

EUROPOL

Information provided further the statement by the Lanzarote Committee Chair and Vice-Chairperson on stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

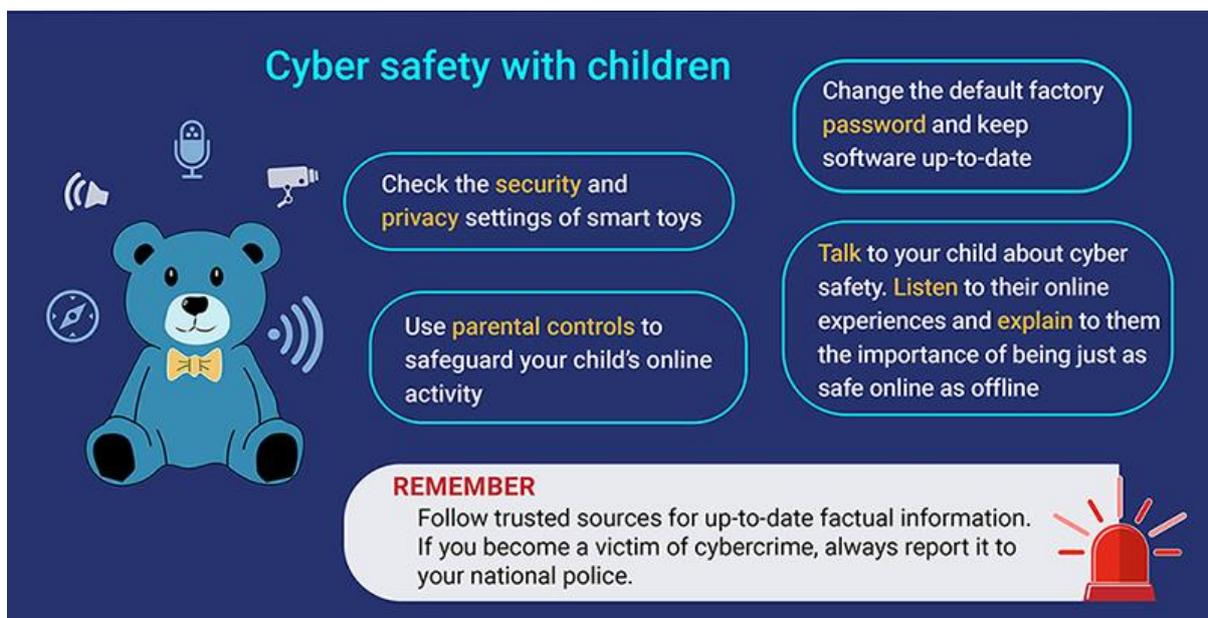
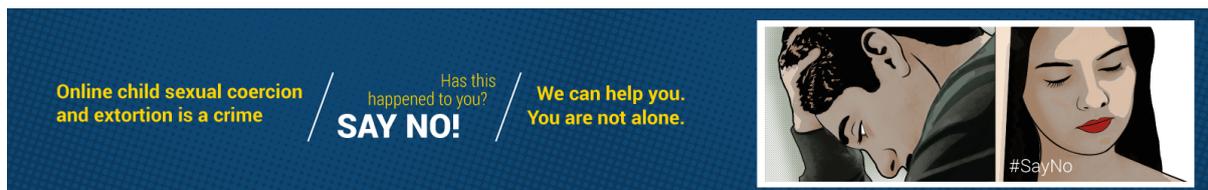
Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic at Europol we prepared also several information for wider public. We did not forget also on the most vulnerable members of our society – children. Therefore we are honoured to send the below listed materials and information. We added also iconographic in attachments.

