



## About

The End Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children (OSEAC) Coalition is a U.S. advocacy coalition that aims to improve U.S. government policies and programs to better prevent and address online sexual exploitation and abuse of children and provide appropriate support to survivors.

Officially formed in early 2022, the End OSEAC Coalition is the result of a series of community discussions that aimed to build a unified movement amongst civil society to address the growing threat of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children. During these discussions, attendees identified the need for an advocacy coalition that would amplify survivors and experts on this issue and push the U.S. government to do more to protect children's safety online.

## Coalition Objectives

- Galvanize champions, political will and leadership within the U.S. Congress and U.S. administration to prioritize the prevention of and response to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
- Support and contribute to the development of legislation and government programs that respond to identified gaps and weaknesses within the U.S.'s current legal framework and government-led initiatives related to the prevention of and response to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
- Support greater coordination within and between U.S. government agencies, both domestically and internationally focused, on efforts to prevent and respond to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
- Increase U.S. budgetary allocations to government-led programs that support the prevention of and response to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

## Membership

The End OSEAC Coalition consists of organizations committed to protecting kids online. Current members include:

Alignment Government Strategies  
Augusta Associates  
Brave Movement  
The Carly Ryan Foundation  
Child Rescue Coalition  
ChildFund International

National Child Protection Task Force (NCPTF)  
National Children's Alliance  
National Criminal Justice Training Center of  
Fox Valley Technical College (NCJTC)  
PACT  
ParentsTogether

Children's Justice Fund  
Darkness to Light  
Enough is Enough  
Fairplay  
Keep Kids Safe  
Global Hope 365  
Human Trafficking Institute  
International Justice Mission  
National Center for Missing and Exploited  
Children (NCMEC)  
National Center on Sexual Exploitation  
(NCOSE)

Protect Young Eyes  
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network  
(RAINN)  
Raven  
Rights4Girls  
THORN  
UNICEF-USA  
WeProtect Global Alliance  
World Vision  
Youth Power Project

## The Issue

Online sexual exploitation and abuse of children (OSEAC) is one of the fastest-growing crimes and threats against children, which we define as:

"All acts of a sexually exploitative nature carried out against a child that have, at some stage, a connection to the online environment. It includes any use of information and communication technology that results in sexual exploitation or causes a child to be sexually exploited or that results in or causes images or other material documenting such sexual exploitation to be produced, bought, sold, possessed, distributed, or transmitted." - based on the Luxembourg Guidelines

According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission (2021), the number of perpetrators sentenced for the production of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) has increased by a staggering 422% over the last 15 years.<sup>1</sup> According to the Internet Watch Foundation, the United States is the second highest hoster of CSAM in the world.<sup>2</sup>

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reported that, from 2021-2022, the number of CyberTipline reports of suspected CSAM rose from 29.3 million to over 32 million.<sup>3</sup>

The dramatic rise in OSEAC is due in part to the rise of social media and the lack of privacy protections online, allowing perpetrators and abusers to reach and exploit children through apps, websites, and video gaming platforms.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Sentencing Commission, *Federal Sentencing of Child Pornography: Production Offenses*. October 2021.  
[https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2021/20211013\\_Production-CP.pdf](https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2021/20211013_Production-CP.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Internet Watch Foundation. "Geographical hosting: URLs." Accessed November 6, 2023.  
<https://annualreport2022.iwf.org.uk/trends-and-data/geographical-hosting-urls/>.

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "CyberTipline 2022 Report." Accessed November 6, 2023.  
<https://www.missingkids.org/cybertiplinedata>.

In the last 20 years, reports of CSAM have increased by 10,000%.<sup>4</sup> The more recent rise in OSEAC can also be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which created a perfect storm that increased children's online risks. The world shifted to an online environment with teleworking and remote learning and many young children went online for the first time.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, perpetrators leveraged this as an opportunity to further target children.

Children are being exploited at increasingly younger ages. Of the 175,000 CSAM reports the Canadian Centre for Child Protection received over an 8-year period, 78% of the children were under age 12, and 63% were under age 8.<sup>6</sup> Of this material, 80% of the children were girls, while 19% were boys.<sup>7</sup> According to NCMEC, between 2019 and 2021, reports of sextortion more than doubled.<sup>8</sup> HSI has reported that boys tend to be most affected by financial sextortion.<sup>9</sup>

The methods and platforms used to groom children are constantly evolving and adapting to the online world we live in today, forcing law enforcement, government agencies, and NGOs working to prevent and respond to OSEAC to similarly change their tactics and tools in response.

