Tech Coalition launches *Trust: Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency*

During the WeProtect Global Alliance Summit 2022, the Tech Coalition is launching *Trust: Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency,* developed by industry following a consultation process with civil society and governments. The Framework provides flexible guidance to tech companies seeking to build trust and demonstrate accountability by providing transparency reporting concerning their efforts to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA.)

The Tech Coalition facilitates the global tech industry's fight against the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. A membership association of 27 leading technology companies of varying sizes and service sectors, the Tech Coalition is where industry comes together to pool their collective knowledge, experience, and advances in technology to keep children safe online.

A key pillar of the Tech Coalition is a commitment to greater transparency and accountability as an essential component of industry efforts to combat online CSEA, and the development of this principles-based Framework represents a step forward in this pursuit. By virtue of their unique position, tech companies have important data that can help understand what's needed to more effectively combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Framework aims to help companies develop reporting that can explain the specific actions the company has taken to address attempts to violate its policies prohibiting online CSEA; provide critical insights on the specific threats and trends of online CSEA; and create a reliable cadence of opportunities for individual companies to identify potential improvements that will further reduce the prevalence and harm of child exploitation.

The Tech Coalition worked closely with WeProtect Global Alliance to ensure that input and feedback from their members across governments, civil society and the private sector were integrated into the development of the Framework. The Tech Coalition anticipates that this Framework will sit alongside emerging and existing regulatory reporting requirements in many jurisdictions.

Sean Litton, Executive Director, Tech Coalition said:

"When we launched Project Protect, our Members pledged to increase transparency and accountability in their efforts to combat online sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and this Framework is a critical step in seeing those efforts through. Transparency is imperative to both our understanding of how sexual exploitation and abuse is manifested online and to driving effective measures to combat it. I am proud of the work our industry Members have put into the creation of this framework, and grateful to the industry, civil society, and government leaders whose feedback was crucial to its development. I continue to be inspired by industry's commitment to combating the sexual exploitation and abuse of children online and look forward to supporting them in their efforts as leader of this Coalition."

Courtney Gregoire - Chief Digital Safety Officer, Microsoft said:

"Microsoft has been pleased to support the Tech Coalition's effort to develop this Framework. Transparency reporting plays a vital role building trust in, and accountability for, companies' efforts to combat the very real harm of online child sexual exploitation and abuse. By taking a principled approach and differentiating between services, the Framework will provide a valuable guide for companies across industry to develop and mature their transparency reporting. We hope to see a range of companies develop reporting for the first time and to take advantage of the mentoring that the Tech Coalition and its members can offer."

Antigone Davis, VP, Global Head of Safety, Meta said:

"When the industry came together to launch the Tech Coalition's Project Protect, we made a commitment to increased transparency to drive progress in the fight against child exploitation online. The Tech Coalition's Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency delivers on that promise, and Meta could not be more proud to support this effort. Meta prioritizes transparency and cross industry collaboration and we hope this framework will be adopted by other companies to create a baseline from which we can all continue to fight this harm together."

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