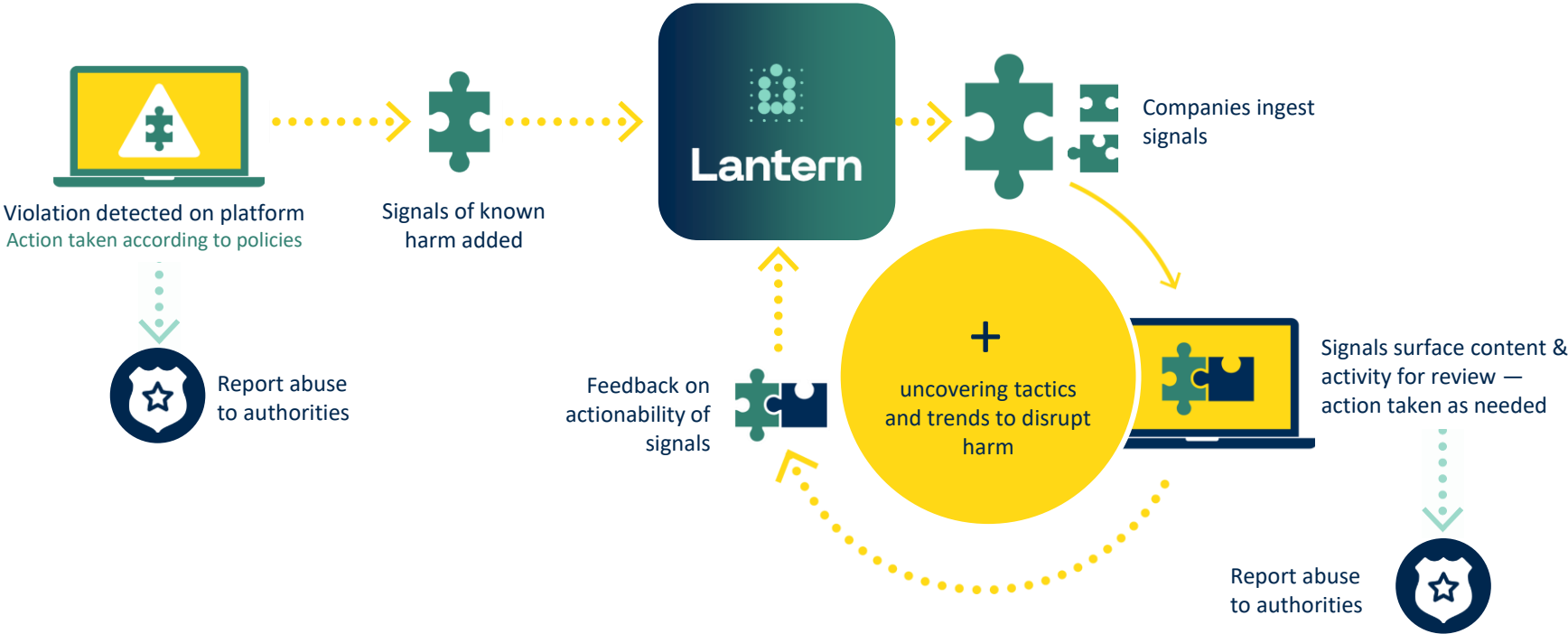


Lantern

participants



How Lantern works

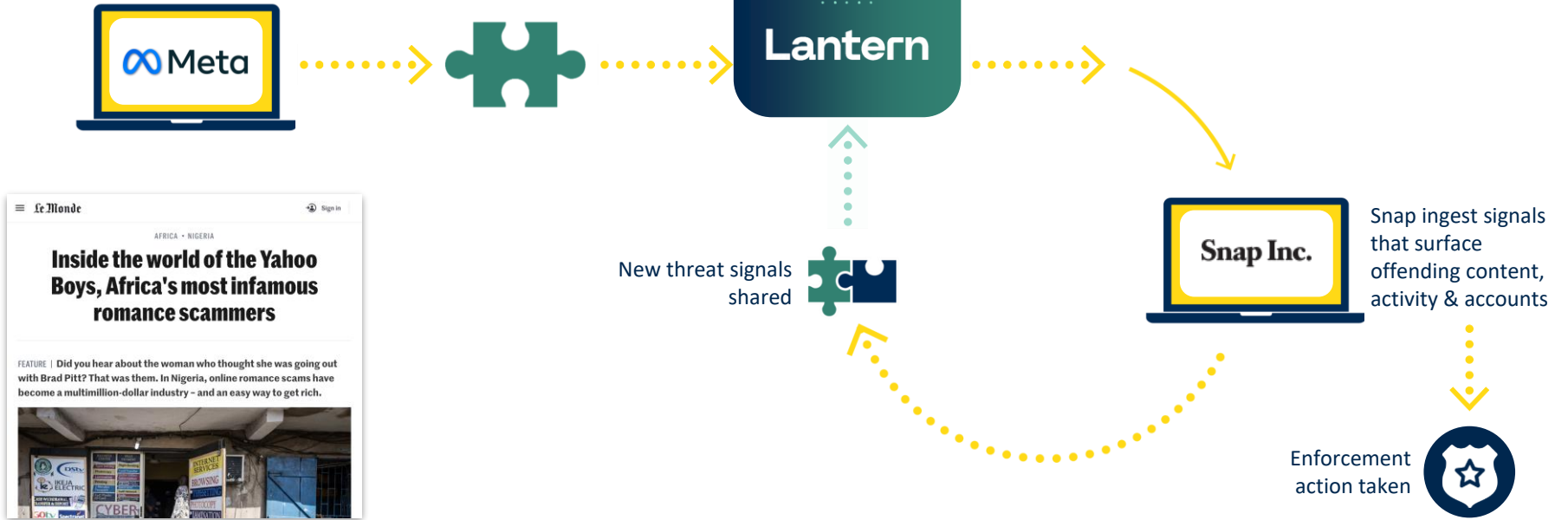


Lantern: faster cross-platform detection and response

2024, Meta investigates Nigerian financial sextortion accounts, including the *Yahoo Boys*

Signals relating to confirmed offenders added to Lantern

New signals helped another industry partner detect and disrupt the same criminal network on their platform



Tangible outcomes that help
protect children



Lantern

