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Children's Rights and Social Media

Updated 10/08/2026

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Legend / légende: Text in red = country has announced or is planning a social media ban for minors under a certain age / Texte en rouge = pays ayant annoncé ou envisageant une interdiction des réseaux sociaux pour les mineurs en dessous d’un certain âge

Title	Link	Notes/Brief Outline
Cartographie par État / Mapping by State Membres du CdE / CoE Members See also : From Australia to Europe, countries move to curb children's social media access Reuters		
Albania		
21/12/2024 – Albania declares one-year TikTok ban after fatal stabbing	Albania declares one-year TikTok ban over stabbing Albania ends TikTok ban, flags new 'protective filters' (2026)	<i>“Albania's prime minister has announced the government intends to block access to TikTok for one year after the killing of a schoolboy last month raised fears about the influence of social media on children.”</i>
Andorra		
07/02/2026 - Andorran government advances laws to shield minors from online risks, including age-restricted social media	Andorran government advances laws to shield minors from online risks, including age-restricted social media	<i>“The Andorran government is advancing legislative changes to protect minors from online risks, including a proposed ban on social media access for those under 16 and dedicated SIM cards for children.”</i>
Armenia		
16/12/2025 - Armenia strengthens protection of children on the internet	Armenia strengthens protection of children on the internet	<i>A memorandum of understanding aimed at ensuring children's online safety in Armenia and raising digital literacy levels was signed yesterday in Yerevan. – also has been acknowledged and commended by the UN CRC (see here) and the CoE (see here).</i>
Austria		
27/03/2026 Austria government has agreed to ban social media for children under the age of 14 (expected by the end of June)	Austria Plans Sweeping Social Media Law to Protect Children and Rein in Tech Giants - Voice of Vienna Austria to ban social media for under-14s – POLITICO Austria considers social media ban for children under 14	<i>The current plans, outlined by the office of Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker (ÖVP) in January, foresee a ban on social media for children under 14 years of age that should come into effect later in 2026.</i>
Belgium		
03/2026 Belgium takes measures supporting rights and protection of children	Avis en faveur d'un environnement numérique sûr, inclusif et conforme aux droits de l'enfant DGDE Home - JKP2025-2029 Vlaanderen lanceert Actieplan Mediawijsheid voor een veilige digitale samenleving Departement Cultuur, Jeugd & Media	<i>Belgium delegate for the Rights of the child advocates for stronger protection of children in the digital environment, without exclusion or general prohibition of social networks under the age of 15, by favouring support, media literacy and the empowerment of platforms.</i>

		<i>Action plans are being implemented by the Flemish Government on digital policies that support the rights and protection of children.</i>
Czech Republic		
09/02/2026 - Czechia weighs under-15 social media ban as government debate intensifies	Czechia weighs under-15 social media ban as government debate intensifies Digital Watch Observatory	<i>Officials in Czechia are considering limits on children's social media use, mirroring steps abroad and sparking questions about online safety, privacy and enforcement.</i>
Denmark		
07/10/2025 - Denmark aims to ban social media for children under 15	Denmark aims to ban social media for children under 15, PM says – POLITICO Government's agreement on Digital Child Protection (in Danish)	<i>Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark, has proposed banning access to social media for all children under the age of 15, while allowing parents the possibility to authorise use from around age 13 to 14.</i>
Estonia		
10/10/2025 - Estonia speaks out against EU social media ban for kids	Estonia speaks out against EU social media ban for kids – POLITICO Europe should regulate Big Tech instead of banning kids from social media, Estonia says – POLITICO	<i>Liisa-Ly Pakosta, Estonia's Minister of Justice, has distanced herself from her European counterparts by rejecting the idea of new restrictions on children's access to social media, considering it not to be the right solution.</i>
Finland		
03/2026 – Finland sets up a working Group for Protecting Children and Young People from the Harmful Effects of Social Media	Project Working Group for Protecting Children and Young People from the Harmful Effects of Social Media See also the Prime Minister's Office preliminary survey (in Finnish)	<i>The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health appointed a working group to prepare ways to better protect children and young people from the harmful effects of social media. The term of the working group is 1.3.-31.12.2026.</i>
France		
21/07/2026- French law banning social media for those under 15 adopted	Proposition de loi, n° 2107 - 17e législature - Assemblée nationale Proposition de loi visant à protéger les mineurs des risques auxquels les expose l'utilisation des réseaux sociaux Sénat Commission d'enquête sur les effets psychologiques de TikTok sur les mineurs - Assemblée nationale Protection des mineurs en ligne par le contrôle de l'âge : comment aller plus loin ? Conseil de l'IA et du numérique	<i>The law banning access to social networks for those under 15 will be enforced as of 1st September. It is based on the findings of the French National Assembly's inquiry commission examining the impact of TikTok on the mental health, development, and safety of minors. A report from the Conseil de l'IA et du Numérique further explains that protecting minors online argues for a broad approach combining regulation, platform responsibility, and technological solutions to better manage content exposure and online risks.</i>

