KIFOV

KIFOV BRIEFING · OCTOBER 2026

Children's safety online: where things stand

The scale of harm, what courts and regulators now require of platforms, our latest analysis, and verified routes to help in 6 countries.

kifov.org · Published 30 October 2026 · Every figure is linked to its source

At a glance

21.3m

reports of suspected child sexual exploitation to the US CyberTipline in 2025

Source: NCMEC

137

reports of financial sextortion a day, on average, in 2025

Source: NCMEC

3,443

AI-generated child sexual abuse videos confirmed in 2025, up more than 260-fold

Source: Internet Watch Foundation

98%

of sextortion cases the IWF handled in 2025 involved boys aged 14–17

Source: Internet Watch Foundation

KIFOV in numbers

32

help services verified on official sites

6

countries with national help routes

18

publications, each fact-checked

29

primary sources cited

Accountability tracker

Date	Where	Who	What	Status
7 Aug 2026	New Mexico, US	Meta (Facebook, Instagram)	Court rules platforms a public nuisance; $942m in total and five years of supervised changes for under-18s.	Court-ordered
16 Jun 2026	Global	Roblox	Age-based Roblox Kids and Roblox Select accounts; no chat without an age check.	In effect
19 May 2026	United States	All covered platforms	Take It Down Act enforced: intimate images removed within 48 hours of a valid request.	Enforced by FTC
31 Mar 2026	Australia	Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube	Regulator reports significant concerns on the under-16 minimum age and moves to enforcement.	Under enforcement
24 Mar 2026	New Mexico, US	Meta	Jury finds Meta misled consumers about child safety: $375m, the maximum penalty.	Jury verdict

Date	Where	Who	What	Status
10 Dec 2025	Australia	Age-restricted social media	Platforms must take reasonable steps to keep under-16s off; about 4.7m accounts restricted in the first weeks.	Law in force
24 Nov 2025	United States first	Character.AI	Open-ended AI chat removed for users under 18.	In effect

Our latest analysis and guidance

STATEMENT · 30 OCT 2026

KIFOV's position on AI-generated child sexual abuse material

Realistic sexual images of children made with AI are abuse material. They should be treated in law, by platforms and by AI companies exactly as such.

https://kifov.org/statements/kifov-position-on-ai-generated-child-sexual-abuse-material/

RESEARCH · 30 OCT 2026

What we found checking 32 child help services in six countries

Every country we covered has a free child helpline and an emergency number. Fewer offer text, a route for young people to remove their own images, or say which languages they support.

https://kifov.org/research/what-we-found-checking-32-child-help-services/

IMPACT · 30 OCT 2026

KIFOV launches its accountability tracker, starting with seven decisions that change what platforms must do for children

Court rulings, laws and company changes from four jurisdictions, each linked to the original document and to our analysis.

https://kifov.org/impact-updates/accountability-tracker-launched/

IMPACT · 30 OCT 2026

The KIFOV help directory now covers six countries and 32 verified services

In its first days, the directory grew from four countries to six. Every listing was checked by hand on the service's own site.

https://kifov.org/impact-updates/help-directory-six-countries-32-services/

RESEARCH · 30 OCT 2026

KIFOV Briefing, October 2026: children's safety online, where things stand

A compact reference for journalists, policymakers and professionals: the latest data on harm to children online, what courts and regulators now require of platforms, and verified routes to help.

https://kifov.org/research/kifov-briefing-october-2026/

EXPLAINER · 30 OCT 2026

AI companion chatbots and teenagers: what changed when Character.AI ended open-ended chat for under-18s

One of the best-known companion apps stopped letting teenagers chat freely with its AI characters. What the company changed, why it matters, and what parents can ask about the apps their children use.

https://kifov.org/explainers/ai-companion-chatbots-and-teenagers-what-changed/

GUIDE · 30 OCT 2026

Violent online networks that target children: the warning signs the FBI wants parents to know

Groups such as "764" groom children on ordinary apps and games, then coerce them into harming themselves and others. Knowing the signs early is what makes a difference.

https://kifov.org/resources/violent-online-networks-targeting-children-warning-signs/

EXPLAINER · 30 OCT 2026

The Take It Down Act is now enforced: how to get an intimate image removed in the United States

Since 19 May 2026, platforms in the US must remove reported intimate images, including AI-made fakes, within 48 hours. Here is how the process works, and how it fits with the services young people already use.

https://kifov.org/explainers/take-it-down-act-how-removal-requests-work/

STATEMENT · 30 OCT 2026

Why KIFOV starts with a help directory, not a hotline

We could have launched with a reporting form and big promises. We chose to begin with something smaller that works: a checked, dated route to the people who can act.

https://kifov.org/statements/why-kifov-starts-with-a-help-directory/

GUIDE · 30 OCT 2026

Roblox Kids, Roblox Select and age checks: a guide for parents

Roblox now decides who your child can chat with by age group, and switches chat off for anyone who has not completed an age check. What changed, what you control, and what to keep an eye on.

https://kifov.org/resources/roblox-kids-select-and-age-checks-a-guide-for-parents/

ANALYSIS · 30 OCT 2026

What a New Mexico court has ordered Meta to change for teenagers, and what it left out

The first court to hold a social media company liable for endangering children has set five years of supervised changes to Facebook and Instagram. The list is long; the gap in it is telling.

https://kifov.org/analysis/new-mexico-court-orders-meta-to-change-facebook-and-instagram-for-teenagers/

NEWS · 30 OCT 2026

21.3 million reports in a year: what NCMEC's 2025 CyberTipline data shows about risks to children

