

## Terms of Reference

### Research Consultancy: Evidence Review of the Risks to Children in Online Gaming

June 2025

#### About WeProtect Global Alliance

WeProtect Global Alliance brings together experts from government, the private sector and civil society to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse online. Together, we generate political commitment and practical approaches to make the digital world safe and positive for children, preventing sexual abuse and long-term harm.

The Alliance currently consists of 103 governments, 82 companies, 126 civil society organisation and 10 intergovernmental organisations.

In order to achieve our vision of a digital world designed to protect children from sexual abuse, we have four key objectives:

- Knowledge: gather knowledge from our members to create, refine and disseminate the latest understanding of the issue
- Empowerment: engage groups of survivors, children and young people active within our membership to embed their experiences and perspectives in our research, advocacy and governance
- Advocacy: present senior decision-makers with the strongest possible case for greater action and investment
- Collaboration: drive cross-sector and cross-border cooperation and knowledge sharing to ensure children are protected wherever they live or engage online

Learn more at: [www.weprotect.org](http://www.weprotect.org)

#### About the project

In collaboration with the **Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF)**, WeProtect Global Alliance seeks to commission a consultant or team to conduct a rigorous evidence review of the on the risks faced by children when using online gaming platforms and the safeguards that should be put in place. The report should prioritise the highest harm risks, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. The aim is to identify and synthesise existing evidence, highlight gaps, and propose recommendations for a future research project.

The consultant(s) will spend approximately 37 days on the assignment, working flexibly between 13 July 2025 and 28 November 2025. The daily rate for this consultancy is GBP 350, inclusive of VAT. The consultancy is based in the UK and will be conducted remotely, with regular online meetings.

## Deliverables

1. Comprehensive literature review
  - Analysis of peer-reviewed and grey literature related to the risks of for children in online gaming, with focus on highest harms, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation.
  - Identification of key themes, risk factors, and emerging trends.
  - Identify gaps in current knowledge and research.
2. Stakeholder engagement and mapping of current work by members
  - Identification and mapping of current initiatives among Alliance members and key stakeholders.
  - Summary report of relevant activities, interventions, and policy initiatives addressing the issue.
3. Final evidence review report
  - Produce a power point presentation with initial findings and recommendations.
  - A comprehensive report that synthesises the literature and stakeholder input.
  - Identification of critical knowledge gaps and areas for further research.
  - Actionable recommendations to guide future research.

## Reporting

The consultant/s will report to WeProtect Global Alliance's Research Manager. The Consultant/s will maintain regular communication throughout the duration of the consultancy.

## Consultancy requirements

We are seeking a consultant or team of consultants with the following qualifications:

1. Advanced degree (Master's or PhD) in psychology, social work, public health or a related field with a focus on child and adolescent development or sexual behaviour.
2. Demonstrated experience in conducting wide-ranging and comprehensive literature reviews.
3. Excellent written and verbal communication skills in fluent English, with the ability to present complex information clearly and concisely to diverse audiences. Other languages desirable.
4. Proven ability to engage and collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including service providers, policymakers, academics and community representatives.
5. Strong organisational skills with the ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines effectively.
6. Commitment to ethical research practices.

## Application process

WeProtect Global Alliance are inviting interested parties to submit a proposal which includes:

- Detailed CV or team bios.
- Proposed timelines and milestones for the work.
- Details of two professional referees.

Please submit your application by email to [bethany@weprotectga.org](mailto:bethany@weprotectga.org) with the subject line **"Application – Research Consultancy: Online Gaming Risks to Children"** by 5pm on the 7 July 2025.