we protect
Global Alliance

2024 Global Summit Report

4-5 December, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Online

WeProtect Global Alliance would like to acknowledge the Ministry of the Interior, United Arab Emirates for co-hosting and supporting the 2024 Global Summit.

Co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Interior

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

We are also grateful to the Government of Australia and the European Commission for their support.

Foreword

Child sexual abuse and exploitation online is a growing global threat that demands a coordinated response. It crosses geographical and sectoral boundaries, making it impossible for any single actor to tackle alone.

The WeProtect Global Alliance Summit 2024, co-hosted by the Ministry of the Interior, United Arab Emirates, marked a crucial moment in the international movement dedicated to ending the sexual exploitation and abuse of children online.

As children continually face new online risks with rapidly evolving and emerging technologies, the Summit brought together more than 1,000 attendees from 108 countries online and in person to discuss issues and solutions to the growing global challenge we face.

Held on 4-5 December in person in Abu Dhabi and online, the fifth iteration of the biennial WeProtect Global Summit provided an opportunity for multidisciplinary stakeholders from around the world to unite and commit to protecting children from predators exploiting technology to cause harm. Governments, civil society, technology leaders, child protection experts, survivors and youth representatives from across the world stood together with a common cause – to protect children.

With the theme 'Focus on the Future', the Summit covered topics from future risks to prevention, emerging technology, artificial intelligence (AI), law enforcement, legislation, regulation and more. It was thought-provoking and action-oriented, focused on driving real change for future generations.

In addition to creating a platform for the stakeholders to engage in interactive dialogues, exchange ideas and raise critical questions, the Summit issued a call to action to secure commitments from all the members to intensify their actions to efficiently combat child sexual abuse.

In particular, the call to action seeks for governments to strengthen international cooperation, enhance awareness and prevention, implement future-proof and technology-neutral legislation, address harmful norms and challenges, empower children and survivors, work to strengthen child protection systems and enforce these efforts.

The private sector was encouraged to support safety by design, invest in children's digital safety, favour collaborative approaches to the development of best practices, leverage technology for good and support updated policy, legislation, and regulations strengthened to protect children.

Civil society was urged to support and amplify the voices of children and survivors and advance data and research.

With the support and collaborative efforts of our strong membership – now more than 320 organisations around the world - we remain committed to driving systemic change by leveraging innovation, the latest research, and stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Together we must ensure that technology serves as a force for good and provides a safer digital future for all children everywhere. Together, we protect.

Lt. Col. Dana Humaid AlMarzooqi

Director General, International Affairs Bureau
UAE Ministry of Interior
WeProtect Global Alliance Board member

Iain Drennan

Executive Director
WeProtect Global Alliance

About the Summit

The 2024 Global Summit offered a unique opportunity to create a different future for children online as we fostered collaboration and candid conversations among Ministers, innovators, tech leaders, civil society organisations, policymakers, and changemakers of all ages and backgrounds.

More than 1,000 delegates from 108 countries joined the two-day event in-person and online. The agenda was developed in consultation with our members, prioritising topics that members wanted to hear about, with space to share their experiences and good practice, as well as opportunities for networking and collaboration. Across 28 agenda sessions (20 plenary, 8 breakout), participants heard from 99 speakers representing 80 organisations. We covered topics ranging from future risks to prevention, emerging technology, artificial intelligence (AI), law enforcement, legislation, regulation and more. Central to this agenda was the voices of children, young people and survivors. Across this agenda of keynote addresses and plenaries, panel discussions, break-out sessions, lightning talks, regional sessions and invitation-only events, a concerted effort was made to embed child, youth and survivor participation.

Global Summit objectives:

- Increase understanding of the threat of child sexual abuse
- Share knowledge, expertise and best practices
- Forge connections throughout the Alliance and build collaborative networks, deepening engagement among Alliance members
- Affirm and share commitments to protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse online
- Provide spaces to integrate the voices of young people and survivors into our global response

1000+ Attendees

108 Countries Represented

99 Speakers from 80 Organisations

Representation by Sector

Private Sector
14.8%

Intergovernmental
9.3%

Other
9.2%

Civil Society
34.8%

Funder
0.9%

Government
31%
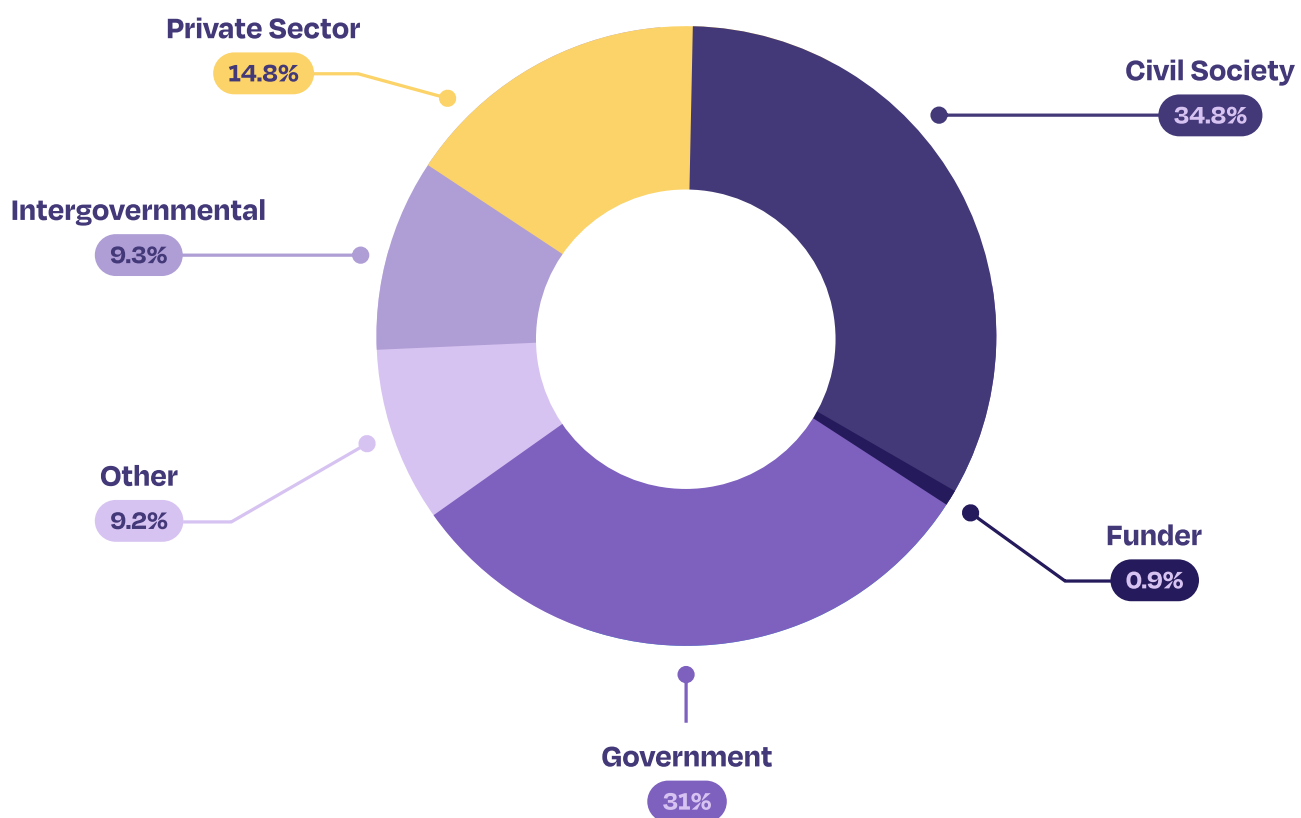
Other included academia, consultant, independent organisations

Summit Feedback

99%

Said the Summit met their expectations (18% said it exceeded them)

77%

Said it addressed key challenges and opportunities protecting children in a digital world

86%

Said the Summit provided opportunities to build knowledge

79%

Said the Summit provided meaningful networking & collaboration opportunities

The Summit Agenda can be found in the Appendix of this report.

"[The summit] was a confluence of knowledge, experiences & future directions. It served as an excellent platform for experts, practitioners and survivors to come together. The sharing of practical experiences & networking across diverse sectors provided a significant opportunity for national, regional, & global advocacy." – **Summit participant**

"The wellbeing of children cannot be treated as an afterthought in the race to advance technology— it must become the benchmark of progress." – **Baroness Joanna Shields OBE**

"Protecting children is the best and most beautiful work in the world. Even on the hardest days, it's still worth it, every second." – **Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen**

Day 1: Wednesday 4 December

Welcome address

Lieutenant Colonel Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi, Director General, International Affairs Bureau, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Interior and WeProtect Board member welcomed delegates to Abu Dhabi, highlighting the UAE's enduring commitment to the WeProtect Global Alliance and reflecting on the progress since hosting the 2015 summit. Emphasizing the need for action-driven discussions, she urged governments, technology companies and civil society to move beyond dialogue and commit to tangible steps to strengthen child protection, stressing that children's voices must guide the way.

> *"We have spent 10 years framing the problem and debating solutions. Now is the time for action. Unless we can rescue children faster and engage technology companies to invest more in AI tools, we will not achieve the mission of WeProtect Global Alliance."* **- Lieutenant Colonel Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi**

Iain Drennan, Executive Director, WeProtect Global Alliance, thanked the UAE Ministry of Interior for co-hosting the summit and reflecting on the Alliance's progress over the past decade. While technology has created opportunities, it has also introduced unprecedented risks, making online exploitation more complex. He stressed that the Alliance must go beyond identifying problems to creating solutions through technology, partnerships, and policy. Emphasizing the need for collective action, he urged attendees to use the summit to collaborate, break down silos, and push for meaningful change, keeping children's voices at the centre of decision-making.

> *"This summit is the Alliance in real time. Over the next two days, I challenge you—speak to someone new, share ideas, and turn dialogue into action. Together, we can create a digital world where no child lives in fear."* **– Iain Drennan**

In her opening address, Baroness Joanna Shields OBE, WeProtect founder and Board member, highlighted the alarming scale of online child exploitation, emphasizing the dual role of technology—particularly AI—in both enabling and combating abuse. She warned that engagement-driven digital platforms are exposing children to increasing risks, including AI-generated abuse and sextortion. Calling for urgent, proactive prevention, she urged tech companies, governments, and law enforcement to collaborate on stronger regulations and child-centred technology design. Citing initiatives like The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)'s AI for Safer Children, she stressed that safeguarding children must be a fundamental measure of progress.

> *"The time for half-measures and incremental fixes is over. Bold, transformative action is needed now."* **– Baroness Joanna Shields OBE**

Key points:

- **Technology is both a risk and a solution:** While AI and digital platforms have introduced new dangers, they can also be harnessed to prevent harm if used responsibly.

- **Regulation and accountability are urgent:** Governments must enact stronger laws, tech companies must redesign their platforms, and law enforcement needs better resources to tackle online exploitation.

- **Collective action is essential to moving:** Protecting children in the digital age requires cooperation between governments, industry, civil society and survivors.

Keynote address: A focus on humanity, tech and the future – plenary session

As we go through one of the most transformative times in human history, the places where children learn, play and interact will become increasingly borderless and the digital world an even bigger part of their lives. Futurist Nina Jane Patel's keynote address explored what will the future look like for children online and what role do we have to play in changing the future?