Over 2 million
signals shared
to date

~300,000
signals shared
in 2024

100,000+
accounts
actioned

135,000+
URLs blocked
or removed

All in **addition** to actions
taken by the original signal
uploader

Thank you

LEAKED

Understanding and Addressing Self-Generated Sexual Content Involving Young People in Thailand

Rangsima Deesawade



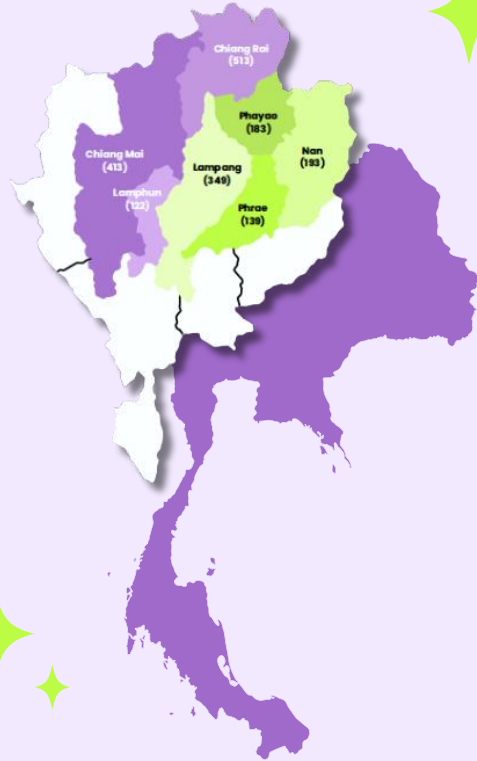
Financially supported by



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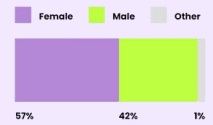


