

Combating Digital Sex Crime Online: a joint statement between the KCSC and Point de Contact

21 September 2022

With the advance of globalization and digital technology, the Internet has become a core medium of society and a forum for discourse that transcends time and space. Users now enjoy a new way of life on the Internet. They not only receive and send e-mails, but also form social networks, experience cross-border communications and new possibilities of participation in online activities, groups, and societies, as well as enjoy a different concept of space and sharing.

However, the Internet has also created new risks for our daily lives. Some users no longer hesitate to create and distribute illegal, explicit, and personal media content depicting others. Although the distribution of such material online is no different to the dissemination of similar materials through offline means, it seems that many users are unaware or outright dismissive of the fact that creating and distributing such content is a crime and have carried out these exploitative actions for personal benefit and economic gain.

Even now, content referred to as digital sex crime content in Korea and image-based abuse in France continues to circulate on the Internet. Both terms 'digital sex crime content' and 'image-based abuse' refer to illegal, explicit and private media contents depicting oneself and/or others by means of digital or mobile devices, including but not limited to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII) and deepfakes. Victims of such crimes find themselves in constant fear and facing an overwhelming sense of helplessness in the face of the threat such materials pose to their human rights and livelihoods. It is becoming increasingly important to deal with crimes like these quickly and decisively.

As the number of reports has continued to increase steadily, this

has become a serious social issue, and we are committed to finding effective ways to cooperate across borders to eradicate such content, as well as to respond to, and provide services to the victims of such crimes.

The Korea Communications Standards Commission (KCSC) and Point de Contact are organizations that provide online reporting services and services aimed at building a safer online environment that is healthy, helpful, and trusted by Internet users in Republic of Korea and in France.

Since their establishment, these two organizations have worked to safeguard the freedom of speech and expression, and to protect both users and their rights while promoting a culture of safe Internet communications. As long-standing members of INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines combating online Child Sexual Abuse Material) they advocate the protection and, promotion of respect for children. Both organizations firmly believe that all citizens, regardless of age or gender deserve to enjoy the same human rights online as they do offline.

This joint statement is part of the global solidarity participation urged by the joint bilateral statement that the KCSC of Republic of Korea and eSafety Commissioner of Australia signed to raise awareness of the harmful effects of the non-consensual sharing of intimate images in November 2021.

To eradicate digital sex crime content and image-based abuse, we undertake to:

1. Work together to raise awareness of the harmful effects

caused by digital sex crime content and image-based abuse, including but not limited to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII) and deepfakes.

2. Cooperate to remove such offending contents that are subject to Korea/France's jurisdiction or law
3. Strengthen collaboration between our two organizations by sharing insights and best practices, and
4. Promote greater international recognition of the need to end such abuse among government, the tech industry, and civil society.

While sending our strong support to European Commission's effort to counter terrorist content online, the KCSC and Point de Contact call on governments, the tech industry, and civil society across the globe to join us and take steps towards ending the creation and distribution of digital sex crime content and image-based abuse.

Signed

Jung Yun-Joo



Chairperson, Korea Communications Standards Commission

Jean-Christophe Le Toquin



President, Point de Contact