Germany		
09/2025 Germany sets up an Expert Commission on Child and Youth Protection in the Digital World”	Bundesregierung beruft Expertenkommission ein - BMBFSFJ Deutscher Bundestag - Mindestalter von 16 Jahren für die Nutzung von Social Media	<i>The commission will address the necessary conditions for a safe digital environment for children and young people, as well as the health consequences of media consumption and the strengthening of media literacy among children, young people, parents and professionals. The commission will also examine the introduction of minimum age.</i>
Greece		
04/2026 – Greece plans to ban access to social media to children under 15	Greece Weighs Social Media Restrictions for Children Under 16 - GreekReporter.com Greece Plans to Block Social Media for Children Under 15 - The New York Times	<i>Greece announced it will ban under-15s from social media from 1 January 2027</i>
Lithuania		
20/02/2026 Lithuania plans to ban access to social media to children under 16	Lithuanian MP proposes ban on under-16s using social media	<i>Plans to propose setting a legal age limit for social media use in Lithuania and requiring platforms to bar people under 16 from becoming independent users</i>
Luxembourg		
06/03/2026 National Report on the Situation of Youth in Luxembourg 2025- Living and Growing Up Online and Offline	Jugendbericht 2025 Safer Internet Day 2026 – OKAJU	<i>It is the fourth edition of the National Report on the Situation of Youth in Luxembourg, with the theme "Living and Growing Up Online and Offline." The Office of the Ombudsman for Children and Youth (OKAJU), defender of children's rights, is publishing a thematic report entitled "Protection of Children in the Digital Environment."</i>
Monaco		
11/05/2026 – Monaco’s Government wants to regulate the use of social media	Le JT - Édition du lundi 11 mai 2026 (timecode 4’) Monaco lance une offensive internationale pour armer les jeunes face aux fake news	<i>Video interview of M. Christophe Robino, Minister of Health and Social Affairs. He recognizes that social media plays a major role in young people's daily lives, while exposing them to risks. The Government launched at the end of 2025 a structured review process based on: 1) assessing available evidence and 2) consulting key stakeholders, especially young people themselves. The Government’s objective is to better</i>

		<i>understand social media use, strengthen youth protection, and identify balanced, practical, and effective measures that safeguard children while respecting their rights</i>
22/05/2026 – Monaco’s National Council adopts a resolution to ban social media for children under 15	Banning social media for children under 15: harder than it seems	Monaco’s National Council (Parlement) adopted a resolution (non-binding act) on 12 May 2026 calling on the government to legislate on social media access for under-15s, covering age verification, digital education, and family support. One elected official raised doubts about enforceability, citing the Australian example where most young users simply bypassed the ban, and warning that stricter enforcement would require invasive surveillance tools.
Netherlands		
24/02/2026 - The Netherlands is reconsidering a ban or minimum age (around 15) for social media use among minors.	Netherlands again considering ban on social media for kids under 15 NL Times Coalition agreement 2026–2030, D66, VVD and CDA (Netherlands)	<i>The plans are still very vague, only saying that enforcement of this age limit must be done with “privacy-friendly age verification for young people, as long as social media remains insufficiently secure</i>
Norway		
07/07/2025 and ongoing – Norwegian Social Media age restrictions Law on Track	Norwegian Social Media age restrictions Law on Track to Be Introduced This Year – This Is How the Age Limit for Social Media Will Work - regjeringen.no	<i>The Government will present a new bill proposing an age limit for children using social media to Parliament (Stortinget) this year -age limit will apply from January 1st the year a child turns 16.</i>
Poland		
30/01/2026 – Poland drafts a new legislation to restrict social media under 15	Social media restrictions for minors. Poland plans 15+. Polish ruling party plans social-media ban for children under 15 Reuters	<i>New legislation to ban of social media for children under 15 and to hold platforms responsible for age verification</i>
Portugal		
Related measures approved in 2025	Recommendations to the promotion of digital well-being in schools (29/01/2025) Unified Strategy for the Rights of Children and Young People 2025-2035 (28/02/2025) Resolution prohibiting mobile phones and tablets with access to internet in the first two cycles of basic education (From 1 st to 6 th grade) in schools (14/08/2025)	<i>Guidance to help schools create balanced, safe and healthy digital environments for the entire school community. One of its strategic areas is “Safety in the digital Age” to which correspond specific lines of action.</i> <i>The resolution includes some exceptions to the prohibition related to specific conditions of the pupils</i>

	Joint opinion NO. 136/CNECV/CBE 2026 on the ethical impact of excessive use of digital technology of the health of children and adolescents (February 2026)	<i>Opinion subscribed also by the Spanish Bioethics Committee (CBE)</i>
12/02/2026 – Portugal adopts new measures for the protection of children in digital environments.	Project of Law nº 398/XVII/1ª concerning measures for the protection of children in digital environments (Available only in Portuguese) A multiple number of diverse entities were consulted and heard on the document, namely children of the National Council of Children and Young People.	<i>Parliament approved a bill requiring explicit parental consent for children aged 13 to 16 to access social media, with full ban under 13 and tech companies that ignore the restrictions facing fines of up to 2% of their global revenue. Next stage: approval by specialized commission of the Portuguese Parliament.</i>
Slovenia		
6/02/2026 – Slovenia is preparing a new social media ban for under 15	Slovenia prepares legislation to ban social media for under-15s Reuters	<i>Ongoing drafting a law that would prohibit children under 15 from accessing social media</i>
Spain		
03/02/2026 Spain moves to ban under-16s from social media	Spain moves to ban under-16s from social media – POLITICO	<i>Spanish government, led by Pedro Sánchez, plans to ban access to social media for under-16s in order to better protect children online.</i>
11/03/26 –“HODIO”: a tool for measuring online hate	HODIO - Observatorio Español del Racismo y la Xenofobia - Ministerio de Inclusión, Seguridad Social y Migraciones	<i>Spain is launching a new tool to measure hate on social media.</i>
Sweden		
06/03/2026 The government has appointed a special commission to investigate the possibility of introducing an age limit for social media	Kristersson wants to ban under-15s from TikTok Sweden Herald Sweden pushes EU on kids' social media restrictions – POLITICO	<i>The government has appointed a special commission to investigate the possibility of introducing an age limit for social media. A first interim report will be presented in June.</i>
April 2026 – Sweden's schools cutting back on digital learning in favour of textbooks and analogue teaching	Back to books - Sweden's schools cutting back on digital learning BBC (16 April 2026)	<i>Sweden's right-wing government is reversing its extensive digitisation of schools, investing \$200m in textbooks and banning mobiles, citing falling PISA scores — though critics warn it risks leaving children underprepared for the digital economy.</i>
Türkiye		
24/04/2026 Türkiye is preparing to introduce a nationwide restriction	Draft Law on Amendments to the Social Services Law and Certain Other Laws	<i>Turkey's parliament on April 24 passed legislation banning the use of social media by children under 15 and introducing new rules for digital platforms, including game</i>

