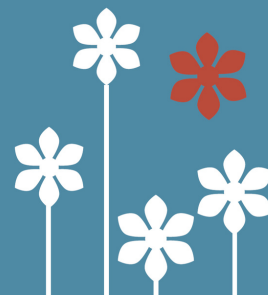


AI-GENERATED CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL

COUNCIL OF EUROPE - JUNE 2026



INTRODUCTION

On **2 June 2026**, the Cybercrime Convention and Lanzarote Committees met in a joint session to exchange on the growing impact of AI on sexual offences against children. The exchange resulted in a **joint statement on AI-generated and altered child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse material**.

WHAT DO THE CYBERCRIME AND THE LANZAROTE COMMITTEES DO ?

BUDAPEST CONVENTION

The **Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY)** facilitates the effective use of the **Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (2001)**, the most comprehensive international treaty on cybercrime and electronic evidence to date. The Budapest Convention provides for:

- (i) the **criminalisation of conduct** – ranging from illegal access, data and systems interference to computer-related fraud and “child pornography”;
- (ii) procedural powers to **investigate cybercrime and secure electronic evidence** in relation to any crime;
- (iii) efficient **international co-operation**.

LANZAROTE CONVENTION

The **Lanzarote Committee** monitors the effective **implementation of the Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007)**, setting comprehensive standards to:

- i) **prevent** sexual violence;
- ii) **protect** victims;
- iii) **prosecute** perpetrators;
- iv) **promote national and international co-operation**.

Both treaties are **open for countries around the world to join**. So far, 82 countries have joined the Budapest Convention and 48 have joined the Lanzarote Convention.

WHY A JOINT STATEMENT ?

Child sexual abuse material is **increasingly produced, altered and distributed using AI**, making it both a **child protection and a cybercrime issue**.

Both conventions require the **criminalisation of child sexual abuse material offences**, including **simulated or realistic representations** of children. This is the first time that these two Committee come together to enhance understanding of this ongoing threat.

ARE AI-GENERATED OR AI-ALTERED IMAGES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ALREADY CRIMINALISED ?



Provisions are **technology-neutral** and therefore apply to materials generated or altered by AI, including **both altered material depicting a real child and fully synthetic material depicting a non-existent child**.

DOES AI-GENERATED OR ALTERED MATERIAL CAUSE “REAL WORLD” HARM ?

Beyond the direct harm to victims and survivors whose likeness is used or altered, such material is also **used for sexual extortion and blackmail**.

Even when no “real child” is depicted, perpetrators use AI-generated child sexual abuse material to **groom children and “normalise” sexual abuse**.

AI has significantly increased the realism and volume of such materials, exposing more children to harm and making **detection and victim identification harder for law enforcement**.



WHAT CAN YOU DO? (Journalists and general public)

Raise awareness about this ongoing threat, preventive measures and **how to protect victims and survivors**.

Report any child sexual abuse material immediately to **national reporting hotlines** and **law enforcement authorities**.

Help children **understand their rights** and online risks in an age-appropriate way.

Find out more:

www.coe.int/lanzarote

www.coe.int/cybercrime

WHAT CAN STATES DO?

Prioritise the **investigation** and **protection** of child victims, and **implement child-friendly procedural safeguards** to protect against **secondary victimisation and re-traumatisation**.

Strengthen measures for **timely detection, reporting, removal or rendering inaccessible** of AI-generated or altered child sexual abuse material.

Reinforce **victims' rights and access to justice** and **avoid re-victimisation**.

Engage with the **technology sector and service providers** to **develop safe technologies** and enhance **technical detection and response tools**.

Ensure sanctions are **effective, proportionate and dissuasive**, reflecting the serious harm caused to victims, survivors and society.

