

Supplementary Item On:

Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Online Through Advances in Technology

Principal Sponsor: Christopher H. Smith, United States of America

1. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions on human trafficking adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg (1999), Brussels (2006), Oslo (2010), Belgrade (2011), Monaco (2012), Istanbul (2013), Baku (2014), Helsinki (2015), and Tblisi (2017), and all OSCE commitments related to combating human trafficking, as well as efforts by participating States to implement the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003 and 2005), the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2013);
2. Recalling the OSCE Sofia Ministerial Council Decision on The Special Needs for Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (2004), the OSCE Brussels Ministerial Council Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children (2006), and the OSCE Madrid Ministerial Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet (2007);
3. Recalling that the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings calls on participating States to train border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration and other relevant officials regarding the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) for committing trafficking in human being related crimes;
4. Alarmed that, according to the International Labor Organization, almost 2 million children are still victimized every year by commercial sexual exploitation (or sex trafficking), which includes the use of girls and boys in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind, child sex tourism, the use of children in sex shows (public or private), and the production, promotion and distribution of pornography involving children;
5. Distressed that sexual exploitation of children is a human rights violation that results in serious, lifelong consequences for the physical and psychological development and well-being of a child and, in many instances, is a form of human trafficking;
6. Concerned that classified ad websites on the Internet are being used openly by traffickers to advertise children for sex trafficking;
7. Alarmed that classified ad website owners accept payment from traffickers to advertise access to child sex trafficking victims, and sometimes intentionally remove the words and photos that would alert law enforcement that the victim is a child;
8. Distressed that children advertised for sex trafficking on classified ad websites are not permitted in some participating states to secure justice by suing the classified ad websites that advertised and financially benefitted from the children's sexual exploitation;

9. Concerned that prosecutors fail to prosecute website ad owners for knowingly or recklessly participating in and financially benefitting from the sex trafficking of a child;
10. Commending law enforcement officers that work cooperatively across borders to identify and rescue child victims of sexual exploitation whose images are posted online;
11. Concerned that, according to the United States Department of Justice, traffickers also seek out and groom children on social media platforms to lure children into sexual exploitation;
12. Alarmed that traffickers use pornography to groom children for sexual exploitation;
13. Distressed that, similar to many other studies, a 2016 study in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence (Stanley et. al) of 4,564 young people aged 14 to 17 in five participating States found in boys a statistically significant correlation between viewing online pornography and committing sexual coercion and abuse;
14. Alarmed that the 2006 European Journal of Developmental Psychology (Bonino, et. al) found that adolescent girls who report viewing pornography are more likely to report being victims of sexual harassment or forced sex at the hands of male friends or acquaintances;
15. Welcoming that numerous forms of age verification technologies have been developed over the last decade in the age-restricted online-gambling industry and are now available to protect children from accessing harmful internet pornography;
16. Commending participating States, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Iceland, and others implementing age verification technologies and requiring pornographic websites to have age verification that prevents the grooming of children for sexual exploitation;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Calls on OSCE participating States which have not already done so to enact laws so that children advertised and sold for sexual exploitation online can sue the website that financially benefitted from the child's sexual exploitation;
18. Calls on OSCE participating States to prioritize the prosecution of traffickers and all those who assist them, including classified ad website owners who financially benefit from advertising children for sex trafficking;
19. Requests that the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit examine ways in which it can assist participating States in identifying and rescuing children advertised for sex on classified ad websites;

20. Calls on OSCE participating States which have not already done so to work with the private sector on requiring and implementing new age verification technologies for access to pornographic websites, thus preventing child exploitation;
21. Calls on OSCE participating States to work with social media platforms on protecting children from pornographic content and intentional grooming by traffickers for commercial sexual exploitation; and
22. Urges participating States to train border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration and other relevant officials to identify and combat use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) for committing trafficking crimes.