

Online Harm Targeting Youth

Child Grooming Online

Online child grooming is when adults (or children) try to manipulate or harm children through the Internet. Some groups find children and teens to make them do dangerous, harmful, illegal, and sometimes deadly things. These groups enjoy violence, they threaten or use violence to scare victims, and make children perform sexual acts on camera

Who They Target

Where Does it Happen: These groups use various online platforms for recruitment.



Warning Signs



- Someone asking you to share pictures of yourself
- Someone asks you to self-harm
- Offers to give you gifts in exchange for naughty photos
- Threatening to tell lies about you if you say no

If You Think This is Happening to You

- Stop all contact. Do not reply to any messages.
- Save everything. Take screenshots and save messages, usernames, email addresses, and any payment information
- Report this to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (US) or the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (Canada)
- Tell someone you trust and get help.
- **YOU ARE NOT IN TROUBLE - THEY ARE**



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Where to Get Free and Confidential Support

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC):

NCMEC is a charity that works to prevent these things from happening (<https://www.missingkids.org/home?lang=en-US>)

TakeltDown: TakeltDown (<https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>) is a free service provided by NCMEC which can help to remove photos of you from websites. Taking the photos off the internet makes the person harming you powerless.

Cybertip.ca is Canada's tipline for reporting any online sexual abuse of children. Operated by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P)

Remember

This is not your fault. You were targeted.

You are not in trouble.

It's okay to ask for help - you don't need to go through this alone.

United States

[National Center for Missing & Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#)

[Netsmartz](#)

Resources and educational content created by NCMEC

[Reach Out Resource Hub](#)

Find resources or organizations near you

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Canada

[Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#)

[Kids Help Phone](#)

[Cybertip.ca](#)

Reporting the online sexual exploitation of children

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

[CPN-PREV's Interactive Map](#)

Find a practitioner near you



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