



Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety

10 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DG

General Election 2019

The Children's Charities ask the Political Parties to endorse the following

- ❖ Because of its importance to children's education and socialization, appropriate access to the internet should be considered a fundamental right for every child.
- ❖ Online service providers and manufacturers of internet enabled equipment should be subject to a Duty of Care requiring them to abide by the child rights principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 3 which addresses the best interests of the child.
- ❖ Online service providers and manufacturers of internet enabled equipment should be required to produce an annual statement confirming their compliance with the Duty of Care. This statement will be certified by a powerful regulator.
- ❖ The regulator will certify the annual statements as part of its responsibility to oversee a comprehensive online child safety policy.
- ❖ The regulator must have a role in actively sharing and advising on best practices, particularly in respect of start-ups.
- ❖ A comprehensive online child safety policy will require primary legislation to modify the legal immunities which protect many online businesses from liability. Terms and Conditions of Service should be legally enforceable.
- ❖ The Age Appropriate Design Code should be brought to Parliament without delay.
- ❖ A high-tech social fund should be established to support civil society's and children's organizations participation in policy making processes affecting the digital environment.
- ❖ Children and families need stronger protection from commercial exploitation by online games. Children's games which socialize gambling should be made illegal.

- ❖ Age verification for commercial pornography sites should be applied irrespective of the legal domicile of the publishers and with due regard for users' privacy.
- ❖ Every company selling a product or service which is directed towards persons over the age of 18 should be required to utilise robust age verification mechanisms.
- ❖ Every child who has been sexually abused should have a legal right to obtain appropriate counselling and therapeutic support to aid their recovery from the effects of the abuse. Similar arrangements should be extended to children who have suffered other forms of trauma.
- ❖ Where someone is found in unlawful possession of a child sex abuse image the parents, carers or legal representatives of the child victim will have a right to claim compensation from that person who will also be required to contribute to a fund to support all victims of child sex abuse.
- ❖ Greater support is needed for offender treatment and deterrent programmes.
- ❖ Greater support is needed for anti-bullying programmes and for digital literacy programmes in schools directed at both students and staff.
- ❖ There needs to be greater investment in programmes to identify children who are most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse online. Parents have a right to support and information that empowers them to safeguard and help their children in the online environment.
- ❖ It is essential that children are not criminalised for online behaviours which first and foremost present safeguarding issues.
- ❖ Law enforcement's ability to address the substantial volumes of online offending against children needs to be substantially enhanced.

The above are an updated set of priorities taken from the larger "[Digital Manifesto](#)" produced for the General Election of 2015. We are happy to supply further details.

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14th November 2019

www.chis.org.uk