on social media access for children under the age of 15	Türkiye bans under-15s from social media as sweeping digital safety rules take effect - Türkiye Today	software companies. It will take effect 6 months after publication.
United Kingdom		
02/03/2026 – UK opened a consultation to seek views on major measures to protect children on social media, gaming platforms and AI chatbots	UK to consult on social media ban for under 16s Growing up in the online world: a national consultation - GOV.UK	<i>After consulting parents, young people, and civil society for their views to determine whether a ban would be effective, the government plans to approve a ban on social media for under-16s by Christmas, with the measure set to take effect around Spring 2027, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on June 15.</i>
20/01/2026 - Understanding the impact of smartphones and social media on children and young people	Understanding the impact of smartphones and social media on children and young people - GOV.UK Government social media parental support campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?	<i>An official report by the UK government examining the effects of smartphones and social media on children and young people, complemented by a support campaign to protect children.</i>
Ofcom	UK online safety act OSA Children's Media Lives – Ofcom UK reporting; Safety by design: https://www.onlinesafetyact.net/analysis/safety-by-design/	<i>Ofcom's report "Children's Media Lives 2025," analyses the use, perceptions, and influence of digital media and social networks on children in the United Kingdom.</i>
UK Safer Internet Centre	Social Media - UK Safer Internet Centre	<i>Further documents explain and analyse how to integrate user protection, especially for children, into the design of online services.</i>
Ukraine		
26/02/2026 Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's Parliament)	Children's online safety and social media age restrictions 16+: how the world is protecting children from social media and whether Ukraine will follow suit https://epravda.com.ua/power/obmezheniya-socmerezh-dlya-ditey-v-ukrajini-ye-ideji-zakonoprojektu-nemaye-818460/index.amp Children on TikTok Have Started Earning Thousands, but Their Rights Are Still Unprotected: Why Ukraine Needs Rules for Young Influencers - Wires	<i>No finalised draft bill on social media age restrictions for children in Ukraine as of February 2026, though preparatory parliamentary work is underway. Proposals include a 15+ age limit with strict age verification via national digital ID systems, fines for non-compliant platforms, and the introduction of digital hygiene as a school subject.</i>

Non-membres du CdE / Non CoE Members

Australia

Australia's world-first Social Media Minimum Age (SMMA) law is now under evaluation	Social media age restrictions evaluation eSafety Commissioner	<i>This link reports on the results obtained by eSafety, which has commenced a comprehensive evaluation of Australia's world-first Social Media Minimum Age (SMMA) law to understand how the new obligation is working in practice – and what impact it is having on children and families.</i>
Social Media Minimum Age: Compliance update (March 2026)	Social media Minimum Age: Compliance update (March 2026)	<i>Australia's eSafety regulator reports that three months into the under-16 social media ban, over 310,000 accounts have been removed but significant non-compliance persists, with active investigations now underway against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube.</i>
Australian Policy Online Digital Media Research Centre (2025)	Young Australians' perspectives on the social media minimum age legislation	<i>A report centring young people's own voices ahead of Australia's ban, finding that they see social media as a meaningful and purposeful part of their lives. Most oppose the under-16 restriction, viewing it as unenforceable and imposed without adequate consultation with them.</i>
Australia's Social Media Minimum Age (SMMA) law - overview	Social media age restrictions eSafety Commissioner	<i>eSafety Commissioner outlines the social media Minimum Age law, requiring platforms to prevent under-16s from holding accounts under penalty of fines up to AU\$49.5 million. A March 2026 compliance update confirms partial platform compliance, with investigations ongoing against major platforms.</i>
Social media Minimum Age – Fact Sheet	Social media Minimum Age Fact Sheet Australian Government	<i>Official fact sheet outlining Australia's social media Minimum Age law: the rationale for the under-16 threshold, age verification methods available to platforms, compliance guidelines and penalties of up to AU\$49.5 million for non-compliance, the legal framework under the Online Safety Act 2021, and the multi-stakeholder consultation process underpinning the legislation.</i>
Social media Minimum Age – Hub	Social media Minimum Age – Hub eSafety Commissioner	<i>Hub providing comprehensive information about the age restrictions, including implementation details and FAQs.</i>

Brazil		
2026 - Brazil adopted measures for under 16, including banning of indefinite scroll	Brazil starts to restrict minors' access to social media Inside Brazil's child online safety bill IAPP	<i>The law introduces strict age verification rules, makes it mandatory for children under 16 to have accounts linked to their parents' pages and bans indefinite scroll for children.</i>
Latin America		
2026 - Latin American countries commit to regulating 'infinite scrolling' and age verification on digital platforms to protect children (2026)	Iberoamérica se compromete a regular el 'scroll infinito' y la verificación de edad en las plataformas digitales para proteger a los menores Sociedad EL PAÍS	<i>22 Ibero-American countries pledged in Zamora to regulate infinite scrolling, autoplay, and age verification on digital platforms to protect minors, and agreed to create an Ibero-American Observatory on children's digital well-being — though Argentina and Chile distanced themselves from measures involving state content regulation.</i>
USA		
2026 - California is considering restrictions under 16	Exclusive: Newsom backs social media restrictions for teens under 16 - POLITICO	<i>This article explains the position of the Governor of California in favor of establishing age restrictions for the use of social media.</i>
Council of Europe (CoE)		
CoE Conventions		
European Convention on Human Rights	European Convention on Human Rights	<i>The first binding international instrument to give effect to rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, enforceable through the European Court of Human Rights. It has been amended and supplemented numerous times since its adoption.</i>
European Social Charter - (CETS No. 35, revised CETS No. 163)	The European Social Charter - Social Rights	<i>Binding treaty containing a comprehensive catalogue of fundamental social and economic rights, including specific provisions on children's rights to a special protection against the physical and moral hazards to which they are exposed, and to appropriate social, legal and economic protection.</i>
Lanzarote Convention	Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)	<i>Binding treaty on prevention, criminalisation, victim protection and co-operation against child sexual exploitation and abuse. Core legal basis for ICT-facilitated</i>