Her address offered a deeply moving and urgent call to action, highlighting the inescapable role of technology in children's lives from birth. She described how their every movement, preference, and interaction is tracked, stored, and analysed, presenting both immense opportunities and grave responsibilities.

Nina Jane underscored the growing digital threats facing children, from AI-generated child sexual abuse material to the dangers of gaming platforms and virtual worlds, where predators exploit immersive experiences. She highlighted how algorithms prioritise engagement over safety, amplifying harmful content and exposing children to risk. Emerging threats such as cryptocurrency's role in child exploitation, AI-driven manipulation and the increasing scale of online abuse were also discussed.

Sharing her own personal experience of abuse in a virtual environment, Nina Jane illustrated how digital harm is often dismissed or minimised, despite its very real impact. She urged the audience to recognise that silence only protects perpetrators and that open discussions about harm are essential for change.

Ending on an optimistic note, she compared the fight against online exploitation to NASA's Artemis programme, arguing that if humanity can solve the challenges of living on the Moon, then protecting children in the digital age is also possible. She called for a "moonshot mindset", urging leaders to take decisive action to create a safer digital world for future generations.

Key points

- **The digital world shapes children's lives from birth:** Every aspect of their development is tracked and influenced by technology, making safety an urgent priority.

- **Emerging technologies are both a risk and an opportunity:** AI, gaming, virtual worlds, and cryptocurrencies present new threats, but they can also be harnessed for protection.

- **We need bold, collective action:** a "moonshot" approach, urging leaders to commit to systemic change to ensure online safety.

> *"This is both our greatest power and our greatest responsibility…Silence protects the wrong people, and we've been silent long enough."* **– Nina Jane Patel**

Opening ceremony – plenary session

UNICEF Youth Advocate and President of the Emirati Children's Parliament, Ghaya Al Ahbabi, welcomed delegates to the UAE on behalf of children worldwide. She highlighted the critical importance of cybersecurity and online safety, emphasising that every child, regardless of nationality or language, deserves to feel protected in the digital world. She praised the UAE's leadership in child protection, recognising the nation's commitment to safeguarding children online and promoting responsible digital behaviour.

She stressed that while cyberspace offers vast opportunities for learning and connection, it also presents significant risks such as cyberbullying, identity theft, and harmful content. These dangers impact children's mental health, confidence, and trust in online spaces. She urged global leaders to adopt a shared vision for a safer digital world, calling on policymakers to prioritise children's needs when shaping online safety strategies.

> *"The decisions made here will shape our future. We deserve to feel safe when we learn, play, and connect online. Together, we can create a world where technology is a force for good—one where every child can thrive in the digital age."* **- Ghaya Al Ahbabi**

His Highness Lieutenant General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, opened the WeProtect Global Summit in Abu Dhabi emphasising that "protecting children goes beyond a moral obligation; it is a shared responsibility for all."

He highlighted that children represent the cornerstone of the future, and prioritising their security is an investment in a sustainable tomorrow. He urged stakeholders to address digital age challenges, calling for

strengthened partnerships with global technology companies. He encouraged corporations to leverage artificial intelligence and innovative technologies to create secure digital spaces for children to grow and thrive.

Acknowledging the foundational role of families, HH Sheikh Saif highlighted that families remain the primary line of defence in safeguarding children and guiding them toward the responsible use of technology. He stressed the importance of equipping families with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate digital challenges and raise a conscientious and responsible generation.

Summarising the essential nature of this work, His Highness reaffirmed that the world's future hinges on the provisions made for children today. He called for collective efforts to bolster digital integrity and establish a safe, nurturing environment to pave the way for a brighter, safer future for children.

> *"We are dedicated to stepping up global collaboration in the effort to safeguard children." - His Highness Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan*

Survivor perspectives: stepping up action for a safer future – plenary session

Session overview:

Survivors of child sexual exploitation and abuse took centre stage, sharing their personal stories, insights and visions to inspire a collective reimagining of how we approach child protection, advocate for policy changes and empower others to take action toward a safer, more compassionate world for children.

Panellists:

- Mark Neil Ontong, Survivor Consultant and Leader, International Justice Mission
- Nina Jane Patel, Futurist and Survivor Advocate
- Kanga Rasi, Head of Africa Region, The Brave Movement
- Cornelius Williams, WeProtect Board member, former UNICEF Global Director Child Protection (moderator)

This powerful survivor-led session reinforced the critical role of survivor voices in shaping policies, advocating for change, and driving more effective child protection solutions. Cornelius Williams opened by highlighting the importance of centring survivor expertise, ensuring that their lived experiences inform strategies that protect children more effectively.

Kanga Rasi delivered an opening address calling for a digital world where every child can explore, learn, and thrive safely. The Brave Movement's work demonstrates the impact of survivor-led advocacy,

particularly in shaping stronger online safety measures and influencing policy reforms. She emphasised the importance of survivor leadership in campaigns and legislation, including their contributions to the African Union Model Law, which will be critical as by 2050, a third of the world's children will live in Africa.

Nina Jane Patel shared insights into emerging threats in gaming extended reality (XR). She highlighted how virtual spaces are embedding themselves in children's lives and how the work of Internet Crimes Against Children Specialists is essential in identifying and mitigating these risks.

Mark Neil Ontong spoke about best practices for ethical and meaningful survivor engagement. He introduced the Voices of Empowerment report, a guide for organisations on how to work ethically and effectively with survivors. His message underscored the importance of institutional commitment to survivor leadership in shaping policies and interventions.

The session concluded with a screening of 'Beyond the Screen', a film co-created with survivors and presented by the Brave Movement, bringing the impact of technology-facilitated abuse to life through the experiences shared by three courageous survivors, Olivia from the USA, Rhiannon from the UK and Saanika from India.

Key points:

- **Survivors are not just voices**—they are experts who must be engaged meaningfully to shape policy, prevention, and response strategies.

- **Emerging digital threats in gaming and extended reality require urgent attention**, with survivor insights playing a key role in designing protective measures.

- **Legislative frameworks,** such as the African Union Model Law, must incorporate survivor expertise to ensure a future-proof approach to child protection.

Building the case for prevention – plenary session

Session overview:

As child sexual abuse rates continue to grow, critical gaps in prevention and intervention strategies remain. This session explored perspectives to strengthen our collective understanding and strategies for preventing abuse and make the case for continued investment and innovation in creating safer futures for children through development of a new global framework.

Panellists:

- Deborah Denis, CEO, Lucy Faithfull Foundation
- Aengus Ó Dochartaigh, Outreach Director, MOORE Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Johns Hopkins University
- Nicolas Makharashvili, Director, Safe Futures Hub
- Sean Litton, President and CEO, Tech Coalition

Moderator: Marija Manojlovic, WeProtect Board member and Executive Director Safe Online

Marija Manojlovic highlighted that most resources currently go towards responding to abuse rather than preventing it, despite evidence that proactive strategies are essential to ending violence against children. She outlined the three stages of prevention—primary (cultural and systemic changes), secondary (risk intervention), and tertiary (long-term support and prevention of reoffending).

Aengus Ó Dochartaigh challenged the mindset that child sexual abuse is inevitable, sharing research showing a 20% reduction in victimization in organisations with safeguarding measures. He called for greater investment in prevention, particularly in addressing harmful sexual behaviours among young people. Nicolas Makharashvili introduced the Safe Futures Hub, which compiles evidence-based solutions to prevent sexual violence against children, highlighting the cost-effectiveness of prevention compared to dealing with the aftermath.

Deborah Denis discussed the critical role of interventions for potential perpetrators, describing the 'Stop It Now' helpline and a chatbot developed with the Internet Watch Foundation to direct users searching for child abuse material to support resources. Sean Litton stressed embedding prevention in technology with safety-by-design principles and introduced Project Lantern, which allows tech companies to share intelligence on individuals violating child safety policies.

The panel also noted work by WeProtect Global Alliance to develop a prevention framework.

Key points:

- **Child sexual exploitation and abuse online is preventable, not inevitable**—evidence-based solutions exist and must be scaled with greater investment.

- **Interventions for potential perpetrators** must be a key component of prevention, breaking stigma and providing pathways to change behaviour.

- **Stigma remains a major barrier to progress,** limiting investment, understanding, and willingness to engage in prevention work.

> *"Child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable. Fatalism is a huge barrier to action, so we need to challenge it."* **– Aengus Ó Dochartaigh, MOORE Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Johns Hopkins University**

> *"Prevention means creating environments where risks are anticipated, mitigated, and safety is designed from the bottom up."* **– Sean Litton, Tech Coalition**

Artificial intelligence and the future – plenary session

Session overview:

His Excellency Omar Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications gave an inspiring speech on the game changing benefits of AI, highlighting the forward-thinking strategy and policies of the government of the United Arab Emirates. As the digital economy and AI technology continue to develop at a rapid rate, it is vitally important that these opportunities are accessible to all, with safety by design and the best interests of children at the heart of global AI development. The UAE would remain at the leading edge of innovation in this critical area.

New horizons: emerging trends shaping the future – plenary session

Session overview:

What are the key emerging risks that could shape the future of child protection over the next decade? WeProtect Global Alliance and Thorn launched new research on global emerging technological trends, followed by a panel with global experts exploring proactive strategies to prevent child exploitation and abuse before harm occurs.

Panellists:

- Julie Cordua, CEO Thorn and WeProtect Global Alliance Board member (moderator)
- Mama Fatima Singhateh, Special Rapporteur on the Sale, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children
- Courtney Gregoire, Vice President, Chief Digital Safety Officer, Microsoft
- Yuhyun Park, Founder, DQ Institute

Julie Cordua emphasized the need for a proactive approach, anticipating risks and building safety into digital systems rather than reacting after harm occurs. She introduced the Evolving Threats research project, a collaboration between Thorn and WeProtect, which surveyed experts to identify key concerns and potential solutions.

Mama Fatima Singhateh discussed children's concerns regarding emerging technologies. While threats such as sextortion, livestreaming, and grooming are well-known, AI is amplifying these risks, making it harder for children to recognize manipulation. She stressed the need for better digital literacy and support systems, noting that many helplines operate only during office hours, leaving children without resources when they need them most.

Courtney Gregoire emphasized that safety must be built into technology from the start, with clear guardrails determining what systems should and should not do. She advocated for greater collaboration between industry, policymakers, and young people to ensure digital safety measures are effective. She also highlighted AI's role in both risk and prevention, noting its potential to identify harmful content and support protective interventions.

Yuhyun Park reflected on the unprecedented rate of technological change, citing research showing that 70% of children worldwide aged 8 to 18 have experienced a cyber risk. She urged stakeholders to move from awareness to action, coordinating efforts without prioritizing institutional interests over child protection. She shared an analogy of a maritime disaster in South Korea, where 300 children died due to uncoordinated rescue efforts, stressing that collaboration is key to saving lives.

The panel concluded on a hopeful note, emphasizing progress in addressing online harms and the potential of AI-driven prevention tools, while acknowledging that rising exploitation rates require more effective collaboration among governments, industry, and civil society to implement meaningful change.

Key points:

- **We need to be future focused rather than reactive** when considering the risks technology poses to children.

- **Children are aware of risks but want more support and protections**—a coordinated; multi-sector approach is necessary.

- **Safety by design** should be a key principle in all technological advancements to prevent harm before it occurs.

