



November 27, 2020

Member of the LIBE Committee  
European Parliament

Re: LIBE Committee's Consideration of Amendments Concerning the e-Privacy Directive to  
Facilitate Detection and Reporting of Online Child Sexual Exploitation

Dear Member of LIBE Committee:

I am writing further to my November 17, 2020 letter concerning the LIBE Committee's opportunity to decide how the world will use its collective expertise and technology to protect children from online sexual exploitation. As you consider amendments relating to the e-Privacy Directive in advance of the Committee's December 7 vote, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) urges you to maintain support not only for online platforms to continue detecting online child sexual abuse imagery, but also to ensure platforms are legally permitted to alert when a child is being groomed to share sexually explicit images or meet a sexual predator in person. More than any other legislative decision in recent years, your vote on December 7 will determine for our entire global society if we will work together to proactively save children before they are sexually exploited online or if we must relegate children to suffer sexual abuse, rape, and psychological coercion to produce sexually explicit images before we are legally permitted to intervene and rescue them from online abuse.

We applaud your tremendous efforts to date to preserve the legal rights of online platforms to use hashing technology to stop the online distribution of known child sexual abuse images. However, as you know, we cannot stop here. We must try to prevent this abuse from occurring and these images from being created and circulated. Currently, the only means to do this is to enable online platforms to use anti-grooming technology. This technology cannot comprehend online content, but functions solely to identify key patterns and language relating to child sexual abuse and then sends an alert for further review. This enables a report to be made and law enforcement to intervene when a child is being actively groomed for sexual abuse, and before they are raped, sexually abused, enticed or blackmailed to share explicit images online. Just as we would not turn our attention away if we saw a stranger in a car calling out to a small child to get into their car with promises of gifts or candy, so as a global society we cannot turn away when an adult misuses the intimate interactions of online chat or messaging services to entice a child into sexual abuse.

The grooming of children for sexual abuse is a very real and growing problem in the EU and around the world. Last year, 345 grooming reports were submitted to NCMEC's CyberTipline relating to an offender or a child victim in the EU. This year, the numbers are much higher. In just the first 9 months of 2020, 1,020 grooming reports were submitted to NCMEC's CyberTipline related to an offender or a child victim in the EU. One hundred percent of these reports related to activity on a chat or messaging service that will be precluded from using technology to detect such abuse as of December 21.

Austrian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve an Austrian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult man enticed an 11-year-old female child via an online chat service to produce and share sexually explicit images.
- An adult man enticed a 12-year-old female child via an online chat service to produce and share sexually explicit images. Chat logs showed the man threatened the child he would notify police if she did not send explicit images and videos. Fearing this threat, the child produced additional content and sent it to her exploiter.
- A 45-year-old man enticed a 13-year-old male child via online private messaging to engage in sexual activity. Chat logs showed the man was talking to the child about leaving the country and making plans to meet the same weekend the report was made to NCMEC. The man was in a position of authority as a coach and talked about wanting to adopt and marry the child victim.

Belgian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Belgian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 21-year-old man enticed a 14-year-old female child via an online private messaging service to produce and share sexually explicit images. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man previously had enticed the child to meet in person so that he could exploit her by engaging in sexual activity.

Bulgarian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Bulgarian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 15-year-old used an online platform to traffic his 9-year-old girlfriend for sexual abuse exploitation. His reported profile stated:  
*"I'm looking for a pedophile who wants to \*\*\*\* my 9 year old girlfriend and want her to paw him"*
- An adult man used an online chat feature to entice six female children and sent them graphic images of himself engaged in sex acts. At least one of these children was enticed to create and send an explicit image of herself to the man who then demanded she produce and send more

images. When she declined, the man threatened to harm her, saying he “knows where she lives”.

- A 51-year-old man used a messaging service to entice a 13-year-old male child to produce and share sexually explicit content of himself. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man was the child’s uncle, had direct access to him, and discussed specific sexual acts with the child. The chat also indicated the uncle was offering the child money in exchange for sending sexually explicit files.