	Declaration of the Lanzarote Committee on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies	<i>grooming, child sexual abuse material and related cross-border offences.</i> <i>Directly relevant to AI-generated abuse material, immersive environments and technology-enabled sexual exploitation.</i>
Istanbul Convention GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women (2021)	Istanbul Convention Action against violence against women and domestic violence GREVIO General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women	<i>Binding treaty on prevention, protection and prosecution of domestic violence, including when it affects children.</i>
Convention on Cybercrime / Budapest Convention	About the Convention - Cybercrime	<i>The first binding international treaty on cybercrime, establishing a shared legal framework for criminalising online offences and facilitating cross-border cooperation between signatory states. Open to any country, it serves as a global standard for cybercrime legislation.</i>
Convention for the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data (108+)	Convention 108 and Protocols - Data Protection	<i>Key for regulating edtech, learning platforms, analytics, monitoring and data sharing involving children.</i>
Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law - CETS No. 225	The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence	<i>First international binding treaty on AI and human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Not child-specific, but highly relevant wherever AI systems affect children in education, welfare, policing, platforms or content environments.</i>
CoE Committees		
CDENF	Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)	Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child
CDBIO	Human Rights and Biomedicine at the Council of Europe - Human Rights and Biomedicine	Council of Europe's health division tackles, among others, health issues related to Health Literacy , Artificial intelligence , children participation in decision making , mental healthcare .
Pompidou Group	Pompidou Group – Expert Group on Online Addictions Promoting the mental health of children and youth by addressing the risks of online gambling and gaming - Pompidou Group	The statute of the Pompidou Group broadened its scope to address the challenges related to drugs and addictions in a wider sense, and including online and digital addictions.
CDMSI	Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and expert committees - Freedom of Expression	Steers the Council of Europe's work in the fields of freedom of expression, media, internet governance and other information society-related issues and oversees the

		work on personal data protection. Ongoing work include the impacts of Generative AI .
CDADI	Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)	CDADI steers the Council of Europe's work to promote equality for all and build more inclusive societies that offer effective protection from discrimination and hate, ensure equal participation in political and public life for all without discrimination on any ground, and where diversity is respected. Ongoing work include equality and artificial intelligence .
Commissioner for Human Rights	Regulate platforms, not children – Commissioner urges caution over social media bans - Commissioner for Human Rights	Commissioner urges caution over social media bans
Committee of Ministers	Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on the need to protect children's privacy in the digital environment	Strong political call to strengthen children's privacy and data protection online, supporting child-centred privacy governance, especially in education and commercial digital services.
ECSR	European Committee of Social rights	For the upcoming conclusions 2027, State Parties are asked to provide information on measures taken to protect children against harmful online content, including AI-generated or altered child sexual abuse material, as well as information on measures taken to protect children from cyberbullying and improve children's resilience to misinformation and harmful online manipulation. States are also requested to report on measures taken to protect the mental health of children.
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance	ECRI looks at protection of children from online hate speech and in the context of inclusive education. ECRI noted in its monitoring work the high exposure of children to racist and anti-LGBTI hate speech on social media, but also that for marginalised groups of young people social media can be a means of expression (Annual Report)
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Resolution 2521(2023) on Mental health and well-being of children and young adults which covers social networks; Resolution 2520 (2023) on Preventing addictive behaviours in children ; Resolution 2547 (2024) on the protection of children against online violence .	

	Motion for a Resolution on Empowering youth in the digital age: towards creative, democratic and competence-based approaches to online participation	
CoE Recommendations		
Online safety and empowerment of content creators and users	Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators	New Recommendation on online safety and empowerment. Bringing the principles of the EU's Digital Service Act at the CoE level. Adopting a human rights-based approach to online risks, it refers to platform safety, empowerment, reporting, moderation and user safeguards in services children use.
Impacts of digital technologies on freedom of expression	Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)13 on the impacts of digital technologies on freedom of expression	Relevant to moderation, visibility, recommender systems and children's access to plural information.
Technology-facilitated violence	Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls	Directly relevant to girls in digital spaces, including harassment, stalking, image-based abuse and sexualised violence.
Equality, Hate Speech and Hate Crime	Recommendation CM/Rec (2022)16 on Combating Hate Speech Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)1 on equality and artificial intelligence Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the Covid-19 pandemic and similar crises in the future;	Both Recommendations refer to social media and children. Provides guidance how to protect Internet users including children from discrimination through AI systems. § 8 deals with distance schooling in times of crises and provision of the necessary access to the Internet in such situations
Human rights impacts of algorithmic systems	Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)1 on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems	Crucial for recommender systems, ranking, profiling, moderation and other algorithmic functions shaping children's online experiences.
Developing and promoting digital citizenship education	Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)10 on developing and promoting digital citizenship education	Main CoE standard on digital citizenship education. Central for balancing protection with participation, expression and critical digital competence.
Roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries	Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)2 on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries	Sets principles on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries and states. Major reference for platform due diligence, transparency, notice/reporting and responsibility where children are affected.
Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment	Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)7 on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment	Main CoE child-specific digital-rights recommendation. Directly relevant CoE instrument for national child digital-rights policy.

