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15 April 2026

Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)

THEMATIC EXPERT EXCHANGE:

Technology-Facilitated and AI-Enabled Violence Affecting Children in Conflict: Evidence, Accountability and Protection Responses with a Focus on Ukraine

16 April 2026

Meeting Room 11, Palais Building, Council of Europe

Draft Agenda

9:00 – 9:30	Opening ➤ Marja Ruotanen, Director General for Democracy and Human Dignity ➤ Jennifer Schuetze-Reymann, Special Advisor on the Children of Ukraine Overall objective: <i>Thematic Expert Exchange aims to provide a high-level, structured expert forum under the CGU to analyse the patterns, drivers and evolving forms of technology-facilitated and AI-enabled violence affecting children in conflict - with particular reference to Ukraine - and to identify legal, policy and operational responses that strengthen child-centered protection, accountability and coordinated action among Council of Europe member states and partners.</i> ➤ Keynote speech: From displacement to digital danger: The convergence of conflict, AI, and the rapid scaling of child sexual exploitation
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	Keynote objective: <i>To frame technology-facilitated and AI-enabled violence against children as an evolving and systemic child-rights challenge in conflict settings, situate Ukraine within broader global digital risk trends, and set the strategic direction for coordinated protection and accountability responses.</i> ➤ Iain Drennan, Executive Director, We Protect Global Alliance ➤ Gráinne Le Fevre, Chief Executive Officer, Terre des Hommes Netherlands
9:30 – 11:10	Session 1: Technology-facilitated violence in conflict: Patterns, structural drivers and accountability Session objective: <i>To map the spectrum of technology-facilitated crimes and harmful practices affecting children in Ukraine within the broader conflict context, analyse structural vulnerability drivers (displacement, digital schooling, socio-economic pressures), and examine investigative and accountability challenges, including cross-border dimensions.</i> ➤ <i>Understanding child grooming: Psychological foundations, pathways and early warning signs</i> - Michael Lynch, Child Protection and Safeguarding Consultant ➤ <i>Technology-facilitated recruitment of children via social media in Ukraine</i> - Ruby Axelson, Global Rights Compliance ➤ <i>Psychological, social and structural drivers of vulnerability to technology-facilitated exploitation and abuse for children displaced in and from Ukraine</i> - Eva Veldhuizen-Ochodničánová, Forensic Psychologist, KIND ➤ <i>Figures and trends on reporting and response to CSAM in Ukraine</i> - Kateryna Yarosh, analyst of INHOPE hotline Ukraine by NGO "Magnolia" (online) ➤ <i>Investigating online child exploitation in Ukraine: Trends, case patterns and accountability challenges</i> - Vasyl Bohdan, Head of the Department of Juvenile Prevention of the National Police of Ukraine ➤ <i>Children online: The experiences, knowledge, and behaviour of Ukrainian children and their parents regarding the risk of sexual violence online during the Russian war in Ukraine</i> - Anna Markovska, Associate Professor in Criminology, Deputy Director, International Policing and Public Protection Research Institute (IPPPRI); Dr. Oleksii Serdiuk, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs (online)

	Scope of the session: • Mapping the spectrum of technology-facilitated violence affecting children in conflict, including: - online grooming, sexual extortion and coercion; - technology-facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse; - recruitment of children via digital platforms into criminal or harmful activities; - digital extortion and manipulation; • Structural and conflict-related drivers increasing children's exposure and vulnerability; • Conflict-specific dynamics of digital harm; • Accountability challenges. 🚦 <i>Interventions followed by a 20-minutes discussion</i> <i>Moderated by Javier PEREZ SALMERON, Council of Europe Independent Consultant</i>
11:10 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2: Legal and policy framework: Compliance, criminalisation and human rights safeguards Session objective: <i>To identify concrete legislative and policy measures that strengthen accountability while ensuring child-centered justice.</i> ➤ <i>Operational responses to technology-facilitated crimes against children: Coordination, tools and cross-border challenges in Ukraine</i> - Hanna Mohylina, Chief operational officer, Cyber Police Department of National Police of Ukraine ➤ <i>Prosecuting technology-facilitated crimes against children: evidentiary challenges, case-building and cross-border cooperation</i> - Ambartsum Petrosian, Unit of Procedural Guidance for Pre-Trial Investigation and Support of Public Prosecution, Division for Combating Cyber Security Crimes, Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine (online) ➤ <i>Addressing the gaps: strengthening criminal justice responses to technology-facilitated sexual abuse of children</i> - Kristina Stepanova, Lanzarote Committee Expert ➤ <i>Setting accountability standards online: the Council of Europe Recommendation on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls</i> - Flurina Frei, Council of Europe Gender Equality Policy Advisor ➤ <i>Positive obligations of states and victim protection safeguards in technology-facilitated violence against children</i>