Croatian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Croatian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 48-year-old man used an online chat service to entice a 14-year-old female child to produce and share sexually exploitative images of herself. The man also enticed her to sexually abuse her 11-year-old sister and said he wanted to meet in person to abuse her. Chat logs provided with the report show the child victim disclosing that she used force to abuse her younger sister, specifically stated the following:  
*“She screamed”*  
*“It did, but I had to do it by force. She was fighting me....she cried”*

Cypriot children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Cypriot offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult man used the chat function on an online gaming platform to engage in sexually exploitative conversation with another adult gamer about his 13-year-old daughter. The man provided the other adult gamer with his daughter’s screenname on another chat platform so the other man could contact the child to “seduce” her.
- A 41-year-old man from Cyprus enticed a 15-year-old child victim from Moldova to produce and send sexually exploitative imagery of herself. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man previously had enticed the child to travel to Cyprus so he could exploit her through sexual activity.

Czech children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Czech offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 29-year-old man used a private messaging platform to entice a 14-year-old female victim to produce and share sexually exploitative images of herself. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man previously had enticed the child to meet in person so he could sexually exploit her. The man lived close to the child and was making plans to meet her so he could continue to sexually abuse her.

- A 29-year-old man enticed five child victims between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. The man enticed two of the children to engage in sex acts, including bestiality, with each other. He enticed another victim to sexually abuse her 3-year-old sibling. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man offered money or expensive gifts to the victims to entice them into producing and sharing the sexually exploitative images.

Danish children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Danish offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult man used a platform's chat function to send sexualized messages about children to another adult. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man planned to sexually abuse his 13-year-old daughter who was intoxicated at the time.
- A 41-year-old man in the United States enticed multiple children under the age of 13 to produce and send sexually exploitative imagery of themselves. This man was communicating online with a 20-year-old man from Denmark and the two men discussed trading sexually exploitative images. At least one child, a 9-year-old female child, was coerced to engage in sexual activity over a video call after being threatened that she would be publicly exposed if she refused.

Estonian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve an Estonian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult male created and used multiple online accounts to entice over 12 children, some as young as 9-years-old, to produce and share sexually exploitative imagery. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated that in some cases the man offered to pay the children in exchange for initial images and then coerced to send additional images by threatening to publicly expose their images online.

Finnish children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Finnish offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult enticed numerous child victims in Finland, Lithuania, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States to produce and send sexually exploitative imagery of themselves. After obtaining initial images, this adult would blackmail the children by threatening to send the images to the children's families unless they continued producing and sending additional images. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the adult also was sharing child sexual abuse material with other adults online.
- An adult man used an online messaging service to engage in sexualized conversations about children with another adult. The man made multiple statements indicating he had sexually abused his young daughter on multiple occasions and had shown her pornography since she was an infant. Chat logs submitted with the report detailed the man's plans to continue sexually abusing his daughter.

French children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a French offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult man enticed several female children between the ages of 14 and 17 to produce and share sexually explicit images. After the suspect coerced the children to produce images, he blackmailed them to produce and send additional content by threatening to publicly expose the initial images he had received. Chat logs provided with the report included the following statements showing the severe distress of the children as the man blackmailed them to produce increasingly egregious content:  
*"... you really want to ruin my life"*  
*"I've already tried to commit suicide please don't start again"*  
*"It's going to destroy my life"*  
*"I want to die"*  
*"I'm going to kill myself"*
- A 42-year old man used a platform's private chat function to entice a 12-year-old female child to engage in sexual activity. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man was in a relationship with the child's mother, had direct access to the child, and already had exploited her by forcing her to engage in painful sexual activity:  
*"I can't anymore with your mom... your Mom and I are done ok"*  
*"We should do it softer... it causes some bleeding usually the first time"*  
*"Wait mom is up... erase everything"*

German children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a German offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 32-year-old man used a platform's messaging service to entice a 13-year-old male child to produce and share sexually explicit content. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man had enticed the child to sexually abuse his 9-year old brother and directed him to continue the abuse as indicated by the following statements:  
*"Go to him in the room"*  
*"Tell him he should open your pants"*  
*"So you don't want to take the virginity of your brother"*  
*"Tell him to give you a blowjob"*  
*"Come on dare to take your brother's virginity and then you were the first who had"*
- A 32-year-old man used multiple online personas to entice female child victims to engage in sadistic sexual conversations and produce and share sexually explicit imagery of themselves. Chat logs provided with the report indicated the man also was communicating with an 18-year-old woman who he paid to produce imagery of her sexually abusing her infant child.