> *"Young people and children know risks but they want more support and tools to protect themselves before it happens."* **– Mama Fatima Singhateh**

WeProtect Global Alliance and Thorn release report on new and emerging technologies impacting online child safety

At the Global Summit, WeProtect Global Alliance, in collaboration with Alliance member Thorn, launched a groundbreaking report titled "*Evolving Technologies Horizon Scan: A Review of Technologies Carrying Notable Risk and Opportunity in the Fight Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation*." This new research initiative brings together insights from nearly 300 multidisciplinary stakeholders worldwide to proactively identify and address critical tech trends. The report analyses how these evolving technologies are expected to significantly impact online child safety over the next 5-10 years.

Key technologies examined in the survey include predictive AI, generative AI, end-to-end encryption, extended reality, decentralization, and quantum computing.

Key findings from the report include:

- **Multiple technologies must be considered together.** No single technology can be the sole focus. The technologies highlighted in this report do not operate in isolation, nor do children or offenders use them independently. Addressing only one technology at a time risks creating critical protection gaps.

- **A child's privacy is integral to their safety.** The debate around safeguarding children from online abuse often presents a false dichotomy: privacy removal with monitoring or reacting to abuse reports after the abuse or report of the abuse takes place. Neither extreme is holistic in protecting children's safety and rights.

- **Technology presents both risks and solutions.** While technology has accelerated risks of child sexual abuse and exploitation, it is also essential for combating these harms. However, building effective solutions requires diverse and specialized expertise and strong cross-sector and public support.

The report delves into the current and potential future implications, both positive and negative, of each key technology in relation to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

For example, while predictive AI is a critical tool to detect abusive content at scale, it may also suggest risky content and profiles to users. Similarly, while XR technologies are unlocking travel and learning experiences previously out of reach for many, it also opens new environments and ways to socialize, often without the existing protections designed to keep digital interactions safe.

> *"The rapid pace of technological innovation brings wonderful and exciting opportunities but also risks, especially for children growing up in this digital age. It's vital that we proactively identify and address these emerging threats. This report, bolstered by the expertise of hundreds of global stakeholders, arms us with important insights to build a safer digital world for the next generation."*
>
> **- Julie Cordua, CEO of Thorn**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: EXPLORING NEW TRENDS AND ISUES IN DEPTH

Tackling the rise of AI-generated child sexual abuse material

Session overview:

From modifying and distorting existing images to creating deepfakes, AI is fuelling a wave of new challenges for child safety. This session featured insights from law enforcement, technology experts, governments and regulators on the latest trends in AI-driven abuse and how they're addressing current and emerging risks to children online.

Panellists:

Chelsea Carlson, Child Safety Lead, Special Investigator, OpenAI
Yalda Aoukar, President, Bracket Foundation
Fallon McNulty, Director, CyberTipline, National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
Sean Litton, President and CEO, Tech Coalition

Moderator: Denton Howard, WeProtect Global Alliance Board member and former Executive Director, INHOPE

Fallon McNulty and Chelsea Carlson explained AI's role in sextortion, abuse manuals, and synthetic CSAM creation. Yalda Aoukar discussed AI's dual role in exacerbating and counteracting online child sexual exploitation, emphasizing the need for proactive intervention. Fallon McNulty highlighted the challenges AI-generated abuse poses to investigations and victim identification, introducing the "Take It Down" tool to help victims regain control over their images.

Sean Litton updated on Tech Coalition's initiatives to combat AI misuse, implement safety-by-design principles, and foster cross-sector collaboration. He highlighted the Voluntary Commitments framework guiding tech companies in integrating child safety protections into AI development.

Chelsea Carlson shared OpenAI's approach to safeguarding children, stressing the importance of industry-wide cooperation in developing detection tools and enforcement mechanisms. Denton Howard discussed INHOPE's work with law enforcement, noting a 103% increase in reports of child sexual abuse and exploitation in 2023/24, and warned that actual numbers are likely higher due to detection difficulties.

Key points:

- Law enforcement is struggling to detect AI-generated CSAM, making it harder to safeguard victims. As new criminal models emerge, law enforcement must stay ahead of technological developments.

- The tech industry is actively working to combat AI-enabled child abuse, collaborating across sectors to develop solutions, invest in research, and implement safeguards.

- AI-generated CSAM is expected to increase significantly, as observed in real time by civil society organisations such as INHOPE and NCMEC.

> *"In 2023/2024, we saw a 103% increase in reports of child sexual abuse and exploitation—but we know the real number is higher. It's just harder to see."* **– Denton Howard, WeProtect Global Alliance, INHOPE**

Health and wellbeing: looking after frontline responders

Session overview:

WeProtect Global Alliance and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police presented research on the health, wellbeing and work impacts of responding to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, including work-related risk and protective factors and recommendations to enhance work practices, build resilience and improve staff retention.

Panellists:

- Roberta Sinclair, Manager, Strategic Policy and Research, Strategic and Operational Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Bethany Jennings, Research Manager, WeProtect Global Alliance
- Michael Marwa, Direction National Child Helpline Tanzania, C-SEMA
- Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen, Executive Director Protect Children and Psychotherapist

Moderator: Christian Papaleontiou, WeProtect Global Alliance Board member and Deputy Director, Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit, UK Home Office

Moderator Christian Papaleontiou emphasized the traumatic nature of this work and the need for structured support systems.

Roberta Sinclair presented findings from a research project by the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, highlighting key challenges and protective factors. As a result, a three-hour training program, 'Taking Care of the Caregivers,' was developed.

Bethany shared findings from WeProtect Global Alliance's research, emphasising the importance of feedback systems, career development and organisational flexibility.

The panel then discussed practical strategies for supporting mental health. Michael Marwa described the emotional toll on volunteer counsellors in Tanzania, highlighting essential support mechanisms. Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen stressed that wellbeing support must start at the leadership level, advocating for a holistic approach spanning recruitment to post-employment care.

The session concluded with a call for greater investment in mental health resources, evidence-based policies, and a shift in workplace culture to ensure those protecting children receive the support they need.

Key points:

- Frontline responders' work has a significant impact on their health and wellbeing, which is still not fully understood or addressed.

- There are proven strategies to mitigate harm, but they require commitment and resources to be effectively implemented.

- Wellbeing support should be holistic, embedded from recruitment to post-employment, and ingrained in organisational culture.

"While we can change how we do the work, we can never change that we have to do the work, sadly. That is our responsibility." **– Dr Roberta Sinclair, Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

"We need evidence for policies for governments to invest in mental health and psychosocial support for frontline responders." **– Michael Marwa, Direction National Child Helpline Tanzania, C-SEMA**

Emerging risks and solutions: insights on the ground

Session overview:

Organisations from across the world will share key insights following a series of working meetings where they explored current and future issues and solutions, strengthening the localization agenda on the sexual exploitation of children facilitated by technologies. This session provides critical insights from regions in the global majority that should inspire further collaboration across regions and globally.

Panellists:

- Anna Nabulya, Deputy Executive Director, UYDEL Uganda
- Seila Samleang, Executive Director, APLE Cambodia
- Juliet Ohahuru-Obiora, Program Director, Action Against Child Sexual Abuse Initiative
- Oscar Valverde Cerros, Executive Director, Fundación Paniamor
- Dr Indrani Bhattacharyya, Chief Executive Officer, Child in Need Institute

Moderator: Guillaume Landry, WeProtect Global Alliance Board member and Executive Director ECPAT International

During 2023-2024, ECPAT International convened a series of workshops in eight global regions bringing 551 participants together from 143 countries, including 260 civil society organisations. The purpose was to take of stock of collective action against sexual exploitation of children in all its manifestations, exploring trends, emerging threats and share innovative practices and solutions to prevent exploitation and protect children. Regional workshops were held in <u>Austria</u>, <u>Costa Rica</u>, <u>Jordan</u>, <u>Kenya</u>, <u>Nepal</u>, <u>Senegal</u>, <u>Thailand</u> and <u>Uzbekistan</u>, generating powerful insights from a localised perspective on how the fight against technology-facilitated sexual exploitation of children is taking a different shape according to national and regional dynamics, demonstrating the need to further engage with the global majority on the way forward. The session at the Summit explored how child sexual exploitation is being transformed by the intersection of digital technologies in Global Majority countries, offering the first panel completely led by leaders of the South on the subject since the creation of WeProtect Global Alliance.

In the Americas, the session explored how exploitation increasingly operates within complex criminal ecosystems where sexual abuse is not an isolated phenomenon but interlinked with drug trafficking, cybercrime, and human trafficking. These networks are exploiting digital tools to expand their reach and increase profits, often outpacing the ability of legal and social protection systems to respond. In South Asia, the delegate from India pointed out that digital platforms are being used to recruit, manipulate, and control children, particularly through false job offers, emotional grooming, and blackmail. Offenders exploit weak enforcement capacity, limited cross-border cooperation, and outdated legal frameworks, creating impunity—especially in countries with under-resourced justice systems. The shift from physical to virtual abuse spaces has fundamentally altered the nature of harm, requiring new approaches to detection, protection, and intervention. In regions like East and Southern Africa, for example, local organizations are seeing increasing overlaps between online exploitation, substance abuse, and children's involvement in criminal networks or violent extremism. However, despite these alarming trends, the services needed—particularly trauma-informed care, mental health support, and child-friendly reporting mechanisms—remain limited or inaccessible. The discussion revealed how traditional forms of abuse in

South and Southeast Asia—such as child marriage or exploitation in brothels—are being replaced or supplemented by digital tactics, including live-streamed abuse and online grooming. In Eastern Europe, marginalised communities such as Roma children remain acutely vulnerable due to social exclusion, institutional mistrust, and low digital literacy. Civil society actors are not only filling service gaps but also building bridges between communities and institutions. They are using child-centred, peer-to-peer, and restorative justice models to empower children and create safe, responsive environments.

In these contexts, civil society plays a critical role in monitoring new patterns, advocating for stronger digital regulation, and supporting prevention within informal or high-risk environments like transport hubs and tourism zones. Civil society organisations are also innovating. Community-led responses—such as informal education spaces, youth mentorship, sports programmes, and arts-based interventions—have proven effective in helping children process trauma, understand risks, and build resilience. Such grassroots approaches are deeply contextual, culturally relevant, and often more trusted than formal structures, especially among marginalised populations.

A key message from the session was that civil society must not only be supported but protected. In many countries, organisations face regulatory pressure, loss of funding, and political hostility, particularly when addressing taboo or sensitive issues. Yet their unique role—as service providers, watchdogs, educators, and advocates—is indispensable. Without civil society, early warning systems weaken, victims remain unseen, and state-led responses risk becoming detached from reality.

Key Takeaways:

- Child sexual exploitation is evolving rapidly through digital platforms and criminal networks. The shift to online abuse has made exploitation more anonymous, cross-border, and commercially viable. Laws and enforcement structures must adapt quickly to this changing landscape.

- Civil society organisations are essential to any effective response. Their local presence, cultural knowledge, and trusted relationships allow them to detect abuse early, reach marginalized children, and create innovative prevention and protection strategies that institutions often cannot replicate.

- Ground-level insights must shape global strategies. Many of the most effective interventions are coming from grassroots actors who understand the lived realities of children. Sustained funding, legal protection, and genuine partnership with these organizations are vital to ensuring meaningful, context-specific child protection efforts worldwide.