Final Sample

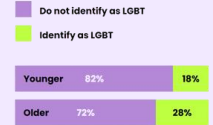


1916 YOUNG PEOPLE 18 SCHOOLS 20 KEY INFORMANTS

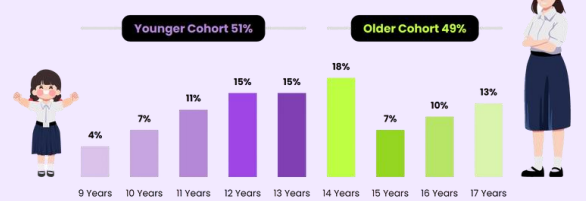
Gender



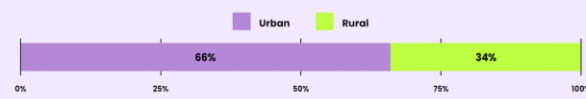
LGBT Identity



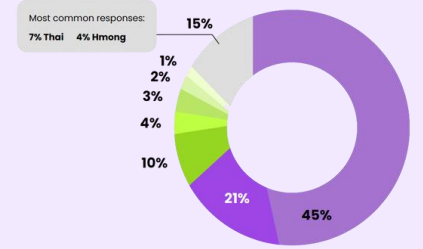
AGE DISTRIBUTION



Urban Rural Split



Ethnicity

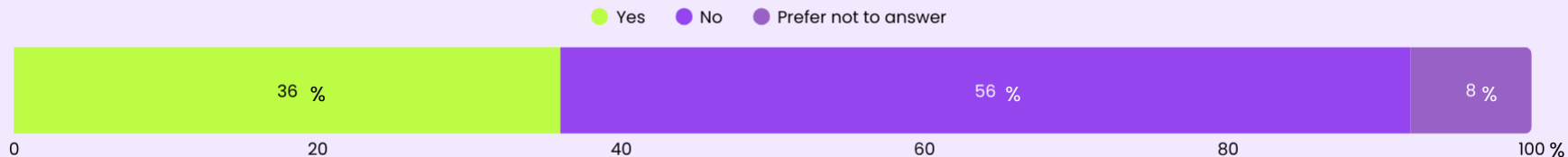


- I'm not from ethnic groups
- Prefer not to say
- Thai Yai
- Ahka
- Lahu
- Karen
- Dara-ang
- Other (Please Specify)

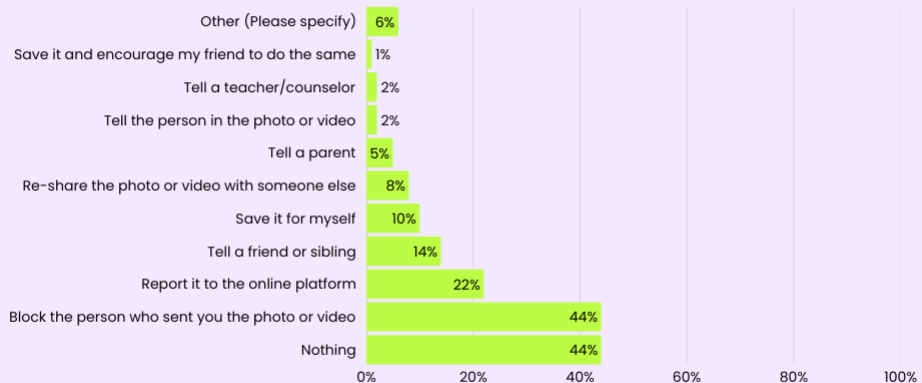
RECEIVING SEXUAL CONTENT OF SOMEONE UNDER 18



I have received sexual content of someone I believe to be under 18



What do you do when you receive the content?



ATTITUDES

“เพราะเทคโนโลยีเข้าถึงง่ายจนเกินไป”

- คำตอบคำถามปลายเปิดจากกลุ่มเด็กโต

“Technology makes it too easy to access [sexual content]”

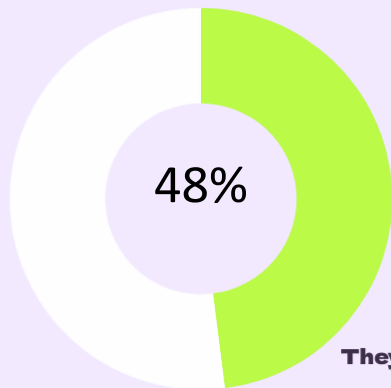
-older cohort open text answer response

56% of young people believe technology makes it too easy to share nudes without considering the consequences