Greek children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Greek offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 50-year-old man enticed a 14-year-old male child to produce and send sexually exploitative imagery. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man had enticed the child to meet in person on previous cases and had sexually abused him. The man also referred to having made videos of himself sexually abusing the child.

Hungarian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Hungarian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 29-year-old man used a platform's messaging services to entice a 13-year-old female child to engage in sexual acts. Based on the report, it appeared the man had previously enticed the child to meet and sexually abused her and the two lived in close proximity to one another.
- A 40-year-old man used a platform's messaging service to entice a minor female child to meet for sexual activity. Information submitted with the report indicated the man lived in close proximity to the child and knew the child as a friend of her family.
- A 41-year-old man used a platform's messaging service to entice a 12-year-old female child to produce and share sexually explicit content. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated that after coercing the child to send initial images, the man began to blackmail her to produce and send additional content. The man threatened to spread the child's images online if she did not comply and threatened that she had no options but to send more images:

*"I have already saved it on my phone so if you don't obey I post it on the web"*

*"If you do what I say I won't spread your photos on the internet"*

*"Oh and you can forget about threatening me with the police, I don't care"*

*"I'm not afraid of the police, I will upload your photos 1000 times by the time the hearings end"*

Irish children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve an Irish offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 29-year-old man used a platform's messaging service to entice a 15-year-old female child to meet and engage in sexual activity. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man lived in close proximity to the child and previously had enticed her to meet in person and sexually abused her. The man also sent several messages to the child urging her to keep their relationship secret because he would go to jail if her parents found out.

Italian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve an Italian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 27-year-old man enticed a 12-year-old female child to produce and share sexually exploitative imagery. After the man obtained initial images from the child, he blackmailed her to create and



send additional content by threatening to expose her images publicly. Information provided by the reporting company also indicated the man had direct access to children, including his minor daughter.

Lithuanian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Lithuanian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult male who used a platform's chat feature to entice a 12-year-old male child for sexual activity. Chat logs submitted with the report detailed the man pressuring the child to expose himself in various degrees of nudity and to engage in sexual acts on camera for the man.

Children from Luxembourg are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve an offender and/or child victim from Luxembourg, including the following:

- The parent of a 15-year-old child in Luxembourg reported that their child was being enticed into a sexual relationship by an adult man in the United States using a social media platform's chat feature.
- An adult used a platform's messaging service to entice a 15-year-old female child to produce and share sexually explicit images of herself.

Maltese children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Maltese offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 20-year-old man used a platform's chat service to entice a child to produce and send sexually exploitative images. The child disclosed the following information:  
*"we started chatting, he pretended to be a girl. then he started sending live pics of this girl. he is actually a boy so this was all false. then he insisted I send him nudes with my face and threatening to release my other nudes. I sent him one and now he has my nudes is threatening to send them to everyone I know. please help me as soon as possible."*
- A 30-year-old man used a platform's messaging services to entice a 15-year-old female child to produce and share sexually explicit content. The man threatened the child:  
*"You have to do as I say if you don't want to get exposed"*  
*"Otherwise I will show everyone your nudes"*

Dutch children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Dutch offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 61-year-old man used a platform's messaging service to entice multiple male children to produce and share sexually explicit imagery. Chat logs provided with the report spanned several years and information provided in the report indicated the man was a school teacher and

therapist in a position of trust with direct access to children. The man coerced the victims to engage in specific sexual acts, including anally penetrating themselves with foreign objects and also asked several victims if they had access to younger siblings. The man at times groomed the boys by pretending to be a teenage girl or a football recruiter assessing the children's physical fitness by requesting images:

*"Do you see your brother of 12 ever naked?"*

*"1. Everything we talk about, so the fact that I'm going to scout you stays between us. It stays between us as long as I or another scout is coming to visit you at a match. So no telling trainer, parents or friends. You have to promise that... 2. We try a cam session where I interview you and do a body check and different tests. You have to be in a room alone. Is that possible?"*

*"Show semen in front of the cam"*

Polish children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Polish offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An 18-year-old man used a platform's messaging services to entice an 11-year-old female child to create and share sexually exploitative images. After the man enticed the child to create the initial explicit images, he continued to coerce and threaten the child to create additional images by threatening to publicly expose her.