A roadmap for navigating the future of age assurance

Session overview:

Digital age assurance is a complex and sensitive issue, requiring a careful balancing of rights and risks. This session brought together insights from policy, regulatory, industry, and civil society to share effective approaches and discuss how we can build a common global framework for understanding the age of users.

Speakers:

- Chloe Setter, then, Child Safety Public Policy Lead, TikTok [Virtual]
- Natascha Gerlach, Centre for Information Policy Leadership [Virtual]
- Liz Thomas, Director Public Policy, Digital Safety, Microsoft
- Liz Curtis, Head of Programmes, Praesidio Safeguarding

Moderator: Helen King, Founder and Director, Praesidio Safeguarding

Helen King and Liz Curtis from Praesidio Safeguarding opened the session by setting the scene, outlining the importance of a principles-based approach to digital age assurance. They emphasized the need for collaboration across policy, regulation, industry, and civil society to ensure effective and ethical age verification systems.

The session featured presentations from three working groups that have been shaping discussions around age assurance:

- **Risk assessment working group:** Natascha Gerlach discussed the role of risk assessments in ensuring balanced, rights-based age assurance approaches. She highlighted the need for a holistic framework that considers both child safety and data protection.

- **Legal and regulatory working group:** Liz Thomas presented on the complex legal landscape surrounding age assurance, noting overlapping and conflicting regulations and the need for greater legal clarity and interoperability.

- **Regional and global perspectives working group:** Chloe Setter shared insights on regional and cultural variations in age assurance policies, stressing the importance of context-specific solutions that reflect socioeconomic realities.

Following these presentations, Iain Corby from the Age Verification Providers Association contributed insights on practical applications of age assurance technologies, using real-life scenarios to illustrate challenges and potential solutions.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion exploring the future of age assurance over the next 5–10 years. Topics included:

- Emerging issues in implementing age assurance technologies

- Progress made and remaining challenges

- Integration of emerging technologies into WeProtect Global Alliance's prevention framework, which will be developed during 2025 alongside our Global Threat Assessment.

- Ensuring diverse global needs and perspectives are reflected in solutions

Video messages

"Our goal is to help stop the cycle of abuse, and our message is one of hope. It is one of prevention, and it is one with a focus on the future. Prevention is an investment in current and future generations… With great power comes great responsibility, and the responsibility to prevent child sexual abuse is all of ours to shoulder. Child sexual abuse is preventable, not inevitable. We must act now."

- Steve Moore, founding donor of MOORE | Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

"Despite the distance which separates us, we are all united by our collective effort to make the digital environment safer and more rights respecting for every child. AI will continue to be a highly topical issue in 2025 [and presents] a particular challenge for children who do not have the lived experience or development cognition to make the necessary judgments which increasingly fool adults and experts alike. Let's champion a digital world that protects their rights and empowers them to thrive in an environment designed with their best interests in mind."

- Baroness Beeban Kidron OBE, Founder and Chair 5Rights Foundation

"No single organisation, government, or platform can solve these issues alone. It requires united action from all of us—governments, regulators, industry, parents, carers, and educators, but most importantly, young people themselves…. We must stay ahead of the curve, adapt to emerging technologies, and continue to innovate ourselves."

- Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner, Australian Government

National perspectives and future commitments to combat exploitation and abuse

In a closed-door session, government Ministers met with technology leaders to discuss progress in tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse online, outlining current challenges, sharing best practices and reaffirming their commitments to future actions.

His Excellency Yılmaz Tunç Minister of Justice Republic of Türkiye also addressed a plenary session, speaking about Türkiye's commitments to keeping children safe online. His Excellency Nawal Kishor Sah , Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal made remarks about Nepal's work in this space – see the case study below.

Ministers attending the Global Summit

1	Republic of Belarus	H.E. Ivan Kubrakov	Minister of Internal Affairs
2	Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal	H.E. Nawal Kishor Sah	Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
3	Republic of the Philippines	H.E. Juanito Victor C. Remulla	Secretary, Department of the interior and local Government
4	Republic of Serbia	H.E. Milica Đurđević Stamenkovski	Minister for Family Care and Demography
5	Republic of Seychelles	H.E. Errol Fonseka	Minister for Internal Affairs
6	Republic of Srpska	H.E. Siniša Karan	Minister of Interior
7	United Republic of Tanzania	H.E. Dorothy Gwajima	Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups
8	Republic of Türkiye	H.E. Yılmaz Tunç	Minister of Justice
9	United Arab Emirates	Lieutenant General H.H. Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed AlNahyan	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interiori

Nepal case study

Nepal's multi-sectoral approach mobilises partnerships across government, civil society, and the private sector, including internet service providers, to ensure a collaborative and accountable response. The country's legal framework maintains a zero-tolerance policy, with the National Child Rights Council leading child protection efforts and a dedicated cyber bureau ensuring swift action against perpetrators.

Nepal is in the final stage of approving its Children's Online Protection Operational Procedures, which will provide clear guidance for digital platforms, content moderation, age verification and reporting mechanisms. However, challenges remain, including digital literacy gaps, socioeconomic barriers, and the cross-border nature of online crimes, which require stronger international cooperation.
Nepal actively engages with INTERPOL, the UN, and the WeProtect Global Alliance to enhance intelligence sharing and develop coordinated responses to transnational threats.

> *"This…is not just a national priority but a global imperative. By strengthening laws, building capacity and fostering collaboration, we can create a digital world where every child is safe, empowered, and free from harm." – H.E. Nawal Kishor Sah , Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal*

Day 2: Thursday 5 December

Look back, looking forward – keynote address

Ernie Allen, WeProtect Global Alliance Board Chair addressed the Summit via video, sharing his reflections on changes in child sexual exploitation and abuse and the key challenges ahead

Ernie Allen's keynote address marked the 10th anniversary of the first WeProtect summit, reflecting on the progress made and the urgent challenges that remain. He recounted how the initiative was launched under the leadership of former UK Prime Minister David Cameron, evolving from a global campaign into a powerful alliance uniting governments, tech companies, and civil society.

Ernie emphasised that despite significant achievements, the scale of online child sexual exploitation continues to grow at an alarming rate. He cited harrowing statistics, including a 360% increase in self-generated sexual imagery of young children, a 7,200% rise in reports of sextortion, and the increasing use of AI to generate and distribute child abuse material. He also highlighted the threat of grooming on gaming platforms, where children can be manipulated within seconds of first contact.

The address called for stronger global action, with a focus on prevention, regulation, and accountability. Ernie likened the current moment to a "seatbelt moment" for the tech industry, urging companies to integrate safety into product design, much like past safety regulations in industries such as automotive and food. He stressed that voluntary compliance is not enough and called for mandatory safety measures to ensure all companies participate in protecting children.

In conclusion, Ernie urged world leaders to elevate child protection on the global policy agenda, alongside other pressing issues such as climate change and economic instability. He reminded the audience of the original mission of the Alliance —to "protect childhood itself"—and called on governments, industry, and civil society to act with urgency and unity.

Key points:

- The scale of online child exploitation is rapidly increasing, with AI, gaming, and social media creating new risks for children worldwide.

- Prevention and regulation must be prioritised, ensuring child safety is embedded in technology design rather than relying on voluntary measures.

- Child protection must be a global policy priority, requiring strong leadership and collaboration across governments, industry, and civil society.

Hopes, reflection and creating a different future – plenary session

Session overview:

As online risks continue to evolve, influential voices Evan Spiegel, CEO Snap Inc and Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative on Violence against Children, shared their visions, strategies, and commitments to creating a safer digital world.

This session featured a discussion between Snap Inc. CEO Evan Spiegel and journalist Jacob Side, focusing on Snapchat's approach to safety by design, the challenges and opportunities in online child protection, and the role of industry collaboration in keeping young people safe online.

Evan explained how Snapchat was founded with a different vision from traditional social media and shaped by his own experience growing up with social media, where he saw the pressure of likes, comments, and curated digital personas negatively impact young people's well-being.

He outlined Snapchat's key safety-by-design principles and emphasised that Snapchat continuously evolves its safety measures by listening to NGOs, policymakers and young users. He highlighted recent innovations such as proactive safety warnings when users add unfamiliar contacts and the Family Center tool, which allows parents to see their child's friends on Snapchat without viewing message content.

On the broader issue of online safety, Evan acknowledged that collaboration across sectors is crucial. He expressed gratitude to law enforcement, nonprofits, and policymakers working to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse and reaffirmed Snap's commitment to working closely with experts to tackle emerging threats.

"The threats are continuously evolving, which is why collaboration with experts, nonprofits, and law enforcement is essential to keeping young people safe online." - **Evan Spiegel**

In conversation with Iain Drennan, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, emphasised the urgent need for action to protect children in both online and offline environments. She highlighted that while there have been many voluntary initiatives and commitments over the past decade, real accountability and sustainable prevention efforts are still lacking. She called for child safety and privacy by design in digital platforms, urging the tech industry to take proactive measures rather than reacting after harm has occurred.

She stressed that child protection cannot be divided into separate online and offline strategies, as risks often overlap. A cross-sectoral, collaborative approach is necessary, involving governments, private sector, civil society and local communities. She also underscored the importance of practical, context-specific tools rather than an overproduction of guidelines that fail to reach those who need them most. She urged for stronger accountability mechanisms, increased use of existing data to prevent harm and a shift from competition to genuine collaboration.

"If we truly want to move forward, we must go beyond cosmetic approaches. This is not about branding or competition—it is about saving lives, and children cannot afford to wait." **- Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid**

#MyVoice #My Future youth insights and film– plenary session

Felicity a SheLeads Youth Advocate from Ethiopia, and Juliet Ohahuru Obiora, Programme Director of Action Against Child Sexual Abuse Initiative, led a powerful session amplifying the voices of young people on their experiences, concerns, and hopes for a safer digital world. Felicity opened the session with a powerful poem on generation perspectives for online safety.

The session premiered a film made by WeProtect Global Alliance – and partners ChildSafeNet and ACSAI - with young people in Nigeria and Nepal which shared the real-life consequences of online harm, including sextortion, blackmail, grooming, and trafficking. The young people filmed called for urgent action to protect their rights online, stressing that the internet must be a space for empowerment, not exploitation.

Key insights from consultations with young people across the world gathered by WeProtect Global Alliance with our partners highlighted young people's desire to be active participants in shaping digital policies, ensuring that laws and protections reflect their lived experiences. The film and the research urged decision-makers to balance safety and privacy, provide easy access to protective tools, and respect their right to control their online presence.

The research and the film both underscored that delivering a safe digital world is a shared responsibility—one that requires collaboration across governments, technology companies and civil society.

