

# The Com Network: An online movement targeting students

The Com (short for “community”) is an online network of individuals, **mostly minors**, who commit and encourage crimes like animal torture, incest, self-harm, sextortion, violent acts, and creating child sexual abuse material.

These networks target children and teenagers and manipulate them into engaging in increasingly harmful or violent behaviour.

The young perpetrators groom victims either by first establishing a trusting friendship or romantic relationship before using that relationship to produce and share acts of violence or self-harm. When relationships do not work, perpetrators use extortion to control victims through fear. Many Com members have an end-goal of forcing the victim to live-stream violent acts or their own suicide for the network’s entertainment.

Once a young person is recruited, they often become perpetrators themselves. Individuals within The Com network are usually **severely traumatized** because of this cycle.



## How & where are youth recruited?

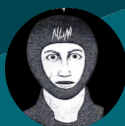
Mainstream social media platforms like **TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, X (formerly Twitter), and Telegram** are places that are used to find new victims. Most youth are using these platforms, making it easy to recruit on a larger scale.



Gaming platforms like **Discord, Roblox, and Minecraft** are often used for recruitment. Perpetrators often develop a relationship with their target before luring them to a different platform for exploitation. Minecraft and Roblox are often used to groom kids as young as 8-13.



The Com often targets vulnerable people, including LGBTQ+ youth, individuals with mental illness, or those with eating disorders or self-harm tendencies. Recruitment of these individuals can also happen within **online communities** focused on discussing these issues.



Some notorious groups within the Com Network are 764, No Lives Matter (NLM), Kaskar, Maniac Murder Cult (MKU, MMC, MKY), and Harmnation.



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# Preventative Measures

## **Talk about the digital world with students.**

Discussions about the internet should be an integrated part of teaching. Ask questions and encourage discussions on how they can think critically online, how and when to share personal information, and the risks and possibilities of being online. Be curious in your approach, listen to their experiences online, and do not judge.

**Suggestions on questions to start a conversation with a student that you are worried about. These are guidelines to get the conversation started. Not all questions apply in all situations.**

- Are you active online? What do you like to do?
- Do you spend a lot of time online?
- Do you play any online games? Which ones?
- What are your favourite forums to visit? Why?
- Are there any other social platforms or social media that you use?
- What do you like best about Internet? Is there anything you do not like?
- Do you have any online friends? What do you usually do?
- Has anyone been bad to you online? How?
- Have you been victimized online? If yes, would you like to tell us who did it?
- Does this also happen at school?
- Is there anything we adults at school should know about what happens online?

**If you are worried about a student, seek support and advice from other professionals. If you suspect that a crime has happened or are about to happen, report to appropriate authorities. It is not your job to investigate a suspected crime.**

**Scan the QR code below to find resources for support, advice, and reporting.**

QR CODE