Perpetrators are also often known to the child victim.<sup>10</sup> Multiple studies over the last decade have found that between 50-80% of CSAM perpetrators are committing hands-on offenses against children in their communities.<sup>11</sup>

According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, despite the rapid rise in reports of suspected OSEAC and child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) over the past decade, the number of federal

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<sup>4</sup> Thorn. "Eliminating CSAM." Last modified 2023.

<https://www.thorn.org/eliminating-csam/#:~:text=Reports%20of%20child%20sexual%20abuse,have%20increased%2010%2C000%25%20since%202004.&text=Our%20response%20to%20this%20epidemic,it%2C%20abuse%20and%20injustice%20thrive>.

<sup>5</sup> Quayle, Ethel. "Prevention, disruption and deterrence of online child sexual exploitation and abuse." *ERA Forum* 21 (2020): 429-447. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12027-020-00625-7>.

<sup>6</sup> Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Child Sexual Abuse Images on the Internet, (2016).

<https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/2699673/Cybertip-ca-CSAResearchReport-2016-En.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "Sextortion." Last modified 2023.

<https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sextortion>.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "Sextortion." Last modified August 22, 2023.

<https://www.ice.gov/features/sextortion>.

<sup>10</sup> National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "Sextortion: What Parents Should Know (missingkids.org)." Last modified March 21, 2023. <https://www.missingkids.org/blog/2021/sextortion-what-parents-should-know>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. "Butner Study Redux: A Report of the Incidence of Hands-on Child Victimization by Child Pornography Offenders." Accessed November 6, 2023.

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/butner-study-redux-report-incidence-hands-child-victimization-child>.

prosecutions has actually fallen.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, over 325,000 suspect leads sitting in databases funded by the Department of Justice are not being worked.<sup>13</sup> With limited resources, U.S. law enforcement agencies are increasingly unable to prioritize and respond adequately to the rapidly growing number of CyberTipline reports and are unable to proactively work cases of child sexual exploitation in their own jurisdiction.

Further complicating prevention efforts and investigations is the lack of regulations on tech companies that would require them to prevent and respond to OSEAC on their platforms.

Currently, the only requirement tech companies must meet is to report any CSAM they are “aware of” to NCMEC’s CyberTipline.<sup>14</sup> Companies have no obligation to proactively look for CSAM or remove it from their platforms quickly. There is no guidance on the types or quality of data they must include in the report, which leads to reports that are not actionable or helpful to investigators, limiting their capacity even more.

Companies are also not obligated to put in place additional protections for their child users to prevent them from being targeted and groomed by perpetrators or exposed to harmful content and there is little to no transparency on how they are assessing and mitigating risks.

As the proprietors of the online platforms upon which OSEAC is occurring, the technology sector has a responsibility to take action to ensure they are mitigating the risks children are experiencing online. Additional regulations should be passed that ensure tech companies live up to their responsibility of keeping their users – including all children – safe on their platforms.

## The Solution

The End OSEAC Coalition commissioned a comprehensive policy mapping report, [Protecting Children Online Through Policy \(Summary report and Executive Summary\)](#), to ensure the coalition had a complete understanding of the current U.S. political landscape around online sexual exploitation and abuse and where our efforts would have the most positive impact. Following the recommendations outlined in the report, we are engaging with Congress and the administration and pushing for three main asks:

1. Passage of legislation that addresses key gaps and weaknesses in the current U.S. legal framework
2. Increased U.S. budgetary allocations to government-led programs that support the prevention of and response to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

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<sup>12</sup> United States Sentencing Commission, *Federal Sentencing of Child Pornography: Production Offenses*. October 2021. [https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2021/20211013\\_Production-CP.pdf](https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/research-publications/2021/20211013_Production-CP.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. “Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.” Accessed November 6, 2023. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/internet-crimes-against-children-task-force-program>.

<sup>14</sup> National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. “CyberTipline 2022 Report.” Accessed November 6, 2023. <https://www.missingkids.org/cybertiplinedata>.

3. Increased and improved coordination within and between U.S. government agencies on efforts to prevent and respond to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

### Contact

To learn more about the End OSEAC Coalition, please visit our website: [endoseac.org](https://endoseac.org)

Contact the Coalition Coordinators via email: [coalition@endoseac.org](mailto:coalition@endoseac.org)