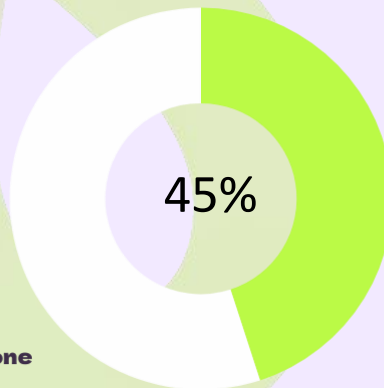
26% of young people believe it's acceptable to share nudes if both parties consent

REASONS FOR SHARING

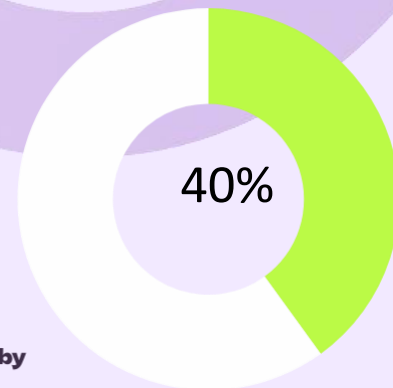
To gain more likes and followers



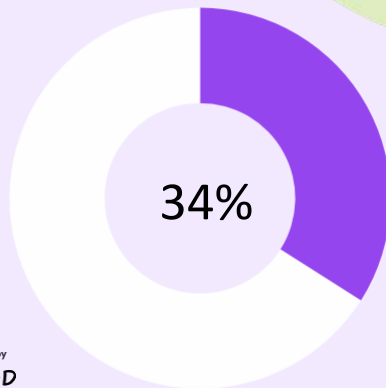
To earn money, gifts or credit



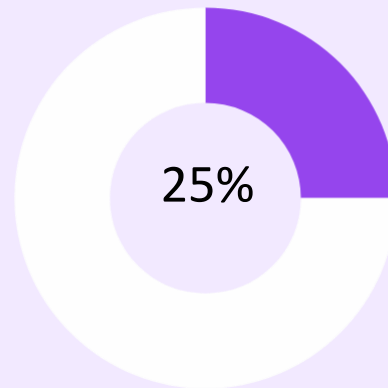
To feel good about themselves



They were tricked by someone online

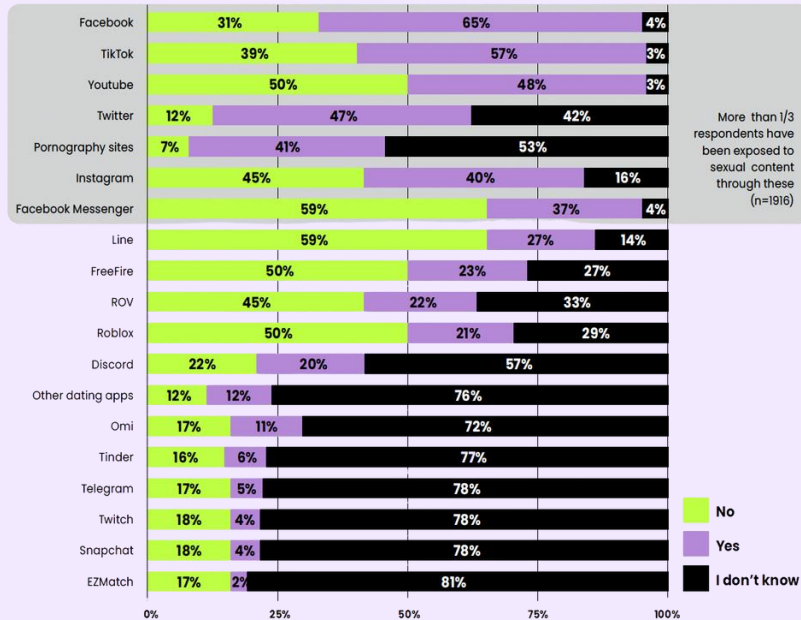


They were pressured by someone



HOW THEY REACT

Exposure to Sexual Content on Apps, Websites and Games

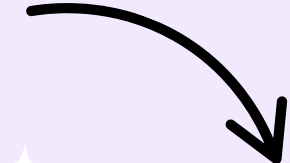


“อาจเอาไปทำตามได้หรือมีพฤติกรรมที่คล้ายคลึงกับสิ่งที่เห็น”