	Background document to the Guidelines: Policy guidance on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment (2018) Report of the child consultations: It's our world: children's views on the protection of rights in the digital environment (2017)	
Internet freedom	Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Internet freedom	Sets standards and indicators for protecting rights online. Relevant to children's freedom of expression, privacy, association and access to information online.
CoE Publications		
Protecting children in the digital environment	Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment Parenting in the digital age - positive parenting strategies for different scenarios Leaflet "Learn about your rights in the digital environment" – child-friendly version of the Council of Europe guidelines on the rights of the child in the digital environment Two clicks forward and one click back: Report on children with disabilities in the digital environment Mapping study on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence: Legal Frameworks that address AI in the Context of Children's Rights Thematic guidance note – Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content 2024 Edition of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse - Emerging technologies: threats and opportunities for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse	
Countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation	Guidance Note on countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation through fact-checking and platform design solutions in a human rights compliant manner	<i>A Council of Europe guidance document recommending how states and platforms can combat mis/disinformation through fact-checking and platform design solutions, while</i>

	Policy documents on National Media and Information Literacy Strategies and Resisting disinformation: 10 building blocks to strengthen information integrity (both 2025).	<i>ensuring all measures remain compliant with human rights standards — particularly freedom of expression.</i>
Digital Citizenship Education Forum	Digital Citizenship Education Forum "Let's Act Now!" - Education	<i>A Council of Europe forum held as part of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025, bringing together stakeholders to promote digital citizenship education across member states and define a shared roadmap for its future development.</i>
Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) (March 2022)	Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) The second implementation report of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) Report of the Mid-Term review Conference of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)	<i>Strategy for the Rights of the Child is a six-year Council of Europe strategy guiding 46 member states across six strategic objectives for protecting and promoting children's rights, developed through a consultative process involving governments, civil society, and children themselves. Second Implementation Report reviews progress across the six strategic objectives from October 2023 to October 2025, finding significant advances through member state and civil society engagement, while flagging persistent challenges around digital safety, child participation, and child-friendly justice.</i> <i>Mid-Term Review Conference Report documents findings from 200+ stakeholders — including children — gathered at the Strategy's halfway point to assess progress, identify gaps, and set priorities for its remaining years.</i>
Children's Participation	Guide to children's participation in decisions about their health , child-friendly summary and video Handbook on children's participation for professionals working for and with children Let's decide together! - Guide to meaningful and effective engagement of children in decision-making processes	<i>Guide to children's participation in decisions about their health is a guide for healthcare professionals on involving children in health-related decisions, covering the legal framework, consent, best interests, and practical guidance for complex situations.</i> <i>Handbook on children's participation is a handbook equipping professionals across all settings with the legal framework and practical tools to embed meaningful, safe child participation in their work.</i> <i>"Let's Decide Together!" is a guide for public servants on designing, conducting, and evaluating inclusive child participation in national and local decision-making processes.</i>

Children's access to quality mental health	Mapping study on children's access to quality mental health (2024)	<i>A cross-disciplinary study surveying 21 Council of Europe member states to assess how well they fulfil their human rights obligations in providing mental health services to children, identifying barriers to equitable access and recommending how gaps might be addressed.</i>
European Audiovisual Observatory Mapping Reports on the protection of minors	The protection of minors on VSPs: age verification and parental control (2023) Mapping of national rules applicable to video-sharing platforms: Illegal and harmful content online – (2022 update) Stricter and more detailed national rules for audiovisual commercial communications (2025) Advertising of “junk food” in European and national law - Focus on self-regulation (2026) Conference on Protecting young people from online harm in an open and safe public sphere Oslo, 10 June 2026	<i>The protection of minors on VSPs is a comparative analysis of how video-sharing platforms implement age verification and parental control measures under the AVMSD, revealing significant gaps and inconsistencies in implementation across member states.</i> <i>Mapping of national rules applicable to VSPs is a comparative mapping of how EU member states have transposed AVMSD rules on illegal and harmful content for video-sharing platforms, updated to reflect regulatory developments as of September 2022.</i> <i>Stricter and more detailed national rules for audiovisual commercial communications is a comparative analysis of national advertising rules exceeding the AVMSD baseline across five product categories (alcohol, gambling, financial products, OTC and alternative medicines) in all 27 EU member states and Norway.</i> <i>Advertising of “junk food” in European and national law is a European Audiovisual Observatory note on how European and national law regulates HFSS food advertising across audiovisual media, with a focus on self-regulatory frameworks and codes of conduct aimed at protecting minors from junk food marketing.</i>
AI and algorithm-driven discrimination	EUROPEAN POLICY GUIDELINES ON AI AND ALGORITHM-DRIVEN DISCRIMINATION for equality bodies and other national human rights structures (2026) Legal protection against algorithmic discrimination in Europe: current frameworks and remaining gaps (2026)	<i>Two 2026 Council of Europe reports on AI and algorithmic discrimination: the first provides policy guidelines for equality bodies and national human rights structures on how to use the EU AI Act to detect and combat algorithmic discrimination; the second maps existing legal frameworks against algorithmic discrimination in Europe and identifies remaining gaps in protection.</i>
HELP courses – Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals	Courses on children's rights in the digital environment and the Lanzarote Convention	

