

COMMUNICATE **SAFELY**



**GROO
MING**



COMUNICAR
EM SEGURANÇA



altice
fundação

1.5 million images and videos of children

19.400 children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation worldwide

92% of the perpetrators visible in the analysed videos and images are male

65% of the unidentified victims are female

More than 60% of the unidentified victims included infants and young children

The younger the victim, the more severe the abuse

84% of the images contain child sexual abuse material, with explicit sexual activity

Sources: INTERPOL32 International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database, 2018

Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material Report.

CHILD ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

THROUGH THE INTERNET

Can we forbid children and adolescents to use the Internet? Is it possible to restrict access to social and sharing networks or to exchanging messages with strangers?

The answer is probably no, as communication is currently done through the Internet, and today's children and adolescents will be the next adults and will increasingly use the Internet and new forms of communication and social interaction.

This is the reality both parents and children are living. Therefore, it is essential that minors are aware of the benefits of the Internet, but also of the dangers online and of how they should protect themselves and act in a risky situation. As children are digital natives, it is crucial to take proper care so that they do not become an easy target for cybercriminals.

One of the most difficult topics to approach with children is grooming and sexual abuse of minors through the Internet. It is probably parents' biggest fear, both in "real life" and in the "digital world", and it is not easy to approach this topic with children, not only because they are naive and childish, but also because they trust and believe others too much.

Sexual abuse is defined as any sexual act or practice involving children or minors under the age of 18, in which the minors do not understand the situation, are not able or prepared to consent to such acts, and which violates the law in force.

There is sexual abuse with and without contact. The latter includes threats of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, grooming, exposing the child to pornographic content/materials, among other forms of abuse which do not involve direct contact between victim and perpetrator.





The use of the Internet and Social Networks is increasing and children are starting to use the Internet at an earlier age. This, combined with the lack of knowledge on the part of parents, creates a greater risk of exposure to child sexual abuse and exploitation through the Internet.

Although it is difficult to dissociate these concepts, a distinction must be made between sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of minors through the Internet. Sexual exploitation of minors implies taking advantage of the child's situation or condition, with the benefits being taken by the perpetrator or third parties. In the case of exploitation, there is a gain and benefit resulting from the child abuse.

It is considered online sexual exploitation to seduce, manipulate and threaten a child to perform sexual acts for a webcam; to identify and prepare future victims online; and to distribute, disseminate, sell or possess child sexual abuse material online.

ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is a form of seducing and manipulating children online.

It starts as a non-sexual approach, through online games and social networks, where the abuser creates a relationship of trust with the child, so that the child later meets the abuser in person and the sexual abuse takes place.

The relationship of trust created between the abuser and the child may also lead the child to create and share sexual content.

Online grooming allows the perpetrators/aggressors to choose the type of victims and makes it possible to seduce many victims at the same time. It is also a practice which, in most cases, allows the anonymity of the perpetrator by creating several fake profiles. A child/minor in this type of situation is faced with threats and blackmail to divulge the contents she/he has created in exchange for sexual favours or other benefits.



HOW TO HELP? WHAT TO DO?

Raise awareness and Alert -

It is very important to talk to children and alert them to the real and actual risks of the Internet.

Always have a private profile on Social Networks

Do not accept unknown people as friends or followers

Do not talk to strangers or unknown people

(online games/social networks/emails)

Block aggressive or abusive users.

Do not share on the Internet

(social networks/games/websites) personal details such as full name, address, age, school, and photos.

Have a relationship of trust with your child ,

so that he or she feels comfortable and not ashamed to talk about this type of situation, should it happen.

Beware of your child's isolating behaviour

or uneasiness when he/she is near the mobile phone or computer (e.g. hiding or locking the screen or phone).

Know who your child's virtual friends are.

Install parental control software

Monitor your child's browsing



SAFE EDUCATION

ONLINE **SAFETY HELPLINE**

800 21 90 90

PROJECT



SPONSOR



FUNDING PARTNER



Centro
Internet
Segura