WEBINAR

"All on board – all online" – a coordinated response to protecting and promoting children's rights in the digital environment

Programme

10 December 2020

**Building a Europe
for and with children**

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

WEBINAR

"All on board – all online" – a coordinated response to protecting and promoting children's rights in the digital environment

Launch of the Council of Europe Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment organised by the Children's Rights Division in the framework of the International Human Rights Day with a view to supporting the Council of Europe's co-operation projects on:

► Combating violence against children in Ukraine,
► Combating violence against children in the Republic of Moldova,
► Supporting the implementation of a Barnahus in Slovenia, and
► the EndOCSEA@Europe project.

Programme

Thursday 10 December 2020

2:30-4:00pm (CET) – **Working language: English**

Bluejeans online platform: https://bluejeans.com/558787391

Organised by the Children's Rights Division

children@coe.int

Launch of the Council of Europe Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment

The use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) is constantly increasing worldwide, and children are no exception to this rise. In its report The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World 2017, UNICEF identified that one in three internet users worldwide is a child. The use of the internet by children brings them many opportunities for education, play, access to information and participation. However, it also comes with risks, such as infringements of children's privacy rights, exposure to harmful content, or sexual abuse and exploitation.

Every year on 10 December, the International Human Rights Day is observed to celebrate the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. In 2020, the focus for this day is to "Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights", in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the many human rights challenges which emerged or have been exacerbated for children.

Some of these challenges also concern children's use of digital technologies. As many states ordered school closures as a measure to contain the pandemic, education migrated online, further increasing children's interactions with ICTs and the digital environment. Moreover, as a result of lockdown measures, children's time online has drastically grown, yet expanding their online activities.
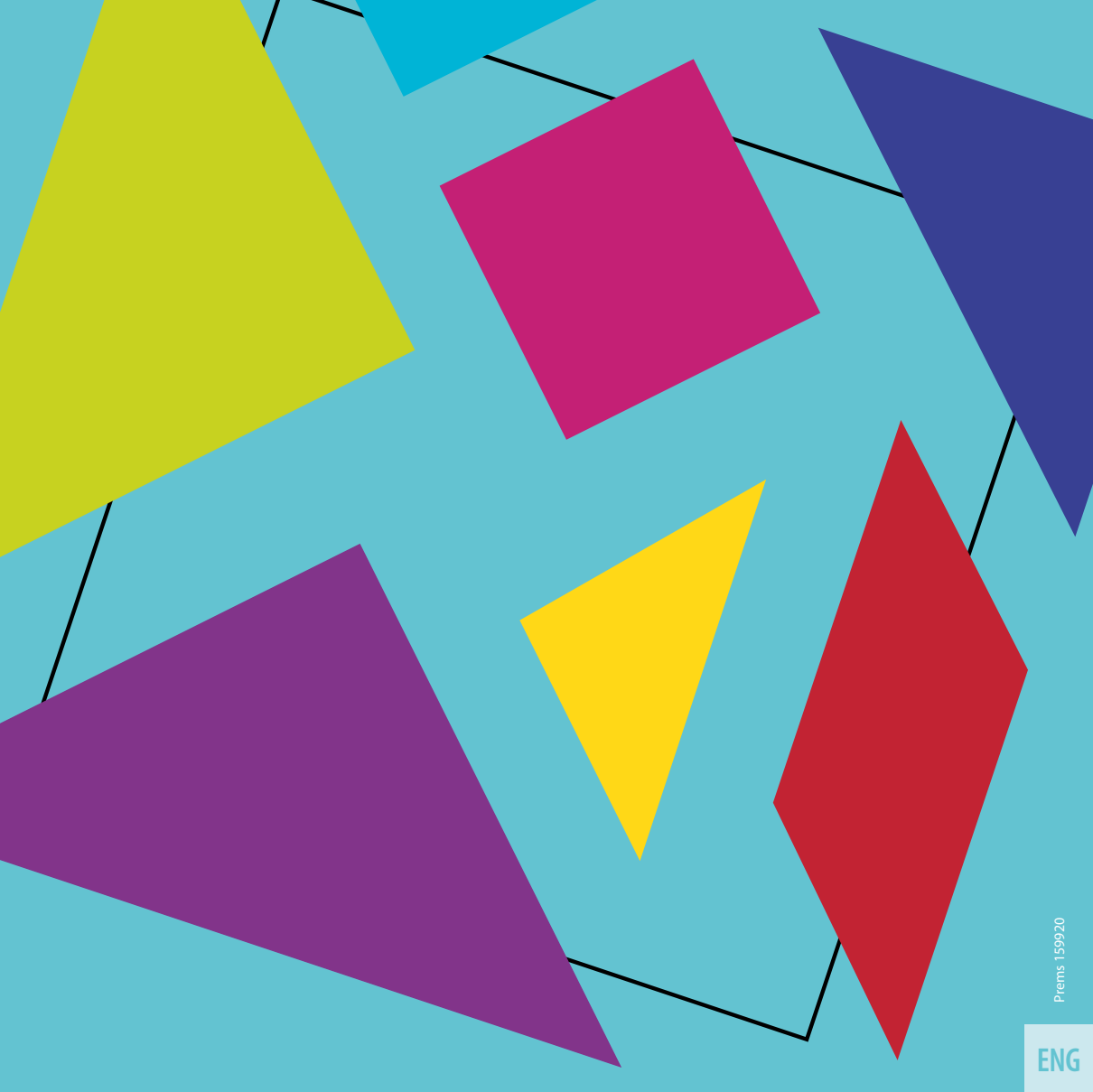
It is important that the burden of children's protection is not placed on them, and that they are not given the primary responsibility for keeping safe; This burden should amongst other be with professional players operating the digital world and states.