New Democratic Pact	Building a Resilient Europe - The New Democratic Pact for Europe	
European Union		
FRA - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights	Project on Safeguarding children and young adults online from illegal and harmful-content (June 2025) Project's outputs: - Protecting children on social media – Views on age limits (March 2026) - Selected national legal provisions on harmful content affecting children in EU Member States (July 2026)	Ongoing FRA project mapping how EU states regulate harmful online content affecting children under the DSA, combining legal analysis with stakeholder interviews. - EU wide data on public concerns about children's use of social media and views on age related restrictions. - document mapping how each of the 27 EU Member States legally regulates harmful online content targeting children, covering self-harm, suicide promotion, eating disorders, body shaming, and defamation. It highlights significant variation across member states, with some relying on criminal or civil law and others lacking clear definitions altogether.
European Commission	- Eurobarometer - European Commission's Special panel report on children and social media - The Digital Services Act (DSA) explained – What online platforms should do to keep kids and teens safe online, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025 - Better Internet For Kids – Best Practice Guidelines - EU Age Verification Solution and European age verification app to keep children safe online - European Commission (15 April 2026) Science for policy briefs: - Social media usage and adolescents' mental health in the EU (2022) - Wellbeing and Mental Health at School : Guidelines for school leaders, teachers, and educators (2026)	EU initiatives concerning social media, the report of a special panel, an action plan against cyberbullying in 2026, a Digital Fairness Act targeting addictive and manipulative mechanisms, as well as a full revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive in 2026 with particular attention to influencer regulation and the protection of minors. Age verification app: The European Commission has announced that a new age verification app designed to protect children online is ready for deployment. The app will allow users to prove their age when accessing online platforms, helping protect children from harmful or inappropriate content.
European Parliament	European Parliamentary Research Service : Briefing: Youth and Social Media EP REPORT on the protection of minors online	EPRS Briefing (Youth and Social Media): Maps risks of social media for young people using a 4C framework (content, contact, conduct, contract) and reviews emerging EU legislative responses including potential age restrictions. EP Report on Protection of Minors Online (2025/2060): A

	EP DRAFT REPORT on the impact of social media and the online environment on young people (2025/2081(INI))	<i>Parliament resolution calling for stronger enforcement of the DSA and AI Act to address harmful content, addictive design, cyberbullying, and AI-driven risks targeting minors.</i> <i>EP Draft Report on Social Media and Young People (2025/2081): A broader Parliament draft resolution on social media's impact on youth mental health, radicalisation, and civic participation, calling for safety-by-design, algorithmic transparency, and digital literacy.</i>
International Organisations		
OECD	Children in the digital environment blog post Social media age restrictions for children: Why they are rising and what comes next Child, Adolescent and Youth Mental Health in the 21st Century OECD (29 April 2026) The legal and policy landscape of age assurance online for child safety and well-being (June 2025) Towards digital safety by design for children (June 2024)	<i>Various reports documenting</i> - <i>the worsening mental health of young people across member countries and calling for a comprehensive policy response spanning prevention, school-based programmes, and balanced digital regulation, while emphasising the need to involve young people directly in shaping solutions.</i> - <i>examining the legal and policy landscape for age assurance online in OECD countries,</i> - <i>Focusing on actions for digital service providers, suggesting eight key components for digital safety by design for children.</i>
Global Privacy Enforcement Network	Home (public) Global Privacy Enforcement Network	<i>A survey by the Global Privacy Enforcement Network, conducted with 27 authorities, analysed nearly 900 websites and apps used by children. It shows an increase in personal data collection and highlights that age verification methods remain largely unreliable. While some protective practices are improving, the risks faced by children online have grown over the past decade.</i>
ITU - Protection through online participation (PoP) under the ITU's Child Online Protection (COP) Programme	POP: Protection through online Participation	<i>A global multi-stakeholder initiative, led under the ITU's Child Online Protection (COP) programme and co-led with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, aimed at ensuring that children can safely and effectively access protection and support mechanisms via digital platforms when they face situations</i>

		<i>of violence or risk, recognising digital spaces as essential entry points to protection and care.</i>
UNCRC - General comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment	General comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment OHCHR See also DFC's Mapping the global impact of the UNCRC's General comment No. 25	<i>GC No. 25 (2021) was published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. It emphasizes the need to protect and promote children's rights in the digital environment, addressing both opportunities and risks associated with digital technologies.</i>
UNESCO IBC - Ethical Considerations for Youth Mental Health in the Digital Environment (2025)	Ethical Considerations for Youth Mental Health in the Digital Environment	<i>This UNESCO report examines the ethical considerations around youth mental health in the digital environment, calling on states, tech companies and educators to protect children from online harms while supporting their autonomy and digital literacy.</i>
UNICEF	Policy Brief - Keeping Children Safe Online: Trends in Online Platform Regulation and Emerging Lessons (April 2025) Rapid analysis: Drawing a Line in Digital Spaces: Age-based restriction of social media (March 2026):	<i>Policy note highlights key considerations for legislators, policymakers, and other stakeholders considering an age-based limit for social media.</i> <i>Rapid analysis provides an up-to-date global picture of proposed and enacted legislation introducing age-based restrictions for social media.</i>
UNICEF INNOCENTI	Digital misinformation/ disinformation and children (2021) Protecting Children in Online Gaming: Mitigating Risks from Organized Violence (2025)	<i>Digital misinformation/ disinformation and children: This report examines how mis/disinformation harms children specifically, noting they are particularly vulnerable given their still-developing critical thinking skills. It combines a literature review with expert interviews to map the risks and provide recommendations for policymakers, tech companies, educators, and parents.</i> <i>Protecting Children in Online Gaming: A UNICEF working paper examining how violent and criminal organizations exploit online gaming platforms to propagandize, groom, and recruit children, making recommendations for policymakers, the gaming industry, and practitioners to better safeguard young players.</i>
WHO - Teens, screens and mental health	Teens, screens and mental health	<i>The WHO Europe article highlights the links between increased screen time among adolescents and mental health issues, stressing that the effects depend heavily on usage patterns, context, and individual vulnerabilities, and calling for balanced responses combining prevention, education, and safer digital environments.</i>

