



LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT: ESSENTIAL CHILDREN'S COALITION AMENDMENTS TO THE ONLINE SAFETY BILL

Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety (CHIS)



Dear Secretary of State,



We write to you as a coalition of nearly forty organisations urging the government to adopt essential amendments to the Online Safety Bill, so that it fulfils its promise to children. We have come together to speak as one voice on the issues that are most important for children today and for future generations.



Our shared message is clear: without some significant changes to the draft Bill, the government will not live up to its promise of making the UK the safest place in the world to go online, or to give children the highest levels of protection.



The Bill must be amended to:



- Put children's experiences and needs at its heart and uphold their rights to freedom of expression, participation and protection from abuse.
- Ensure all services likely to be accessed by children are subject to the child safety duties, with requirements for compliance set out in binding, enforceable codes of practice.
- Provide the strongest possible incentives/obligations to detect and disrupt preventable online abuse.
- Require services to have secure, privacy preserving and effective age assurance where it is needed, so children can be given age-appropriate experiences.
- Demand meaningful transparency and accountability so that companies no longer put profit before children's safety.



We share your goal of ensuring the Bill upholds the rights of children and keeps them safe online, so we do not write simply to lay out the problems. We have jointly developed an amendment package that, if adopted in full, will ensure the Online Safety Bill delivers for children in the UK while setting a global benchmark for best practice. This is a once in a generation opportunity to change the digital world so that it benefits children and to set standards for child safety online which can be adopted in every jurisdiction. We urge the government to seize that opportunity by adopting these straightforward amendments.



Best wishes,



- 5Rights Foundation
- NSPCC
- Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety (CHIS)
- Breck Foundation
- National Children's Bureau
- British Youth Council
- SWGfL
- Ditch the Label
- Catch22
- Barnardo's
- My Life My Say
- Children England
- The Diana Award
- Include Youth
- Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)





Internet Watch Foundation

Carnegie UK

Clean Up the Internet

Save the Children

The Children's Media Foundation

The Children's Society

Children's Law Centre

SumOfUs

SchoolBeat

Parenting NI

Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT UK)

Molly Rose Foundation

The Student View

Fair Vote UK

The Signals Network

Childnet

Equality Now

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation

Hacked Off

Coventry Youth Activists

End Violence Against Women

Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