As a response to this need, the Council of Europe has developed the **Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment**, to support those involved in political decision making, as well as academia, human rights agencies and relevant civil society organisations in implementing the Council of Europe Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment.

This Handbook explains how national frameworks and policies can be formulated. It provides interpretative and practical guidance to ensure children's access to the digital environment, freedom of expression and information, participation, right to engage in play, right to assembly and association, right to privacy and data protection, right to education, right to protection and safety, and access to remedies. Moreover, it guides states in the wider national and international context, and recognises the crucial role of the business sector and the interplay of business responsibilities and state obligations. The Handbook points to the applicable legal standards and key resources facilitating their interpretation and implementation.

▬▬ This webinar aimed at launching the Handbook as a new comprehensive resource for many, will bring together the experts who have developed this Handbook, as well as the expert having prepared the thematically related Council of Europe **Report on children with disabilities in the digital environment**. Together, they will highlight the importance of policy making in the protection of children's rights in the digital environment and illustrate how the Handbook can be used to assist all stakeholders in safeguarding and supporting children's rights online.

14:30	**Opening by the moderator** **Ms María Bjarnadóttir**, Vice Chair of the Board of the Icelandic Media Commission, public policy and legal adviser on human rights online
14:35	**Preliminary remarks** **Ms Regina Jensdóttir**, Coordinator on the Rights of the Child, Head of the Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe
14:40	**Overview of the Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment** Presentation by **Ms Sonia Livingstone**, Professor of Social Psychology, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), United Kingdom
14:50	**Artificial intelligence, data protection and child rights policy** Presentation by **Ms Eva Lievens**, Professor of Law & Technology, Ghent University, Belgium
15:00	Questions and answers
15:15	**The role of policy in guaranteeing children's safety online** Presentation by **Mr John Carr**, International Advisor on children's internet safety and security, United Kingdom
15:25	**The role of different stakeholders in ensuring access to digital technologies for all children** Presentation by **Ms Laura Lundy**, Professor, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom
15:35	Questions and answers
15:50	**Closing remarks by the Children's Rights Division and the moderator**

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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