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**MINSK  
DECLARATION  
AND  
RESOLUTIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE  
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**MINSK, 5 to 9 JULY 2017**

## RESOLUTION ON

### PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ONLINE THROUGH ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

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 Tbilisi (2016), 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), and 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 human trafficking and related crimes,
4. Alarmed that, according to the International Labour 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 advertising websites on the Internet are being used openly by traffickers to advertise children for sex trafficking,
7. Alarmed that classified advertising 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 to the fact that the victim is a child,
8. Distressed that, in some participating States, children advertised for sex trafficking on classified advertising websites are not allowed to seek justice by suing the classified advertising websites that advertised and financially benefited from the children's sexual exploitation,

9. Concerned that prosecutors fail to prosecute advertising website owners for knowingly or recklessly participating in and financially benefiting from the sex trafficking of a child,
10. Commending law enforcement officers that work co-operatively 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. Distressed that children are made vulnerable to committing or being victimized by sexual exploitation through exposure to pornographic websites,
16. 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,
17. 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:

18. Calls on OSCE participating States which have not already done so to enact laws allowing a child or former child victim to sue the classified advertising website which, in knowing or reckless disregard for the child's sexual exploitation, accepted money for advertising the child;
19. 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;
20. 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 advertising websites;

21. Calls on OSCE participating States which have not already done so to work with the private sector on requirements for and the implementation of modern verification technologies for access to pornographic websites, thus preventing child exploitation;
22. 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;
23. 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;
24. Calls on OSCE participating States to provide a decent system of shelter and both legal and psychological support for the victims of child exploitation located on their territory.