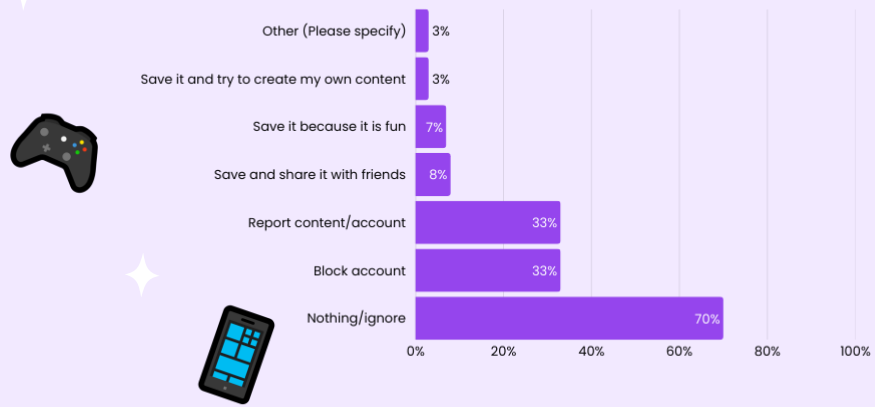
- คำตอบคำถามปลายเปิดจากกลุ่มเด็กโต

“Children might follow or imitate behaviours they have seen”

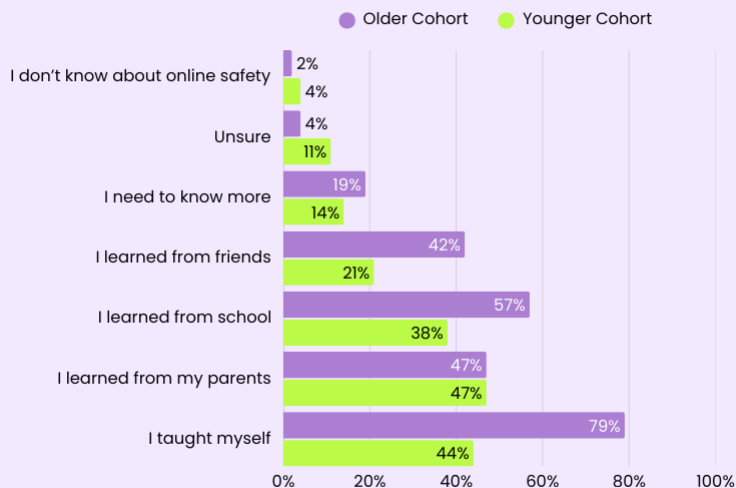
-older cohort open text answer response



Actions when encountering sexual content



Online Safety



DIGITAL HARD SKILLS



- Privacy settings & audience controls
- Two-factor authentication & strong passwords
- Block / report / mute; evidence capture
- Device & app security (updates, safe installs)
- Account recovery & backup hygiene



DIGITAL SOFT SKILLS



- Spot red flags & manipulation tactics
- Boundaries + refusal (“no/stop/block”)
- How to Trust & verification habits
- Pause, regulate emotions, and disengage
- Handle peer pressure; seek help & escalate



THANK YOU!

GET IN TOUCH!

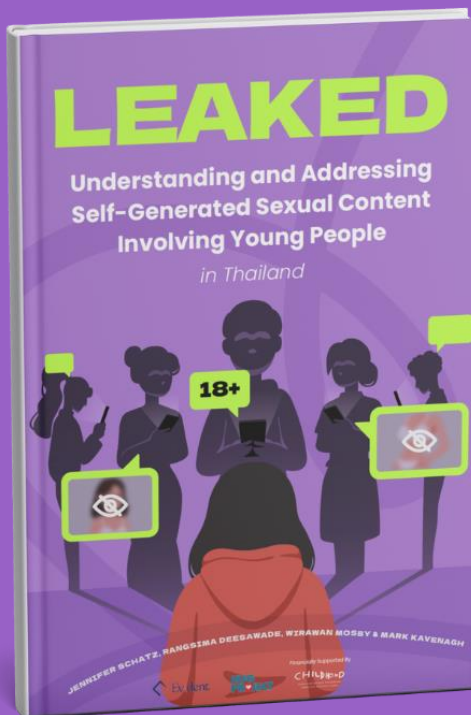


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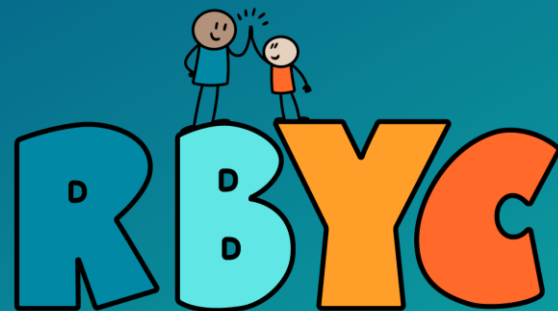
SCAN HERE

