

Children's rights in the digital environment

HELP
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Council of Europe

Funded by the European Union

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Children's Rights in the Digital Environment

HELP ONLINE COURSE

Duration: 1h 15 min

Available for free on the CoE HELP e-learning platform

Statement of Accomplishment

START COURSE

Council of Europe
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme
2025

Background and key concepts

International and regional intergovernmental organisations have increasingly focused on safeguarding children's rights in the digital age. The rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) extend to the online world, a principle reinforced by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in its General Comment No. 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment.

Likewise, rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) apply to everyone, including children, in the digital sphere. To support member states in upholding these rights, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers adopted on 4 July 2018 a Recommendation on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment. This recommendation complements the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027), which identifies 'Access to and safe use of technologies for all children' as a core priority.

In the European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (CFREU) safeguards the rights of all individuals, including children, online. The 2021 EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child highlights the digital and information society as a central pillar in building an EU where children can confidently and safely explore the digital world. Similarly, the European Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids (BIK+) sets out to ensure that children are protected, respected, and empowered online as Europe advances into the Digital Decade.

About the HELP course

The HELP module on **Children's Rights in the Digital Environment** aims to support legal professionals and other relevant stakeholders understand the current challenges and developments in the field and identify and apply existing and emerging legal standards in relation to children's rights in the digital environment.

The module provides information about the most important instruments at international and European level, and about how they are being implemented in practice across Europe and beyond. The module, developed using the HELP methodology, has been tailored **to meet the learning needs of legal and other relevant professionals working on the rights of the child.**

The module has been developed **in 2025,** under the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme of the Council of Europe, in close cooperation with the CoE Children's Rights Division. This has been made possible under the **EU-CoE 'HELP in the EU IV'** Project to include recent case-law of the European courts (the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union), as well as the EU and CoE framework.

The update of this course was funded by the European Union's Justice Programme (2021-2027)

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Target audience

This free on-line module is primarily addressed to legal professionals:

- judges (particularly those working in civil and criminal law)
- prosecutors
- lawyers
- senior court staff

It can also be useful for law enforcement authorities, national human rights institutions and equality bodies personnel, children's rights experts intervening in judicial proceedings and professionals working within the child protection system and other persons working in the field of non-discrimination, as well as staff of civil society organisations, law students etc.

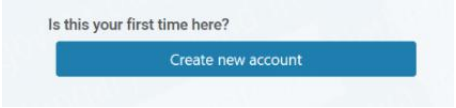
Module outline

The short course of has the following sections:

	Introduction
	Opportunities and risks for children in the digital environment
	International legal framework
	Fundamental principles in the digital environment
	Key rights of the child in the digital environment
	Children's rights and emerging technologies
	Key points

How to access the HELP online module

This short course is freely available in self-learning format on the CoE HELP e-learning platform. It has a total length of **one hour and fifteen minutes** and participants who complete it in self-learning format can obtain an electronic '**Statement of accomplishment**'. To access the course, you need to have a HELP account. If you haven't created one yet, you can sign up here - it only takes a few minutes.



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