> *"I hope the internet doesn't lose its spark. There are so many things to explore and learn from. I want the specialness of the internet to have its freedom while being protected."* **– Young Person, Youth Consultations #MyVoice#MyFuture**

#MyVoice#MyFuture Digital Rights

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBQj2FldW3w
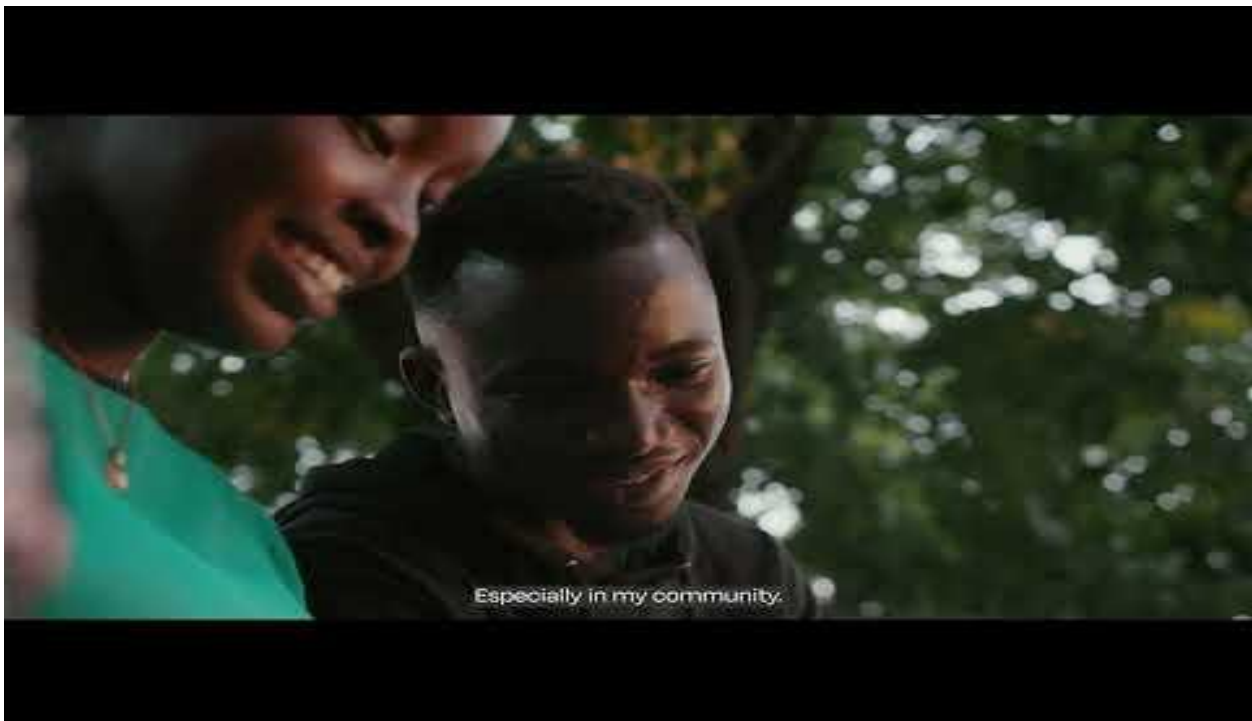
BREAKOUT SESSIONS: A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

#MyVoice#MySay: participation in practice

Session overview:

Alliance members from across sectors brought to life innovative child-centred case studies and explored key standards and principles for ethical child and youth participation. This session is co-produced and led by youth advocates.

Speakers:

- SheLeads GYW Youth Advocates – Felicity, Hajaru, Betty, and Phenny
- Natalie Foos, Youth Founder, Voicebox
- Minister of Estonia (virtual)
- TikTok Youth Council (pre-recorded)
- Luisa Sotomayor, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

This interactive youth-led session highlighted the critical role of children and young people in shaping digital safety policies and solutions. The discussion focused on meaningful participation, going beyond tokenistic engagement to ensure young people have a real influence on decision-making.

The session introduced the Alliance's meaningful participation framework, which outlines four key pillars of youth involvement:

- **Consultation** – engaging young people to share their views.
- **Collaboration** – working alongside them to develop solutions.
- **Co-production** – supporting youth-led innovation.
- **Youth-led approaches** – empowering young people to take leadership roles.

Youth moderator Felicity led the discussion, engaging experts on best practices for involving young people in decision-making. Key points included:

- Ensuring fair remuneration for young people participating in policy and advocacy work
- Providing a "double benefit", where young people gain skills and opportunities while contributing to meaningful change.
- Highlighting youth-led digital safety solutions, such as the POP (Protection through Online Participation)
  Project and the youth-driven initiatives from the Abu Dhabi GNRC youth forum.

HE Signe Riisalo, Minister of Social Protection of the Republic of Estonia [joined the session online and emphasised the impact of child and youth participation on policy development, sharing examples of how young people's insights have directly influenced national online safety strategies.

The session also included interactive elements, with youth leaders guiding participants through a survey to challenge biases about young people's ability to contribute to decision-making. They also conducted an intergenerational dialogue activity, "The Generation Gap: Which Differences Make a Difference?", comparing how different generations experience digital spaces. While older generations associate technology with exploration and novelty, younger generations navigate a high-risk, immersive digital world—a distinction that must shape online safety efforts.

The session concluded with a call to action for stakeholders to commit to working with young people as equal partners in digital safety.

"This session is a call to really commit to work with the next generation." **– Phenny, Youth Leader, GYW Youth Advocates**

Using AI in the fight against child sexual abuse

Session overview:

From clustering users on darknet forums to AI-driven analysis of support chats for children, World Childhood Foundation presenters Susanne Drakborg, World Childhood Foundation's Thematic Lead on Child Safety Online, and Erika Olsson, Stella Polaris Project Coordinator, shared insights on how society can use AI to advance the fight against child sexual abuse. Participants gained insights into the potential of leveraging AI to keep children safe, and inspiration on how to engage in cross-sectoral collaborations.

From clustering users on darknet forums to AI-driven analysis of support chats for children, World Childhood Foundation shared insights on how society can use artificial intelligence (AI) to advance the fight against child sexual abuse.

In June 2021, World Childhood Foundation launched the Stella Polaris project – a Swedish AI hub to coordinate, encourage and intensify AI-related initiatives to combat child sexual abuse. Stella Polaris gathers stakeholder groups that usually do not meet; both those already working specifically on AI or prevention of child sexual abuse, and those working in other areas who can learn more and contribute to this societal challenge. The aim is to contribute to an increase of actors and resources focused on fighting child sexual abuse with the help of AI.

The session emphasized the diverse applications of AI, from small tools that make a difference in *everyday* work to ambitious initiatives changing the trajectory of child sexual abuse prevention, including perpetration prevention. Practical examples involving government stakeholders, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations were included, as well as the role AI plays in advancing research. Not only is more research needed to understand how AI can combat child sexual abuse, but AI can also make research more effective by improving data collection and analysis.

The objectives of the session included:

- Facilitating an exploration of how AI can be leveraged in combating child sexual abuse, enabling participants to better understand its potential, limitations, and practical applications.

- Encouraging participants to connect across disciplines, sharing knowledge and spark innovative ideas for AI-driven approaches to tackling child protection issues, with an emphasis on collaboration between sectors.

- Equipping attendees with practical insights and inspiration, motivating them to take concrete steps in integrating AI into their work, ensuring that the knowledge gained translates into meaningful action.

How technology and new learning are shaping law enforcement

Session overview:

How is AI technology and new learning providing tools and opportunities for law enforcement around the world? This session featured four case studies from leading law enforcement and academic professionals, highlighting the latest research and the value of international collaboration across borders.

Case study presentations from:

- Simon Bailey, International Policing and Public Protection Research Institute, Anglia Ruskin University
- Lydia Davenport, Childlight Institute
- Irakli Beridze, UNICRI
- Sean Sutton, UK National Crime Agency, Virtual Global Taskforce

Moderator: Mark Beavan, Head of Crimes Against Children, INTERPOL

Mark Beavan opened the session by setting the context for global policing efforts. Simon Bailey then presented insights on Operation Artemis, an initiative designed to disrupt online offenders and protect children from sexual abuse. He outlined how AI and data-driven approaches are enhancing detection and prevention efforts.

Lydia Davenport talked about building law enforcement capability in Africa, highlighting the Kenya Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit and its expansion into online investigations. She shared case studies from Kenya and Tanzania, demonstrating how technology is improving law enforcement capabilities and enabling cross-border cooperation. She also introduced plans for an African Centre of Excellence in Kenya, focusing on research, training, and capability-building.

Irakli Beridze focussed on an AI-driven initiative developed by UNICRI and the UAE Ministry of Interior, aimed at building law enforcement capacity to leverage AI in combatting child exploitation. He emphasised

the positive potential of AI in identifying and preventing abuse, while also acknowledging the risks and challenges of AI-driven crime.

The importance of global law enforcement cooperation was covered by Sean Sutton, who shared insights into the role of global cooperation in fighting CSEA, explaining how joint law enforcement efforts, intelligence-sharing, and coordinated strategies are essential for staying ahead of offenders. He also outlined the future priorities of the Virtual Global Taskforce.

Following the presentations, participants engaged in a discussion on the challenges faced by law enforcement in the Global South, reinforcing that prevention should be prioritised alongside enforcement.

Innovation and responding to future risks

Session overview:

As we continue to face new and emerging threats, we also need innovative ways to tackle them. This session will feature innovations being developed to protect children online. This session explored innovative solutions to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse, highlighting technology-driven safety initiatives in social media and gaming. The discussion reinforced that traditional education and legal interventions alone are insufficient, and that agile, community-driven and tech-enabled approaches are essential to keep children safe online.

Speakers:

- Helen King, Founder and Director, Praesidio Safeguarding
- Maria Tamellini, Co-Founder and COO, GamerSafer
- James Smith, Head of Trust and Safety, PGI

Moderator: Guillaume Landry, WeProtect Global Alliance Board Member and Executive Director, ECPAT International

Helen King shared insights from Ghana, where traditional safety messaging failed to resonate with young people. By collaborating with local influencers and using culturally relevant methods like dance, Praesidio reached millions with protective digital literacy content. The discussion emphasized that co-designing interventions with young people ensures education is engaging, effective, and context specific.

James Smith emphasised the need to move upstream of threats by studying offender behaviour, infrastructure, and vulnerabilities before harmful content reaches platforms. He highlighted that while AI should handle low-complexity harms, human expertise remains critical for complex, network-driven exploitation. The discussion underscored the importance of integrating safety-by-design principles into gaming and digital spaces from the outset. He stressed the importance of using AI to detect and prevent mass, low-complexity, repeatable harms before they escalate.

Maria Tamellini highlighted the rapid grooming tactics offenders use, citing data from the 2023 Global Threat Assessment, and explained how multiplayer games designed to foster social connection are also being exploited by bad actors for grooming and exploitation. She emphasized the importance of player verification, trust-based matchmaking, and intelligence-sharing across gaming and social media platforms to

prevent harm. The discussion reinforced that while gaming offers positive experiences for young players, safety measures must evolve to protect them at scale.

The session concluded with a discussion on the growing urgency of safeguarding mobile gaming spaces, particularly as smartphone adoption and online gaming accessibility continue to rise globally. The speakers emphasised the need for collaborative, multi-sector approaches that bring together policy, technology, and community-driven initiatives to effectively address online risks.

Key points:

- Online safety education must be locally relevant and youth-driven—co-designing interventions with young people and leveraging cultural influences ensures messaging is impactful and widely adopted.

- Effective online safety in gaming requires player verification, trust-based matchmaking, and cross-platform intelligence-sharing to prevent exploitation while preserving positive gaming experiences.

- A proactive, intelligence-driven approach—combining AI for large-scale detection and human expertise for complex harms—is essential to staying ahead of online child exploitation in gaming. Relying solely on traditional education and legal measures is not enough to protect children online.