Reports of online enticement rose 158% and child sex trafficking reports 323%. The figures are a record of what was reported, which is not the same as a measure of how often children are harmed.

https://kifov.org/news/ncmec-cybertipline-2025-data-what-the-numbers-show/

NEWS · 30 OCT 2026

AI-generated abuse videos rose more than 260-fold in a year, the Internet Watch Foundation reports

The UK hotline confirmed 3,443 AI-generated child sexual abuse videos in 2025. Its data also shows sextortion cases more than doubling, almost all of them against teenage boys.

https://kifov.org/news/iwf-2025-ai-generated-child-abuse-videos-and-sextortion/

ANALYSIS · 30 OCT 2026

Australia's under-16 social media minimum age: what the first months show

Platforms removed access to about 4.7 million accounts in the first weeks. By March, the regulator had moved to enforcement against five of the biggest services. The early lesson is about age assurance, not willpower.

https://kifov.org/analysis/australia-under-16-social-media-minimum-age-what-the-first-months-show/

GUIDE · 30 OCT 2026

A child is being blackmailed with sexual images: what to do in the first hour

Stop, keep, report, remove, support. The advice of specialist services, in the order it matters, for the young person and for the adults around them.

https://kifov.org/resources/child-blackmailed-with-images-what-to-do/

GUIDE · 30 OCT 2026

Reporting on harm to children online: a practical guide for journalists and editors

How to cover abuse, exploitation and self-harm involving children accurately and without adding to the harm, from terminology to the help box at the end.

https://kifov.org/resources/reporting-on-harm-to-children-a-guide-for-journalists/

EXPLAINER · 30 OCT 2026

Take It Down, Report Remove and NeedHelpNow: how services that remove young people's images actually work

Hashing, hotlines and platform requests are three different mechanisms. Knowing which one you are using tells you what it can and cannot do.

https://kifov.org/explainers/how-image-removal-services-for-young-people-work/

GUIDE · 30 OCT 2026

How to report sexual images of a child that you find online, without putting yourself or the child at risk

Report the web address, never the file. A step-by-step route to the hotline that can have it removed, for four countries and everywhere else.

https://kifov.org/resources/how-to-report-child-sexual-abuse-material-online/

Verified help routes

If a child is in danger now, call the local emergency number. Each service below was checked on its official site; dates are shown.

Country	Service	Contact	Checked
International	**Find a child helpline in your country** Child Helpline International	childhelplineinternational.org	30 Oct 2026

Country	Service	Contact	Checked
International	**Report child sexual abuse material to your national hotline** INHOPE	inhope.org	30 Oct 2026
International	**Take It Down** National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)	takeitdown.ncmec.org	30 Oct 2026
International	**Find A Helpline** ThroughLine	findahelpline.com	30 Oct 2026
Australia	**Emergency services** Police, fire and ambulance services	Call 000 (Triple Zero)	30 Oct 2026
Australia	**Kids Helpline** Kids Helpline	Call 1800 55 1800 or chat online	30 Oct 2026
Australia	**Report online harm to eSafety** eSafety Commissioner	Report online	30 Oct 2026
Australia	**Report online child sexual exploitation** Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE)	Report online	30 Oct 2026
Australia	**Lifeline** Lifeline Australia	Call 13 11 14 or text 0477 13 11 14	30 Oct 2026
Canada	**Emergency services** Police, fire and ambulance services	Call 911	30 Oct 2026
Canada	**Kids Help Phone** Kids Help Phone	Call 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868	30 Oct 2026
Canada	**Cybertip.ca** Canadian Centre for Child Protection	Report online	30 Oct 2026
Canada	**NeedHelpNow.ca** Canadian Centre for Child Protection	needhelpnow.ca	30 Oct 2026
Canada	**9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline** 9-8-8	Call or text 9-8-8	30 Oct 2026
United Kingdom	**Emergency services** Police, fire and ambulance services	Call 999 or 112	30 Oct 2026
United Kingdom	**Childline** NSPCC	Call free on 0800 1111, or talk online	30 Oct 2026

Country	Service	Contact	Checked
United Kingdom	**Report Remove** Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation	childline.org.uk	30 Oct 2026
United Kingdom	**Report child sexual abuse imagery** Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)	Report online, anonymously if you wish	30 Oct 2026
United Kingdom	**CEOP Safety Centre** National Crime Agency (CEOP)	Report online	30 Oct 2026
United Kingdom	**NSPCC Helpline** NSPCC	Call 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk	30 Oct 2026
United Kingdom	**Samaritans** Samaritans	Call free on 116 123	30 Oct 2026
Ireland	**Emergency services** An Garda Síochána, fire and ambulance services	Call 999 or 112	30 Oct 2026
Ireland	**Childline** ISPCC	Call 1800 66 66 66 or chat online at Childline.ie	30 Oct 2026
Ireland	**Irish Internet Hotline** Hotline.ie	Report online	30 Oct 2026
Ireland	**Samaritans** Samaritans	Call free on 116 123	30 Oct 2026
New Zealand	**Emergency services** New Zealand Police, Fire and Ambulance	Call 111	30 Oct 2026
New Zealand	**Youthline** Youthline	Free call 0800 376 633, free text 234, or webchat	30 Oct 2026
New Zealand	**Netsafe** Netsafe	Report online harm, or chat online	30 Oct 2026
United States	**Emergency services** Local police, fire and ambulance services	Call 911	30 Oct 2026
United States	**CyberTipline** National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)	Report online or call 1-800-843-5678	30 Oct 2026
United States	**988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** 988 Lifeline	Call or text 988, or chat online	30 Oct 2026
United States	**Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline** Childhelp	Call or text 1-800-422-4453	30 Oct 2026

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