MOORE

PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Amanda E. Ruzicka

Deputy Director, MOORE
Associate Scientist, Department of Mental Health



**RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR
WITH YOUTH AND CHILDREN**



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH



RBYC Aims

Equip and empower young adolescents to prevent:

- Problematic sexual behavior toward younger children
- Problematic sexual behavior among peers
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation by adults





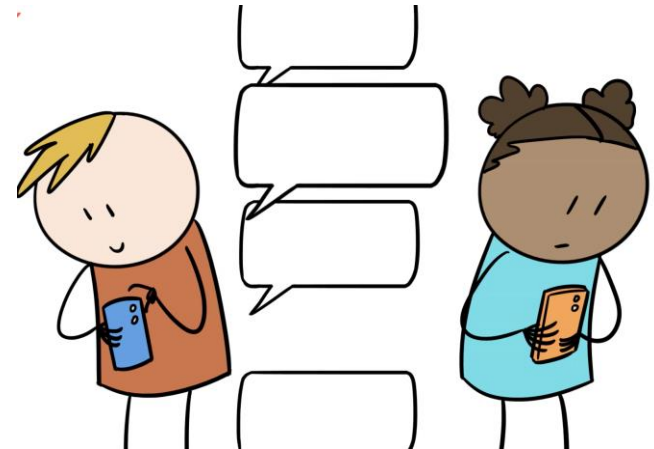
RBYC Design



- Stand-alone or easily integrated with other programs
- For diverse school and non-school settings
- Implemented by educators or other youth-serving professionals
- Ongoing feedback from adolescents, educators, and caregivers
- Trauma-informed and strengths-based approach

RBYC Structure

- Five interactive, discussion-based sessions
- Adult-focused components for educators and caregivers
- Developmentally appropriate
- Addresses complexities and overlap of online and offline relationships





RBYC Core Concepts

**SAFE
ADULTS**

- Decision-making skills
- Personal boundaries and consent
- Developmental differences
- Healthy relationships
- Responsible behaviors in both online and offline contexts
- Identifying and preventing problematic sexual behaviors
- Safe adults and safe friends

**ASKING
FOR
CONSENT**

**RESPONSIBLE
BEHAVIORS**

**RESPONSIBLE
BEHAVIOR
AND
TECHNOLOGY**



Adaptation and Evaluation

Pilot RCT (N = 160 students):

- Increased knowledge of developmental differences, problematic sexual behaviors, and consent
- Increased self-efficacy to prevent sexual harm

Current Adaptations and Evaluations:

- Germany
- Philippines
- U.S.: Teens with IDD

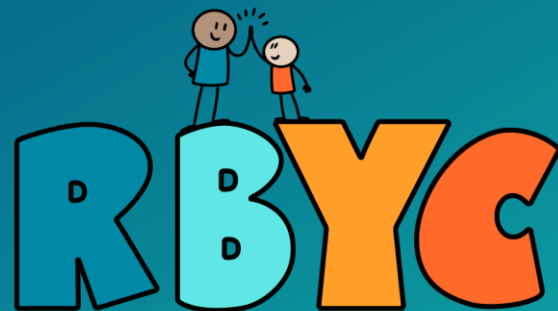


MOORE

PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

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**RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR
WITH YOUTH AND CHILDREN**



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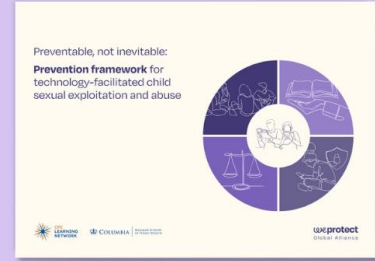
Q&A

A world where children are **safer** online.

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Thank you



**Find the Global Threat Assessment 2025
and Prevention Framework at
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