"At some point, bad actors have to surface onto the open web to engage children. Understanding where and how they do so is key to preventing harm." **– James Smith**

Uniting for impact: national and transnational state collaboration – plenary session

Session overview:

As technology continues to outpace traditional methods of investigation and prosecution, governments and law enforcement agencies face growing challenges in combating online child sexual abuse and exploitation. This session explored actionable strategies on how governments can strengthen legal frameworks, work collaboratively with industry, enhance international collaboration and harmonization and support proactive measures to address transnational crimes.

Speakers:

- Sokunthea Sambath, Deputy Secretary General, General Secretariat of the Cambodia National Council for Children, Cambodia
- Kate Charlet, Head of Global Privacy, Safety, and Security, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google
- Lt. Col. Abdulrahman Altamimi, Deputy Director General, International Affairs Bureau, UAE Ministry of Interior, UAE
- Brenno Andrade, Commander, Cyber Crimes Division, Brazil Police

Moderator: Antonio Labrador Jimenez, Team Leader, Fight Against Child Sexual Abuse, European Commission

Antonio Labrador Jimenez introduced the session by outlining the European Commission's role in combating child sexual exploitation and abuse, emphasising the need for legislative alignment, cross-border cooperation, and industry engagement.

Sambath Sokunthea discussed how Cambodia has been addressing violence against children since the 1990s and was the first ASEAN country to conduct a national VAC survey in 2013. Findings from the Disrupting Harms Global Study informed a five-year national action plan (2021–2025). Cambodia is also developing child online protection guidelines for the tech industry, strengthening data-sharing with Interpol, and integrating online safety education into school curricula.

Brenno Andrade discussed how Brazil's federal-state cooperation has resulted in major successes through 'Operation Light in Childhood', a multinational initiative launched in 2017. This operation, which involves countries like the US., Panama, Ecuador, and the UK., has led to over 2,000 search and seizure warrants and numerous arrests. Brazil also collaborates with NCMEC and the Child Rescue Coalition to enhance investigative capabilities.

Kate Charlet spoke about how Google employs CSAM detection technology and hash matching to identify and remove child abuse material, offering its child safety toolkit free of charge to aid global investigations. She also talked about how Google collaborates with WeProtect Global Alliance, INHOPE and NCMEC providing supplementary CyberTip reports to support law enforcement in urgent cases.

Lt. Col. Abdulrahman Altamimi outlined how the UAE follows a three-pronged approach to child protection, engaging the community, government and industry. He called for greater tech industry responsibility in addressing AI-generated abuse and encryption challenges that hinder law enforcement efforts.

Key points:

- Collaboration between law enforcement, governments, and the tech sector is critical—as legislation becomes more fragmented and new risks emerge, cross-platform cooperation and legal harmonisation must be prioritised.

- Safety-by-design must be embedded in technology development to address emerging threats like AI-generated CSAM proactively.

- Perpetrators operate across multiple jurisdictions using advanced technology—international cooperation, intelligence-sharing, and joint operations are essential to combat these crimes effectively.

> *"Protecting children is not just our responsibility; it is our collective mission. Together, we are building a safe future for the next generation."* – **Sambath Sokunthea, General Secretariat of the Cambodia National Council for Children, Cambodia**

> *"Integration between state police forces, federal governments, and international governments is essential for investigations. International cooperation and joint operations allow for more effective crime-fighting, as criminals often operate in multiple jurisdictions."* – **Brenno Andrade, Brazil Police**

> *"What can we do better together? Whenever we work with governments as industry partners, we want it to be a dialogue. We want governments to have transparency and visibility of our efforts, and we want to learn what matters most to them."* – **Kate Charlet, Google**

Shifting safety on a regional scale – plenary session

Session overview:

International cooperation and globally aligned approaches are essential for ensuring that all children can explore the digital world without fear of abuse or violence. This session featured high-level representatives from the Council of Europe and the African Union sharing their respective and shared challenges, successful initiatives and thoughts on further action at the national and international level.

Speakers:

Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
Angela Martins, Acting Director for Social Development, Culture and Sport, African Union

Moderator: Sheema Sen Gupta, WeProtect Board member and Director Child Protection, UNICEF

Sheema Sen Gupta introduced the session by framing the challenges and opportunities in protecting children from online abuse and exploitation in different regions, focusing on Europe and Africa.

Marja Ruotanen discussed the Council of Europe's efforts in child protection online. The Council of Europe, with 46 member states, has been actively involved in protecting children from abuse and violence online. They have over 200 legally binding conventions, including the Lanzarote Convention, which protects children from sexual abuse and exploitation. These conventions are adaptable to various cultural, religious, socioeconomic, and legal contexts, making them applicable globally. The Council also monitors the implementation of these conventions and provides support to improve their application.

Marja also highlighted the importance of protecting victims and mentioned the Barnahus model, a child-friendly approach to supporting child victims. By ratifying these conventions, countries can benefit from shared experiences and best practices in child protection.

Angela Martins discussed the diverse digital access and regulatory frameworks across the African continent. She emphasized the African Union's efforts to create consistent standards for child online protection, considering the diversity of its member countries. She spoke about the African Union's work developing a model law to combat online child sexual exploitation, guiding member states in creating or strengthening laws, policies, and programs. This initiative, supported by ChildFund International and the African Child Policy Forum, addresses evolving digital risks and promotes cross-border cooperation.

The future of regulation – plenary session

Session overview:

Can regulation keep pace with the rate of technological change? What's on the horizon and how can be join up global responses to close the gaps? What needs to be done to support countries at the beginning of their regulatory journey? The session examined key emerging issues, the impact of current regulations on child safety, and discussed the need for a coherent global framework with clear targets for the future.

Panellists:

- Soyoung Park, Non-Proliferation Division Manager, Digital Sex Crime Content Review Bureau, Korea Communications Standards Commission
- Tajeshwari Devi, Acting Commissioner, Online Safety Commission, Fiji
- Arda Gerkens, President, Authority for the Prevention of Online Terrorist Content and Child Sexual Abuse Material, Netherlands
- Abdelaziz Abdalla Alzarooni, Chairman, International Child Online Protection Group at the ITU, Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, UAE

Moderator: Sarah Blight, Head of Online Safety Strategic Partnerships and Security, Online Safety Group, Ofcom

Sarah Blight outlined the global move from self-regulation to legislative enforcement, citing the Digital Services Act (EU) and national laws in Australia, the UK, Nigeria, and beyond. She stressed the need for international cooperation through the Global Online Safety Regulators Network (GOSRN) and WeProtect Global Alliance.

Soyoung Park reflected on South Korea's 2023 AI deepfake crisis, warning that swift legal responses alone are not enough. Stronger legal frameworks, public awareness, and international collaboration—such as bilateral agreements and engagement with INHOPE—are key to addressing CSAM removal gaps.

Tajeshwari Devi shared Fiji's experience in establishing an online safety regulator, proving that smaller nations can implement effective protections. Fiji's 2018 Online Safety Act serves as a model for how smaller countries can create impactful online harm regulations. She urged larger countries to take greater responsibility for regulating platforms operating globally.

Arda Gerkens emphasised the role of the safety tech industry in supporting online safety legislation, advocating for self-regulation wherever possible while ensuring regulatory bodies act as facilitators rather than enforcers alone. She called for closer alignment of global legislative responses but acknowledged that variation in regulation can also drive innovation and urged international cooperation to prevent CSAM hosting sites from moving between jurisdictions, stressing that countries must work together to ensure there are no safe havens for offenders.

Abdelaziz Abdalla Alzarooni detailed the UAE's proactive regulatory strategies, including the Emerging Technology Observatory, which enables companies to test innovations against regulations. He also announced a new ITU-led quarterly meeting with tech giants to ensure accountability and open dialogue.

Key points:

- Global collaboration through bodies like GOSRN and WeProtect is essential to closing enforcement gaps.
- Laws must adapt to emerging threats like AI-generated CSAM.
- Regulators and tech companies must work together to balance innovation and accountability.

> *"Tackling such issues [such as the deepfake crisis in South Korea] requires more than rapid regulatory action. It demands stronger legal frameworks, public awareness efforts, and international collaboration... This crisis reminded us that effective horizon scanning is not just about anticipating or identifying risks—it is about working together to tackle them."* **– Soyoung Park**

Reframing the future: a new narrative and lessons from India – plenary session

Session overview:

In a landmark ruling on 23 September 2024, the Supreme Court of India ruled that individuals can face criminal liability for viewing, downloading, storing, or distributing child pornography. This session, introduced by Steve Grocki, WeProtect Global Alliance Board Member and Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, United States Department of Justice, focussed on Just Rights for Children Alliance's work behind the scenes.

Speaker Bhuwan Ribhu, Founder of the Just Rights for Children Alliance shared a story about a 15-year-old girl from India who was lured on social media, trafficked, and abused, highlighting the need for stronger child protection laws.

A landmark judgment by the Supreme Court of India in September 2024 redefined the legal stance on possession of child sexual abuse material, emphasizing the importance of urgent legal reforms to protect children. This change in consciousness shifted the narrative from adult indulgence to child exploitation and abuse, encompassing text, voice notes, and other forms of digital content. It also opened a new era of jurisprudence, allowing civil society to challenge injustices in court.

Bhuwan stressed the need for policy parity, investment in infrastructure, capacity building, and a comprehensive response to combat the economy of child rape, advocating for an international database to track sex offenders and ensure global cooperation. He emphasized that the fear of online abuse should be in the minds of perpetrators, not children, and called for increased enforcement and societal support to protect children.

He concluded by urging collective action and accountability, highlighting that history will judge us by our efforts to protect children today.

Key points:

- Legal reforms are crucial, as seen in India's September 2024 Supreme Court ruling on child pornography possession.
- Combating child exploitation requires joint action from society, governments, and civil organizations.
- Stronger enforcement and accountability must shift the fear from victims to perpetrators.

> *"History is going to judge us from what we do today in terms of increased number of prosecutions, increased number of arrests, increased number of people identified, increased number of properties seized and attached, increased number of children who are coming up to report, increased number of rehabilitated children, increased number of mental health professionals, increased number of actions that each one of us has done."* **– Bhuwan Ribhu**

Closing address

In closing the Summit, Lt. Col. Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi thanked participants and reinforced the importance of global collaboration in protecting children and young people in the digital world.

Iain Drennan emphasised the critical role of partnerships and collective action, highlighting the achievements of WeProtect Global Alliance and its 320 member organisations. He called for sustained commitment, urging all stakeholders—including governments, civil society, intergovernmental organisations, and the private sector—to take responsibility and translate discussions into tangible actions. He recognised the efforts of policymakers, researchers, and survivors advocating for change, reinforcing child protection as a shared responsibility.

As the summit concluded, participants were asked to move forward with urgency, innovation and unwavering dedication, ensuring that every child has the right to a safe and empowering digital world.

> *"It is not 'I protect, you protect,' but 'we protect.' We all have a role to play, and we cannot simply hope that others take the strain… The future we envision—a safer, empowering digital world for children—will not happen on its own. It will be built by the collective will and action of everyone in this room and beyond.…Together, we are a powerful global movement—with the power to collectively drive real change."* **– Iain Drennan**

APPENDIX

Call to action: a focus on the future

Statement issued 5 December 2024

As delegates of the WeProtect 2024 Global Summit on 4-5 December in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, we remain committed to creating a positive digital future for children.