WHO - Digital determinants of youth mental health and well-being	Addressing the digital determinants of youth mental health and well-being: policy brief (May 2025)	<i>This report calls for the implementation of policies to protect young people from online dangers such as cyberbullying, misinformation, and addictive technologies. It encourages governments to promote digital literacy and resilience. It emphasizes the need for intersectoral collaboration to create safer digital spaces. Finally, it advocates involving young people in the development of tailored digital health policies and solutions.</i>
OHCHR – Children’s Rights in the Digital Environment	Children's rights in the digital environment OHCHR	<i>UN Human Rights experts have emphasized that digital technologies can negatively impact fundamental rights, including children's rights to education, privacy, safety, and protection from exploitation.</i>
OHCHR – Child Safety Online Guidelines	Guidance: Getting Children’s Safety Online Right OHCHR (May 2026) Press release	<i>A set of 10 guidelines issued by the UN Human Rights Office calling on States and tech companies to make online platforms safer for children through effective regulation and accountability. Rather than broad social media bans, the guidelines call for safety by design, mandatory child rights impact assessments, and strengthened corporate accountability. The High Commissioner cautions that blanket bans risk pushing children toward less monitored platforms.</i>
NGOs and Relevant Organisations		
5Rights’ - International best practices blueprint	Building a digital environment designed with children in mind: An international best practices blueprint	<i>This resource offers an international best practice framework for designing a digital environment that respects children's rights and needs</i>
Eurochild’s Position Papers	Eurochild's position on age restrictions on social media (February 2026) Protecting children online should not come at the expense of silencing them (September 2025)	<i>Calling to rethink the business model of social media to address risks for children, EUROCHILD argues that age restrictions alone won't keep children safe. The EU should prioritise children's rights-based, safe-by-default regulation that tackles platforms' risk-driving business models and design choices, making platforms safer for children and therefore safer for everyone.</i>
Child’s Rights International Networks’ Campaign	To Ban Or Not To Ban?: That Should Not Be The Question — CRIN	<i>CRIN questions the ban on children's access to certain technologies or platforms and suggests that it would be</i>

		<i>better to address the root causes of risks and involve children in developing solutions in order to effectively protect their rights.</i>
Child Rights Connect - Digital Protection of Child Human Rights Defenders — Survey Outcomes for Children and Young People	https://childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/final-report-on-digital-protection-of-chrds.pdf	<i>More and more children are using digital platforms to advocate for human rights — yet little attention has been paid to the specific risks they face online as defenders. To address this gap, Child Rights Connect conducted a survey with 139 child human rights defenders from 20 countries. The findings are significant: while 71% actively voice their opinions online and most take steps to protect themselves, over half have already experienced a digital security incident, including hacking, online harassment, and deliberate intimidation linked to their activism.</i>
Amnesty International's work	“We are totally exposed”: Young people share concerns about social media's impact on privacy and mental health in global survey Adolescence, social media and phone bans European Commission must urgently enforce landmark law to stop TikTok's addictive harms Dragged into the rabbit hole: New evidence of TikTok's risks to children's mental health	<i>Some interesting work specifically on TikTok's addictive nature.</i> <i>The Amnesty International report “we are totally exposed” analyses how business models based on surveillance and targeted advertising used by major digital platforms undermine human rights, particularly those of children, by exposing them to increased risks to their privacy, well-being, development, and online safety.</i>
Half the story project	About #HalfTheStory	<i>HalfTheStory is a non-profit organisation based in the United States and the United Kingdom that works for young people's “digital well-being” by educating them on healthier use of technology and social media, advocating for regulation against addictive mechanisms, and promoting awareness, civic education, and platform accountability programs.</i>
Educative projects	Theirworld Ação Educativa (Brazil)	<i>Bring a youth-centred perspective focused on their right to education.</i> <i>Their world works on safe and inclusive learning environments, including digital ones</i> <i>Ação Educativa works on democracy, inclusion and social justice</i>
Mental Health Europe	Mental Health Europe: Advocacy & Support for Well-being	<i>Mental Health Europe — A European NGO network advocating for the rights of people with psychosocial</i>

		<i>disabilities, promoting mental health, and working toward better mental health care and social inclusion across Europe.</i>
Video Games Europe - #press play together	#PressPlayTogether Home	Also see Pixels to Policy activity
Weprotect Global Alliance	WeProtect Global Alliance - WeProtect Global Alliance https://www.weprotect.org/wp-content/uploads/GTA-2025_EN.pdf	<i>Prevention Framework in response to online child sexual exploitation and abuse: https://www.weprotect.org/wp-content/uploads/Prevention-framework_EN.pdf</i>
Safe Futures Hub	Together we can build a safe future for all... Safe Futures Hub SafetyNet: insights from young people around the... Safe Futures Hub	<i>Safe Futures Hub is a joint initiative focused on solutions to end sexual violence against children. SafetyNet: Guided by over 100 young peoples' insights regarding the future of digital rights and online-facilitated child sexual abuse – this manifesto highlights their priorities for a safe digital world</i>
Open Age	A public-interest initiative to make age private, reusable, and globally interoperable	<i>AgeKeys - age assurance solution that creates reusable, privacy-preserving age credentials without tracking a user's identity.</i>
e-Enfance Association / 3018	Association for the protection of children on the internet e-Enfance	<i>A French public-interest association that works to protect children and adolescents on the Internet, particularly against harassment, cyberbullying, and online violence. It carries out prevention, awareness-raising and training activities, and operates the national 3018 helpline: a free and confidential support, advice and reporting service available seven days a week.</i>
The Anxious Generation	The Anxious Generation — from a book to a movement Jonathan Haidt Brings New Evidence to the Battle Against Social Media - The New York Times	<i>A movement founded by psychologist Jonathan Haidt and a coalition of parents, educators, policymakers and young people, born out of the success of his book The Anxious Generation. Its mission is to act collectively to reverse phone- and screen-centred childhoods and promote a childhood with more free play, independence, real-world connections, and reasonable digital limits in order to improve children's and adolescents' mental health. They support restricting access.</i>
The Molly Rose Foundation	Home Molly Rose Foundation Life after Molly: Ian Russell on big tech, his daughter's death – and why a social media ban won't work Online abuse The Guardian	<i>An organisation created in memory of Molly Russell to prevent suicide among young people under 25 by helping them recognise signs of distress, connecting them to</i>

