



The Children and Young Persons' Global Online Charter

Internet

Safety

Security



A CEOP led VGT initiative



International Youth

The Children and Young Persons' Global Online Charter

The first International Youth Advisory Congress (IYAC) on internet safety and security was launched in London on 17 July 2008.

It brought together over one hundred and forty youth delegates between the ages of fourteen and seventeen from within the United Kingdom and across the globe to discuss online safety and security and to share their experiences of online and mobile technologies¹.

The purpose of the event was to give a voice to young people in a forum where representatives from government, the media, law enforcement agencies, the education sector and industry would not only hear it but also be encouraged and motivated to act on it.

What follows is a challenge for all of us who work with children and young people and who endeavour to represent their best interests. A clear message that cuts across divisions of generation, power, technological understanding and economic interest.

This message says the online and offline worlds have converged into one common space where children and young people have a right to be protected and kept safe from harm from those who would seek to abuse their trust.

It says in uncomplicated terms what children and young people need and want from those adults in positions to effect change and seeks to bring all interested parties together.

Internet

About the Global Online Charter

Safety

- ▶ The Charter outlines what the children and young people we spoke to feel they need and want from relevant agencies and corporations to keep them secure and safe from harm when using the internet and mobile technologies.
- ▶ It has been developed through working with the children and young people who inhabit virtual environments and by listening to their voices and calls for change.
- ▶ The recommendations reflect the feelings of children and young people in relation to how the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) may be interpreted in the online forum.
- ▶ The response to the ten recommendations from the IYAC youth delegates is a set of five pledges from the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) and seven pledges specifically from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre², which will be submitted for consideration under the 2009 Resolution to the UNCRC.

Security

¹ Youth delegates came from 19 countries across the globe. These included Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, Iceland, India, Italy, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

² The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre is a police organisation focused on the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation; it is affiliated to the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Launched in April 2006, it has a broad remit and range of functions to help tackle the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

Advisory Congress

The key messages and recommendations from the international children and young people who attended the IYAC are:

Education

We believe:

- ▶ every child is entitled to an education and information about cybersafety. The UN needs to listen to our views and to value the importance of online safety education for children and parents; and
- ▶ there should be a global homepage on browsers highlighting internet safety guidelines so that all children in the world can access them.

Government

We believe:

- ▶ governments need to use their collective powers to ensure that citizens know about cybersafety, to put pressure on industry to unify report abuse mechanisms, and on the media to promote online safety issues; and
- ▶ governments should implement trans-border agreements between nations to protect all children.

Industry

We believe:

- ▶ a mandatory and universal browser-based mechanism should be embedded on the toolbar of all social networking sites so that threatening behaviour can be reported in just two clicks without even leaving the webpage; and
- ▶ all information and intelligence regarding reports of child exploitation and abusive images should be passed to law enforcement agencies.

Law Enforcement

We believe:

- ▶ all convicted sex offenders should be registered and required to report regularly to law enforcement; and
- ▶ those convicted offenders who have failed to report should have their personal information released in order to protect potential victims.

Media

We believe:

- ▶ the media should broadcast existing internet safety films and resources in a wide variety of places to target youth audiences; and
- ▶ the media should tackle cyber and mobile bullying and give young people more of a voice in highlighting and reporting these issues.



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement



Internet

The Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) pledge to work collectively and tirelessly to empower and protect you, as children and young people, by ensuring that you:

- ▶ know where to go to get the help you need when you need it;
- ▶ are listened to seriously;
- ▶ are confident that your reports will be followed up and investigated;
- ▶ know that the information that you give us will be shared with professionals who have the power to help you; and
- ▶ are confident that we will work in a way that puts your safety first and does not put you at further risk.

Safety

To make sure this pledge is met for children and young people on a global scale so that they all get the same degree of protection, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre will:

- ▶ work effectively to identify and locate young victims of sexual exploitation and online abuse – both in the UK and internationally;
- ▶ enforce the law by bringing offenders to justice and acting to disrupt and deter future offending;
- ▶ seek to engage politicians across the world to change legislation and to guarantee a greater degree of protection for children and young people;
- ▶ work with industry in developing a safer online environment;
- ▶ endeavour to empower all sectors of the global community through information, education and public awareness raising;
- ▶ advocate for the remit of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to encompass the welfare of children using new technologies; and
- ▶ challenge those individuals and agencies from all sectors who enhance the risk to children through misinformation, inaction and social irresponsibility.

Security

Further details about the IYAC can be found in the supplementary document alongside an analysis of the online poll.

www.iyac.net