Having gathered together as a united Alliance, we:

1. **Recognise a growing global crisis:** Child sexual exploitation and abuse online is a heinous and escalating global issue, compounded by emerging technologies that pose new opportunities for offenders and new risks to children. Victims and survivors suffer life-long impacts, highlighting the urgent need for action.

2. **Acknowledge progress and challenges:** Notable strides have been made, including advancements at the Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children in Colombia, Sixth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children and critical resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly and other regional bodies, alongside laudable national and transnational achievements by Alliance members and other stakeholders. However, we also recognise that the pace of change must accelerate to outpace the evolving threats.

3. **Commend countries that have implemented measures** in line with international frameworks, laws and standards, and have promoted public policies with the specific aim of addressing violence against children, and we urge all governments to follow suit.

4. **Call for deeper collaboration and commitment:** In 2023, over 300 million children were estimated to be victims of online abuse and exploitation. Only through unified efforts can we create safer digital environments. We recognise that Governments, private sector leaders, civil society organisations, and all stakeholders must continue to align strategies and pool resources to safeguard children globally.

Overarching commitments

All members of WeProtect Global Alliance commit to:

- Use their resources, networks and influence to drive forward the collective global response to child sexual exploitation and abuse online.

- Identify and progress their role in implementing the Model National Response and Global Strategic Response frameworks as part of their strategies and action plans to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse online.

- Contribute to Global Threat Assessments and other knowledge gathering exercises to share their progress at least once every two years.

- Provide information to the Alliance on progress and activities on implementing the commitments on a biennial basis.

- Ensure genuine participation of victims/survivors and children during the development of policy, programmes, tools and/or legislation.

Government delegates pledge to:

1. Strengthen cooperation

a. Advance national, regional, and international collaboration efforts, including through greater inter-sectoral coordination.
b. Sign and ratify the Council of Europe Lanzarote Convention or implement similar legislation.
c. Use international platforms and participate in regional bodies to exchange best practices.

2. Enhance awareness and prevention

a. Raise public awareness about the prevalence of child sexual exploitation and abuse.
b. Educate parents, caregivers and children about digital safety and collaborate with civil society, educational institutions and governments to arm young people with skills to navigate digital spaces safely and securely.
c. Invest in evidence-based prevention strategies, such as those consistent with the WeProtect Global Alliance Model National Response to end child sexual exploitation and abuse online or INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children framework.

3. Implement future-proof and technology neutral legislation

a. Introduce comprehensive laws which prohibit all forms of violence against children and provide effective access to justice for victims.
b. Criminalise emerging threats such as AI-generated abuse, sextortion, and deepfakes.
c. Amend domestic legislation, policy and practice to ensure compliance with obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.
d. Prioritise children's wellbeing by passing or enhancing tech-neutral, globally aligned legislation.

e. Strengthen or introduce regulations to encourage technology sector participation in eradicating online exploitation and abuse of children, prioritising mandating take down procedures and shortening notice periods.

4. Address harmful norms and challenges

a. Cultivate safe environments for children by addressing harmful norms that perpetuate violence.
b. Acknowledge the different challenges faced by girls, boys and children with disabilities when improving child safety policies and procedures.

5. Empower children and survivors

a. Place the wellbeing of the child at the centre of national plans to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals, recognising that social and gender inequalities undermine the rights of the child.
b. Foster meaningful child participation in policymaking to ensure their voices shape solutions and inform decision making.
c. Value and seek out the voices of those with lived experience of child sexual abuse and exploitation online to inform policy and legislative developments and decision making.

6. Work to holistically strengthen child protection systems

a. Build on existing child protection systems to ensure that they are inclusive and have in place legal and policy frameworks, governance and coordination structures, a continuum of services for survivors, minimum standards and oversight mechanisms, resources, mechanisms for child participation and community engagement and data collection and monitoring systems, to both prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children both offline and online.
b. Ensure well-resourced mental health and psychological support services are in place to support victims/survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation.
c. Place diversity and inclusion at the heart of strategies to improve child protection systems, recognising the particular risks for children in poverty, with disabilities, or who have been displaced.

7. Coordinate and enforce

a. Strengthen cross-sector responses at a country and global level using tools such as the WeProtect Model National Response framework.
b. Proactively engage with the technology industry to better understand trends and challenges affecting online safety.
c. Promote dialogue across religions, cultures, and generations to prevent crimes against children, eliminate harmful norms and build resilient communities.

Private sector delegates pledge to:

1. Support safety by design

a. Build age-appropriate and safe digital services for children.

b. Involve Trust and Safety personnel and solutions at the early ideation stage of new development.
c. Embed child safety knowledge across engineering, policy, and product teams.
d. Foster children's participation in product development and design to ensure their voices shape solutions.
e. Better understand the consequences of child sexual abuse and exploitation through meaningful engagement with people with lived experience.

2. Invest in children's digital safety

a. Strengthen Trust and Safety teams, ensuring senior leadership includes personnel dedicated to pioneering safety solutions to combat online risks to children.
b. Invest in partnerships and projects with civil society to develop safety solutions.
c. Proactively work to address risks amplified by payment platforms and banking tech, such as sextortion and deepfake abuse.

3. Favour collaborative approaches to development of best practice

a. Share best practice with industry peers, civil society and government regulators, to avoid siloed discussions around solutions to combat online child safety risks.
b. Welcome engagement from regulators, law enforcement, civil society and victim-led organisations to help shape policy.
c. Collaborate with governments to strengthen regulatory frameworks.

4. Leverage technology for good

a. Build specialist and innovative capabilities and solutions to address violence against children amplified by the use of technology, including those linked to artificial intelligence.
b. Create and leverage human-led AI solutions to combat the scale and pace of online threats.
c. Leverage and strengthen financial technology to maximise the effectiveness of child safety solutions, such as age-gating and effective reporting of suspicious activity.

5. Support updated policy, legislation and regulations strengthened to protect children

a. Cooperate with take down procedures and short notice periods.
b. Engage proactively with law enforcement to listen to expertise on emerging trends and comply swiftly with lawful requests to share data.
c. Comply fully with new and existing child safety legislation.

Civil Society delegates pledge to:

1. Support and amplify the voices of children and survivors

a. Continue to work with children, survivors, educators and carers to ensure understanding of the effects and trends relating to online child exploitation is up to date and accurate.
b. Harness relationships with survivors to educate the technology industry and the wider public on the risks to children online and the life-long effects suffered by those abused online.

2. Advance data and research

 a. Continue to collect data and conduct research on the prevalence of child sexual exploitation and abuse online and its impacts to inform evidence-based interventions.

Together, we will continue to drive systemic change, leveraging innovation, collaboration, and compassion to ensure a safer digital future for all children.

Global Taskforce of governments meets in Abu Dhabi

The day prior to the Global Summit, 3 December 2024, WeProtect Global Alliance brought together our Global Taskforce members in person and online. The meeting was attended by 27 countries and delegates (African Union, Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Council of Europe, Canada, Estonia, European Union, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, the Philippines, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States of America), and youth and survivors from the Brave Movement and She Leads.

Key issues discussed included paths forward on regulatory and legislative frameworks, embedding prevention across the Model National Response.

Key actions from the meeting included:

- Presentations and interventions from youth representatives
- Evolving legislative and policy mapping to identify strengths and gaps
- Strengthen regional engagement with Governments
- Consider deep dives and working groups on emerging technologies inclusive of AI, young offenders and the financial sexual extortion
- New taskforce members confirmed (Government of Fiji) and requests to join (Tanzania)

WeProtect Global Alliance established the Global Taskforce on Child Sexual Abuse Online at the 2022 Global Summit in Brussels. The taskforce of governments helps to identify gaps and opportunities in legislative frameworks and facilitate the collaboration needed to close loopholes and ensure there are no safe havens for the facilitation or hosting of child sexual abuse online. The Taskforce works alongside the Alliance's other reference groups for private sector, civil society and law enforcement members to develop a transnational, cross-sector coordinated response.

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Summit Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday 4 December

09:00 – 09:40	**Keynote address** **Welcome** **(MC Hamad Khatir / Sultan AlDahbashi)** • MC announcements / housekeeping rules (3 minutes) • Welcome from Dana (2 minutes) • Welcome from Iain (2 minutes) • Welcome from Baroness Joanna Shields OBE, WeProtect founder and Board member (30 mins)
09:40 – 09:55	**Keynote address** **Keynote address: A focus on humanity, tech and the future** **(MC Hamad Khatir / Sultan AlDahbashi)** We are in one of the most transformative times in human history. Over the next decade technology will evolve at a rapid rate, and new technological threats to children will continue to emerge. The places where children learn, play and interact will become increasingly borderless and the digital world an even bigger part of their lives. What implications does this have? How can humanity respond to keeping children safe online when technology is developing at such a rapid pace? What will the future look like for children online and what role do we have to play in changing the future? • Speaker: Nina Jane Patel, Futurist
09:55 – 10:40	**Plenary** **New horizons: emerging trends shaping the future** What are the key emerging risks that could shape the future of child protection over the next decade? WeProtect Global Alliance and Thorn will launch new research on global emerging technological trends, followed by a panel with global experts exploring proactive strategies to prevent child exploitation and abuse before harm occurs. Launch of report by Julie Cordua, CEO Thorn and WeProtect Board member Panel members (moderated by Julie Cordua): • Mama Fatima Singhateh, Special Rapporteur on the Sale, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children • Courtney Gregoire, Vice President, Chief Digital Safety Officer, Microsoft • Yuhyun Park, Founder, DQ Institute
10:40 – 10:50	**Refreshment break**
10:50 – 11:30	**Opening Ceremony** **[MC - Dana]** • Musical performance [5 minutes] • Welcome from UAE children (H.E. Sheikh Humaid AlQassimi – President of UAE Children's Parliament & Ghaya AlAhbabi, UNICEF Youth Advocate) [5 minutes each] • Remarks by Baroness Shields [5 minutes] – Dana to speak with Joanna • Remarks by His Highness Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, UAE [10 minutes] • Group photo [5 minutes]
11:30 – 12:28	**Plenary** **Survivor perspectives: stepping up action for a safer future** Survivors of child sexual exploitation and abuse will take centre stage, sharing their personal stories, insights and visions to inspire a collective reimagining of how we approach child

	protection, advocate for policy changes and empower others to take action toward a safer, more compassionate world for children. Introduction and moderation by Cornelius Williams, WeProtect Board member, former UNICEF Global Director Child Protection Speakers: • Mark Neil Ontong, Survivor Consultant and Leader, International Justice Mission • Nina Jane Patel, Futurist and Survivor Advocate • Kanga Rasi, Head of Africa Region, The Brave Movement
12:28 – 12:30	**Video** **Video message from Steve Moore, founding donor of MOORE	Preventing Child Sexual Abuse**
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch and networking**
13:30 – 14:30	**Plenary** **Building the case for prevention** As child sexual abuse rates continue to grow, critical gaps in prevention and intervention strategies remain. This session will explore perspectives to strengthen our collective understanding and strategies for preventing abuse and make the case for continued investment and innovation in creating safer futures for children through development of a new global framework. Introduction and moderation: Marija Manojlovic, WeProtect Board member and Executive Director Safe Online Panellists: • Deborah Denis, CEO, Lucy Faithfull Foundation • Aengus Ó Dochartaigh, Outreach Director, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse • Nicolas Makharashvili, Director, Safe Futures Hub • Sean Litton, President and CEO, Tech Coalition
14:30 – 14:45	**Plenary** **Artificial Intelligence and the future** • HE Omar Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications
14:45 – 15:45	**Breakout sessions: Exploring new trends and issues in depth** **Breakout 1 : Tackling the rise of AI-generated child sexual abuse material** From modifying and distorting existing images to creating deepfakes, AI is fuelling a wave of new challenges for child safety. This session features insights from law enforcement, technology experts, governments and regulators on the latest trends in AI-driven abuse and how they're addressing current and emerging risks to children online. Introduction and moderation: Denton Howard, WeProtect Board member and Executive Director, INHOPE Panellists: • Chelsea Carlson, Child Safety TPM, OpenAI • Yalda Aoukar, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Bracket Foundation • Fallon McNulty, Director, CyberTipline, National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) **Breakout 2: Health and wellbeing: looking after frontline responders** WeProtect Global Alliance and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will present research on the health, wellbeing and work impacts of responding to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, including work-related risk and protective factors and recommendations to enhance work practices, build resilience and improve staff retention. Introduction and moderation by Christian Papaleontiou, WeProtect Board member and Deputy Director, Tackling Exploitation and Abuse Unit, UK Home Office