The main source in relation to protect children is:

1. The subpage addressed as **“COVID-19: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION”** is available at: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/covid-19/covid-19-child-sexual-exploitation>
 - Main topics covered are:
 - a) What is different during the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - b) What can I do as a parent?
 - c) What can I do as a carer/teacher?
 - d) How do I talk to children about being safe online?
 - In this subpage we provided a guide, which we explained as following: The global impact of COVID-19 means young people will be spending more time at home — and more time online. There are lots of great ways children can use connected devices to learn and play, but there are also risks. As parents and carers, you have the best opportunity to support and guide your children to avoid online risks and have safer experiences. Governments and industry also have a role to play in making sure the online world is a safe place to be. And the guide is available at: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/global-parent-online-safety-advice-esafety-europol.pdf>
2. Other available sources and information prepared by Europol are:
 - Child safety online:
 - a) Overall online safety: home, (tele)workplace and children, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/make-your-home-cyber-safe-stronghold>
 - b) Children drawing: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/children-drawing>

- c) Say No campaign (against sexual coercion and extortion),
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/online-sexual-coercion-and-extortion-crime>
- Threats and trends in general in relation to COVID-19
- a) Regularly updated and collected:
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/staying-safe-during-covid-19-what-you-need-to-know>
- b) Europol's report (for children safety see pages 7-9),
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/catching-virus-cybercrime-disinformation-and-covid-19-pandemic>
- Other topics:
- a) Last, but not least: Tips for safe teleworking,
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/safe-teleworking-tips-and-advice>

Also, iconographic materials are made available below:



YOUR LIFE IS ONLINE - PROTECT IT!

BE 'CLICK SMART'

don't click on links that come from unknown or unusual emails



THINK BEFORE UPLOADING

videos or pictures of yourself, your family or home



KEEP YOUR PRIVATE STUFF PRIVATE

like passwords, personal information and location



KEEP YOUR FRIENDS REAL

don't befriend people online that you have never met offline



KNOW WHAT TO DO

If something online makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried:

- > Stop any possible communication
- > Don't delete anything
- > Look for help

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Do you really know who is on the other side?

SENDING AN INTIMATE PICTURE OF YOURSELF TO SOMEONE?

CONSIDER THE WHOLE PICTURE

Such materials can end up in the possession of online child sex offenders.

Offenders can obtain images through sexual extortion and coercion of minors. Even more common is for them to get their hands on material that the children have shared with their peers or posted on social media.

That image can become public.

- > The receiver may share it with other people (accidentally or voluntarily).
- > Your data could be hacked.
- > You or the receiver could lose the phone or have it stolen, compromising the security of the files.

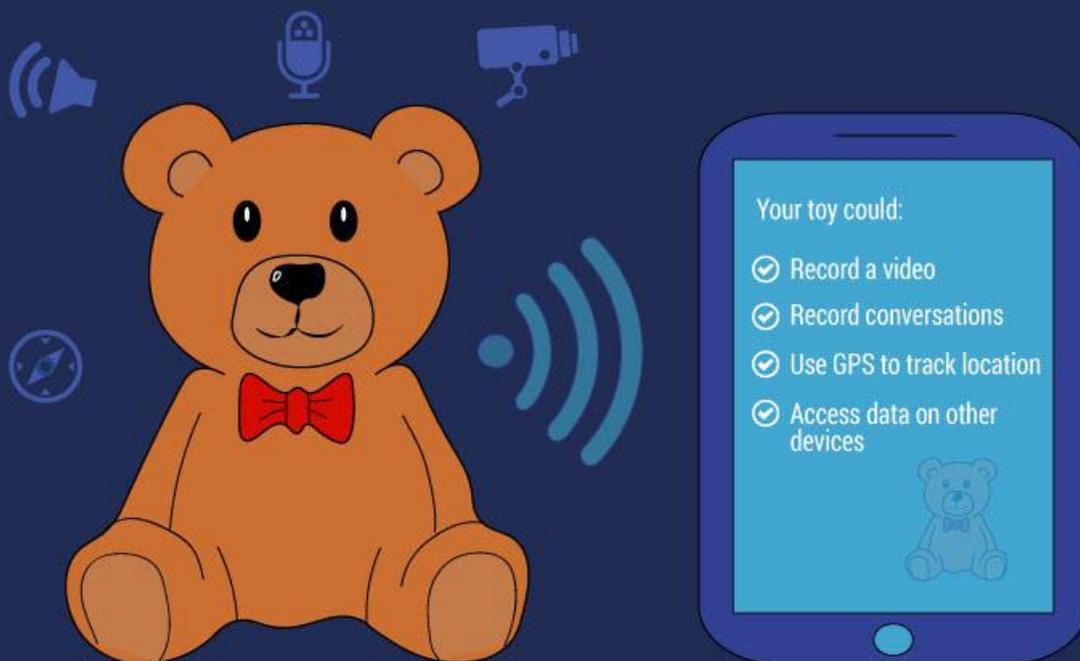
> Not everyone is who they claim to be on the internet. Child sexual offenders may pose as someone young to gain your trust and explicit pictures.