	- Dr. Ingrida Milkaitė, Research Group Crime & Society (CRiS), Faculty of Law and Criminology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (online) Scope of the session: • Gaps in criminalisation of online recruitment and extortion; • Protection of children producing self-generated sexual content; • Harmonisation challenges and promising State practices. 🌐 Interventions followed by a 20-minutes discussion <i>Moderated by Agnes VON MARAVIC, Head of the Children's Rights Division, and Executive Secretary of the Lanzarote Committee, Council of Europe</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:00	Session 3: AI-enabled violence and emerging governance challenges Session objective: <i>To examine how AI-enabled tools alter the scale, speed and sophistication of abuse against children in conflict settings, assess emerging governance responses within a human-rights framework, and identify regulatory, technical and policy safeguards needed to prevent and mitigate AI-driven harm.</i> ➤ <i>Emerging technologies, AI governance and child protection: Evidence and cross-country insights from Lanzarote Committee work and baseline mapping reports</i> - Victoria Baines, Professor of Technology & Society and independent expert (online) ➤ <i>AI-enabled child sexual abuse online: Detection, scaling risks and emerging safeguards</i> - Hannah Swirsky, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Internet Watch Foundation (online) ➤ <i>AI-enabled sexual violence against children: Emerging patterns, offender behaviour and risk environments</i> - Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen, Protect Children Finland (online) Scope of the session: - Distinction between technology-led and AI-enabled harm; - Automation, scaling and manipulation risks; - Regulatory and governance responses to AI-enabled violence. - Interventions followed by a 20-minutes discussion

	<i>Moderated by Jan KRALIK, Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention Committee</i>
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break
15:20 – 16:40	Session 4: Prevention, protection and coordinated responses Session objective: To consolidate practical, child-centred prevention and protection approaches - including digital literacy, reporting mechanisms, trauma-informed care and inter-institutional coordination - and to identify avenues for strengthened cooperation among CGU members and partners. ➤ <i>Building digital resilience in children: Awareness, data protection and prevention of AI-enabled risks</i> - Pascale Raulin-Serrier, Digital Education Working Group Coordinator, CNIL (online) ➤ <i>Protection of children on the move and digital risk mitigation</i> - Sophia Eleftheriadou, Clinical Psychologist & Project Officer, ARSIS – Association for the Social Support of Youth ➤ <i>Preventing and mitigating technology-facilitated risks to children: Practical tools and policy approaches</i> - Joel Borgström, World Childhood Foundation ➤ <i>Prevention strategies and system strengthening in conflict contexts</i> - Van Chi Pham, UNICEF Ukraine (online) ➤ <i>Protecting children’s data in protection systems: Safeguards for reporting, information sharing and coordinated responses</i> - Tamar Kaldani, Council of Europe Data Protection Commissioner (online) Scope of the session: • Prevention strategies (digital literacy, parental support, school-based measures); • Early detection, reporting and referral systems; • Trauma-informed responses and psycho-social recovery; • Strengthening coordination among institutions and partners. 🌈 <i>Interventions followed by a 20-minutes discussion</i> <i>Moderated by Susanne DRAKBORG, Web IQ</i>
16:40 – 17:00	CGU Key Takeaways and proposed ways forward • Rapporteur summary of key analytical takeaways • Concluding reflections