		appropriate support, and promoting education, research, and safer policies in response to harmful online content. Film “Molly vs the Machines” to be released in March: Channel 4 to air new documentary, Molly Vs THE MACHINES, about the tragic death of Molly Russell and her father’s fight for online safety Channel 4
Missing Children Europe	From Grooming to Abuse, Exploitation and Disappearance: Protecting Children Across Digital Spaces (2026)	This report examines the link between online grooming and child disappearance, arguing that the two are mutually reinforcing risks in an increasingly digitalised world. Missing Children Europe calls for a holistic, child-centred response integrating prevention, early identification, and coordinated action.
Internet Watch Foundation	2025 Annual Data & Insights Report	The IWF’s 2025 report recorded 311,610 confirmed child sexual abuse reports, up 7% on 2024, with AI-generated abuse content rising 260-fold. It calls for urgent coordinated action from platforms, policymakers and financial institutions to address the growing scale and commercialisation of this material.
Academic Articles		
London School of Economics (LSE)	LSE Safer Digital Futures for Children Centre Why mandating and enforcing EU regulation is preferable to a social media ban (Elisabeth Staksrud, Giovanna Mascheroni, Brian O’Neill and Sonia Livingstone) The UK shouldn’t rush to a social media ban for children under 16 LSE British Politics (Sonia Livingstone)	DFC — An LSE research centre studying children’s rights in the digital environment, running projects on topics like smartphone impacts on mental health and children’s participation in digital policy.
	LSE Report European children’s use and understanding of Generative AI (2026)	This report presents initial findings from a study conducted in 20 European countries on how children use and perceive artificial intelligence, especially generative AI, as well as their levels of understanding, their practices, and the associated risks and opportunities, in order to inform policymakers and child protection stakeholders.
	LSE review Left out and misunderstood: children in digital policies. A global review (2025)	The report examines how children are considered in digital policies around the world and identifies trends as well as examples of good practices to better protect and promote

		<i>their rights. It offers lessons for policymakers to improve the design of child-appropriate digital policies.</i>
European Society of Medicine	ADDICTION BY DESIGN: Some Dimensions and Challenges of Excessive Social Media Use (2022)	<i>This paper reviews social media addiction — its prevalence, mental health consequences, and neurological effects — while arguing that tech companies deliberately engineer addictive platforms for profit and calling for more ethical design solutions.</i>
Cairn.info	Une trajectoire de socialisation hybride, entre espaces présentiel et numérique Cairn.info Claire Balleys (2025)	<i>This French article examines how teenagers use social media, arguing that their online presence reflects their broader marginalization from public space — parents perceive the outside world as dangerous, even though statistics show minors face greater risks at home. The author, a sociologist, frames social media use as a response to young people's shrinking place in society.</i>
Springer Nature Link (BMC psychology)	The relationship between social network addiction, online gaming addiction, and suicide ideation: mediating and moderating role of loneliness Koçak et al. BMC Psychology (2025)	<i>This study examines how social media and online gaming addiction relate to suicidal ideation in Turkish-speaking adults, with loneliness as a key mediating and moderating factor. It finds that both addictions increase suicidal ideation both directly and through loneliness, with the effect being strongest in highly lonely individuals.</i>
Science Direct	Addiction to social networking sites: Motivations, flow, and sense of belonging at the root of addiction - ScienceDirect (2023) Polarization and social media: A systematic review and research agenda - ScienceDirect (2022)	<i>SNS Addiction examines how social media addiction develops, finding that the reasons users go on social media (e.g. seeking connection, entertainment, or validation) lead to addiction through two pathways: the immersive “flow” state of scrolling and the sense of belonging platforms cultivate, with different motivations producing different addiction mechanisms.</i> <i>Polarization and Social Media is a systematic review mapping how social media contributes to polarization through mechanisms like misinformation and echo chambers, concluding that the relationship is complex and context-dependent rather than a simple cause-and-effect, and proposing a framework to guide future research.</i>

Oxford Academy	How do social media use, gaming frequency, and internalizing symptoms predict each other over time in early-to-middle adolescence? Journal of Public Health Oxford Academic (Dec 2025)	<i>The findings of this study do not support the widely held view that adolescent technology use is a major causal factor in their mental health difficulties.</i>
European Federation of Psychologists' Associations	Minors' health and social media: An interdisciplinary scientific perspective (May 2025)	<i>This document is a publication by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service. It aims to provide evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process.</i>
Digital Child Australia	Home - Digital Child	<i>An Australian research centre that aims to support young children in a rapidly changing digital age by creating evidence-based environments and resources so that children, their families, educators, and policymakers can navigate the digital world effectively and in a healthy way.</i>
University of Cambridge	Social Media Bans: Overview of Key Studies	<i>This report reviews key studies and meta-analyses that are directly relevant to those interested in the quality of evidence underlying current policy proposals for an under-16s social media ban.</i>
The University of Chicago	Why Bans Fail: Tipping Points and Australia's Social Media Ban	<i>A survey of Australian teenagers four months after the under-16 social media ban found only one in four comply, as most believe their peers are still online and feel socially penalised for leaving — suggesting compliance is more likely to fall than rise without measures that directly target social norms.</i>
University of Galway	On the associations between adolescent social media use and health outcomes: An exploratory specification curve analysis and comparison with other concurrent predictors	<i>A peer-reviewed study in Irish 15-16 year-olds (N=2876), suggesting that social media is one of the least influential predictors of adolescent health. Factors such as feeling safe at school, supportive relationships with parents and caregivers, and financial ability to participate in activities proved more important predictors of adolescent health outcomes.</i>
Stanford University	Stanford Youth Safety and Digital Wellbeing Report, 2025 published by Stanford University	
Salzburg Global	Emerging Technologies in Youth Justice Systems: Salzburg Global	