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#SayNo

CONNECTED TOYS

Connected toys are becoming more widely available. These internet enabled devices do offer benefits, helping to educate children through interactive play. However, they also come with a range of security and privacy concerns that each parent must be made aware of.



PROTECT YOURSELF



Provide only basic information when creating an account



Connect the toy only to a secure Wi-Fi network



Understand how the information you share is used



Regularly update its software



Be aware of any third parties that may have access to your data



Monitor your child's activity with the toy



Use strong passwords



Turn it off when not in use



#SayNo

Visit:

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/sayno>

- 1.- Don't share more. Don't pay anything.
- 2.- Look for help. You are not alone.
- 3.- Preserve evidence. Don't delete anything.
 - Save the messages, photos and videos exchanged.
 - Take screen shots of all your communications.
 - Write down all details provided by the offenders.
- 4.- Stop the communication. Block the person.
- 5.- Report it to the police.

Is your friend being extorted or coerced online?

Talk to them about how they are feeling. Listen to them.
Advise them to talk to an adult they trust.
Advise them to report it to the police.

Whoever is doing this to your friend is committing a crime.
Report it, so that the police can investigate and arrest the criminal.

In addition, Europol provided the report on Catching virus cybercrime, disinformation and COVID-19 pandemic, available at:

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/catching-virus-cybercrime-disinformation-and-covid-19-pandemic>

There are plenty other informative materials for different crime areas and tips for different trends/threats, perhaps it would be worth to mention of their existence on Europol website:

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

And at least, but not the last law enforcement community is active in protecting the children. Here are some of the recent PR releases by Europol:

- <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/international-police-cooperation-leads-to-arrest-of-dark-web-child-sex-abuser-in-spain> (released 21 April 2020),
- <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/90-suspects-identified-in-major-online-child-sexual-abuse-operation> (released 31 March 2020),
- <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/dark-web-child-abuse-administrator-of-darkscandals-arrested-in-netherlands> (released 12 March 2020).

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Responses to specific questions by the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

- 1. To what extent, if at all, has the threat of child sexual abuse/exploitation changed due to COVID-19? If so:**
 - Please tell us about whether the level of risk has increased/decreased/remained the same and if possible specify this with regard to the various types of sexual offences against children (Articles 18-23 of the Convention);
 - You may also wish to indicate any emerging trends relating to child sexual abuse/exploitation, as the result of COVID-19, and point at measures taken to address them.

No information received.

- 2. Did lockdown cause child sexual abuse/exploitation cases (identified/reported) to increase, decrease or stay the same? Please submit data (number of victims/offenders) and highlight what you think may explain the trend.**

No information received.

- 3. Please also tell us whether and how general child safeguarding measures were, or are likely to be, affected by measures taken by governments in response to COVID-19. In**

addition, highlight any additional, specific measures put in place during lockdown to ensure reporting by victims of child sexual abuse/exploitation as well as to support and assist them, and whether these measures will be maintained even when the lockdown is lifted.

No information received.

- 4. Finally, please tell us whether children have been duly listened to on decision-making concerning their protection against sexual abuse/exploitation during this period. Please also tell us whether and how children will be involved in decision-making on or assessing the impact of COVID-19 measures in the future.**

No information received.