Portuguese children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Portuguese offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 56-year-old male used a platform's messaging service to entice a 15-year-old female child. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man asked the child if she enjoyed having sex and whether she performed oral, vaginal, and anal sex. Additional information submitted with the report indicated the man lived in close proximity to the child and had been trying to entice her over chat to meet in person so he could sexually abuse her.
- A 43-year-old man used a platform's messaging service to entice a 16-year-old male child to produce and share sexually explicit content. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man had enticed the child to sexually abuse and produce exploitative images of his 12-year-old brother. Chat logs submitted with the reports indicated the man was a success coach in a position of authority and with direct access to children.

Romanian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Romanian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 23-year-old woman in Romania used a platform's chat service to coordinate transporting a 13-year-old child victim to an 83-year-old man in Germany so the man could sexually abuse the child in exchange for financial compensation. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated that



the woman had access to multiple female children between the ages of 10 and 16 years old, but the 13-year-old child victim was selected because she was still a virgin:

*"parents to the 13-Year-old virgin wants me to give them money before don't trust to give up the girl without giving them money"*

*"I have the virgin is the 13 year old girl her parents want 5000"*

*"5000 for the girl and you give us and new a credit ok because the girl is virgin you can do with take whatever you want"*

- An adult used a platform's messaging service to entice a child to produce and send sexually abusive images. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the adult coerced the child to send more images and continue communicating with them by threatening to publicly expose images they already had obtained of the child.

Slovakian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Slovakian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 21-year-old Austrian man enticed multiple female children in Slovakia to produce and send sexually exploitative images of themselves over several years. After the man obtained initial images, he would threaten to publicly expose the child to coerce them to create and send additional, and often more egregious, sexual images. One child was coerced to record video of her sexually abusing a younger sister. Two other children expressed suicidal thoughts due to their severe distress while being blackmailed. The man also threatened the children not to disclose the exploitation to trusted adults or law enforcement by telling them he would have them institutionalized or taken away from their families:

*"just so you know, I told them that you suffer from mental illness and that you offered me sexual services and that parents cannot take care of you, you will go into kids shelter"*

Slovenian children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Slovenian offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- An adult Slovenian man used the chat service on an online gaming platform to send sexually exploitative messages regarding children, including that he had sexually molested a child and raped "little kids."

Spanish children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Spanish offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 22-year-old Spanish man enticed a 14-year-old female child in Chile to produce and send sexually exploitative images of herself. After the man obtained the images, he blackmailed the child to produce and send additional exploitative images by threatening to "ruin her life" and disseminate her sexually explicit images publicly. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated

the enticement and blackmail caused the child severe distress, and she stated multiple times that she would kill herself if the images were released.

- Two apparent adult women used a platform's chat service to engage in sexualized conversations about children. One of the women disclosed she had sexually molested her 10-year-old daughter on multiple occasions and provided details of the abuse at the request of the woman she was chatting with.

Swedish children are being targeted and groomed through chat and messaging services for sexual abuse. NCMEC has received multiple reports to our global CyberTipline relating to the grooming of children for sexual abuse that involve a Swedish offender and/or child victim, including the following:

- A 31-year-old man used a platform's private messaging service to entice a 14-year-old female child to engage in sexual activity. Chat logs submitted with the report indicated the man already had enticed the child to meet in person and had sexually abused her and also indicated the man had produced a child sexual abuse video by recording his exploitation of her.

Your support of the LIBE Committee's work to protect children from ongoing abuse when their images are re-distributed online and can be safeguarded before this abuse occurs is essential to the online safety of children worldwide. We commend your contributions to make sure crucial hashing technology can be used to save children from abuse and encourage you to continue your strong support for extending these legal protections to anti-grooming technology. Only by intervening when a child is being groomed for abuse and preventing harm from being inflicted in the first instance can we ensure we fulfill our obligations to the most vulnerable members of our global society.

Sincerely,

John F. Clark  
President & CEO