

Children's Coalition for Online Safety

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KC MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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By email

CC: Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology
Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP, Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, Home Secretary
Amanda Brooks CBE, Director General for Trade Negotiations

4 April 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you as a group of 25 organisations committed to creating a safer and healthier online world, urging you to commit to making children's safety a red line in trade negotiations with the United States of America.

We are extremely troubled by reports which suggest that the Government is considering weakening enforcement of the Online Safety Act. This action would put millions of children at risk of harm and is counter to this Government's stated ambition to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online.

The online world is not optional for children. It is where they learn, socialise and access information, and it will define their future lives and careers.

We believe that the Online Safety Act is an integral first step in ensuring that tech companies are held accountable for the proliferation of illegal content, activity and harm to children on their platforms which has characterised our digital age.

At a roundtable with the writers of the Netflix drama *Adolescence* this week, you spoke of the concerns of parents who no longer understand where their children can be safe. While the story of Jamie, his family and his victim Katie is fictional, children's increasing exposure to the glorification of violence and hatred – particularly against women and girls – online is not. The best protection we have against these dangers is an Online Safety Act enforced with Parliament's full intent.

We have engaged closely with successive governments and Ofcom to offer our support and resources to help build a regulatory regime that delivers on the promises made during the passage of the Online Safety Act. We remain at your disposal in helping you achieve them.

Coming into government you made a commitment to raise the healthiest generation of children ever. We implore you to prioritise children's safety and wellbeing and deliver on this promise.

Yours sincerely,

5Rights Foundation
Erica Thornton, Breck Foundation

Alice Hendy MBE, Ripple Suicide Prevention Charity
Sue Jones, Ditch the Label
UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC)
South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL)
Clean Up The Internet
Childnet
Internet Watch Foundation
NSPCC
Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT) UK
Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)
National Children's Bureau
The Marie Collins Foundation
Online Safety Act Network
Greg Childs, The Children's Media Foundation
Molly Rose Foundation
Parent Zone
Anti-Bullying Alliance
Thomas William Parfett Foundation
End Violence Against Women (EVAW) Coalition
Dr Karen Middleton, University of Portsmouth and Conscious Advertising Network (CAN)
Internet Matters
Reset Tech
The Bereaved Families for Online Safety
 Ellen Roome
 Lisa Kenevan
 Ros and Mark Dowey
 Hollie Dance
 Amanda and Stuart Stephens
 Adele Walton
 Ruth Moss