Presentation from Roberta Sinclair on findings, followed by discussion with panellists:

- Roberta Sinclair, Manager, Strategic Policy and Research, Strategic and Operational Services, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Michael Marwa, Direction National Child Helpline Tanzania, C-SEMA
- Nina Vaaranen-Valkonen, Executive Director Protect Children and Psychotherapist

Breakout 3 : Emerging risks and solutions: insights on the ground
Organisations from across the world will share key insights following a series of working meetings where they explored current and future issues and solutions, strengthening the localization agenda on the sexual exploitation of children facilitated by technologies. This session provides critical insights from regions in the global majority that should inspire further collaboration across regions and globally.

Introduction and moderation – Guillaume Landry, WeProtect Board member and Executive Director ECPAT International
Panellists:

- Anna Nabulya, Deputy Executive Director, UYDEL Uganda
- Seila Samleang, Executive Director, APLE Cambodia
- Juliet Ohahuru-Obiora, Program Director, Action Against Child Sexual Abuse Initiative
- Oscar Valverde Cerros, Executive Director, Fundaction Paniamor
- Dr Indrani Bhattacharyya, Chief Executive Officer, Child in Need Institute

Breakout 4: A roadmap for navigating the future of age assurance
Digital age assurance is a complex and sensitive issue, requiring a careful balancing of rights and risks. This session will bring together insights from policy, regulatory, industry, and civil society to share effective approaches and discuss how we can build a common global framework for understanding the age of users.

Moderator: Helen King, Founder and Director, Praesidio

- Chloe Setter, Child Safety Public Policy Lead, TikTok [Virtual]
- Natascha Gerlach, Centre for Information Policy Leadership [Virtual]
- Michael Tunks, Online Safety Principal for Child Sexual Abuse, Ofcom
- Liz Thomas, Director Public Policy, Digital Safety, Microsoft
- Liz Curtis, Head of Programmes, Praesidio

15:45 – 16:15	**Refreshment break**
16:15 – 17:15	**Plenary** **National perspectives and future commitments to combat exploitation and abuse** Governments will discuss their progress in tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse online, outlining current challenges, sharing best practices and revealing their commitments to future actions. This session will not only reflect on past and present efforts but also focus on how countries plan to evolve and strengthen their strategies to effectively combat exploitation and abuse in the digital age. Introduction and moderation: Lt. Col. Dana Humaid AlMarzooqi, Director General, International Affairs Bureau, UAE Ministry of Interior/ WeProtect Board member Panel: 8 Ministers
18:30 – 21:30	**VIP Reception**

Day 2: Thursday 5 December

09:00 – 09:20	**Plenary** **Looking back, looking forward**

	Reflections on changes in child sexual exploitation and abuse and the key challenges ahead • Ernie Allen, WeProtect Global Alliance Board Chair [Virtual]
09:20 – 10:00	**Plenary** **Hopes, reflections and creating a different future** As online risks continue to evolve, influential voices will share their visions, strategies, and commitments to creating a safer digital world. Introduction by Jacqueline Beauchere, Snap Inc & WeProtect Board member • Evan Spiegel, CEO Snap Inc (pre-recorded 14-minute video) • Fireside chat – in discussion with Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative on Violence against Children and Iain Drennan, Executive Director, WeProtect Global Alliance
10:00 – 10:15	**Plenary** **#MyVoice#MyFuture – youth film** Screening of a short film featuring voice of young people in two countries and their perspectives on their concerns, digital rights and the future world they would like to see online. Speakers: • Felicity, SheLeads GYW Youth Advocate Network • Juliet Ohahuru Obiora, ACSAI
10:15 – 10:20	**Video message from Baroness Beeban Kidron OBE, Chair 5Rights Foundation**
10:20 – 10:45	**Refreshments and networking**
10:45 – 11:45	**Breakout sessions: A focus on the future: practical applications** **Breakout 1 : #MyVoice#MySay – participation in practice** Alliance members from across sectors will bring to life innovative child-centred case studies and explore key standards and principles for ethical child and youth participation. This session is co-produced and led by youth advocates. Interactive session facilitated by the SheLeads GYW Youth Advocates – Felicity, Hajaru, Betty and Phenny Presentation panel to follow featuring: • Natalie Foos – Youth Founder, Voicebox • Minister Signe Riisalo, Minister of Social Protection of the Republic of Estonia [Virtual] • TikTok Youth Council (Precord) • Luisa Sotomayor, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children • Dr Mustafa Yusuf Ali (Secretary General Global Network of Religions for Children; Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi) **Breakout 2: Using AI in the fight against child sexual abuse** From clustering users on darknet forums to AI-driven analysis of support chats for children, World Childhood Foundation will share insights on how society can use artificial intelligence (AI) to advance the fight against child sexual abuse. Participants will gain insights into the potential of leveraging AI to keep children safe, and inspiration on how to engage in cross-sectoral collaborations. Presenters: Susanne Drakborg, World Childhood Foundation's Thematic Lead on Child Safety Online, and Erika Olsson, Stella Polaris Project Coordinator. **Breakout 3 : How technology and new learning is shaping law enforcement** How is AI technology and new learning providing tools and opportunities for law enforcement around the world? This session will feature four case studies from leading law enforcement

and academic professionals, highlighting the latest research and the value of international collaboration across borders.

Introduced by Mark Beavan, Head of Crimes Against Children, INTERPOL
Case study presentations from:
- Project Artemis - Simon Bailey, International Policing and Public Protection Research Institute, Anglia Ruskin University
- Research to Practice Kenya Case Study – Lydia Davenport, Childlight Institute
- AI for Safer Children – Irakli Beridze, UNICRI
- Virtual Global Taskforce - Sean Sutton, National Crime Agency

Breakout 4: Innovations and responding to future risks
As we continue to face new and emerging threats, we also need innovative ways to tackle them. This session will feature innovations being developed to protect children online. Praesidio Safeguarding will share work they have been doing with influencers in West Africa and shed light on some of the protection gaps children face in Africa and Asia, and the solutions needed to safeguard them in the future. They will be joined by two technology organisations who will showcase their innovations in gaming and the work they have been doing to make gaming experiences safer.

Introduction from Guillaume Landry, WeProtect Board Member and Executive Director, ECPAT International
- Helen King, Founder and Director, Praesidio Safeguarding
- Maria Tamellini, Co Founder and COO, Gamer Safer
- James Smith, Head of Trust and Safety, Protect Group International (PGI)

11:45 – 12:30	**Plenary** **Uniting for impact: national and transnational state collaboration** As technology continues to outpace traditional methods of investigation and prosecution, governments and law enforcement agencies face growing challenges in combating online child sexual abuse and exploitation. This session will explore actionable strategies on how governments can strengthen legal frameworks, work collaboratively with industry, enhance international collaboration and harmonization, and support proactive measures to address transnational crimes. Introduction and moderation by Antonio Labrador Jimenez, WeProtect Board member and Team Leader, Fight Against Child Sexual Abuse, European Commission Panellists: • Sambath Sokunthea, Deputy Secretary General, General Secretariat of the Cambodia National Council for Children, Cambodia • Shem Nyakutu, Secretary, Children's Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya • Kate Charlet, Head of Global Privacy, Safety, and Security, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google • Brenno Andrade, Commander, Cyber Crimes Division, Police, Brazil • Lt. Col. Abdulrahman AlTamimi, Deputy Director General, International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Interior, UAE
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch and networking**
13:30 – 13:40	**Plenary** **Video message from the eSafety Commissioner, Australian Government, Julie Inman Grant**
13:40 – 14:30	**Plenary** **Shifting safety on a regional scale** International cooperation and globally aligned approaches are essential for ensuring that all children can explore the digital world without fear of abuse or violence. This panel will bring together high-level representatives from regional bodies across the world to share their

respective and shared challenges, showcase successful initiatives and spark further action at the national and international level.

Introduction and moderation by Sheema Sen Gupta, WeProtect Board member and Director Child Protection, UNICEF
Panellists:
- Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
- Angela Martins, Acting Director for Social Development, Culture and Sport, African Union
- Bérangère Boëll, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UAE)

14:30 - 15:30	**Plenary** **The future of regulation** Can regulation keep pace with the rate of technological change? What's on the horizon and how can be join up global responses to close the gaps? What needs to be done to support countries at the beginning of their regulatory journey? The session will look at key emerging issues, the impact of current regulations on child safety, and discuss the need for a coherent global framework with clear targets for the future. Introduction and moderation by Sarah Blight, Head of OS Strategic Partnerships and Security, Online Safety Group, Ofcom Panellists: • Soyoung Park, Non-Proliferation Division Manager, Digital Sex Crime Content Review Bureau, Korea Communications Standards Commission, Republic of Korea • Tajeshwari Devi, Acting Commissioner, Online Safety Commission, Fiji • Arda Gerkens, President, Authority for the prevention of online Terrorist Content and Child Sexual Abuse Material, Netherlands • Abdelaziz Alzarooni, Team Leader – Digital Awareness, UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority; Chairman - International Child Online Protection group, International Telecommunication Union
15:30 – 16 :00	**Refreshments and networking**
16:00 – 16:30	**Plenary** **Reframing the future: a new narrative and lessons from India** How we talk about child sexual exploitation and abuse online matters. Our words and language can make the difference between salience and dismissal, between hope and fatalism, between collective action and stepping back. In a recent landmark ruling, the Supreme Court of India ruled that individuals can face criminal liability for viewing, downloading, storing, or distributing child pornography. This session takes a first-hand look at Just Rights for Children Alliance's experience of delivering landmark change through the courts and legislation. Introduction from Steve Grocki, WeProtect Global Alliance Board Member and Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, United States Department of Justice Speaker: Bhuwan Ribhu, Founder, Just Rights for Children Alliance
16:30 – 17:00	**Closing address** • Iain Drennan, Executive Director, WeProtect Global Alliance • Lt. Col. Dana Humaid Al Marzooqi, Director General, International Affairs Bureau, UAE Ministry of Interior; WeProtect Board member • UNICEF Youth Advocate Abdul Mukeet
17:30 – 19:00	**Departure for Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque visit**