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PARLAMENTU ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY



Report from the Roundtable discussion Children and pornography: challenges, impacts, and prevention

On March 19, 2025, a roundtable discussion titled “Children and Pornography: Challenges, Impacts, and Prevention” took place in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The event was organized by the non-profit organization NePornu, under the patronage of member of the Chamber of Deputies Mgr. Šimon Heller. The aim of the meeting was to open a dialogue about the influence of pornography on children and adolescents, present current research findings, highlight the lack of adequate prevention, and explore possibilities for legislative measures to protect children in the digital space.

The event began with opening remarks by Mgr. Šimon Heller, who thanked the organizers and experts for their initiative and emphasized the need for comprehensive child protection online. NePornu’s executive director, Mgr. Petr Lupton, introduced the mission of the organization, which focuses on prevention and support for individuals struggling with pornography addiction. He also pointed out that the issue of pornography is not just a matter of personal morality, but also a public health concern and a matter of protecting vulnerable groups.

The first presentation was given by Mgr. Táňa Reháková, operations director of NePornu, who highlighted the alarming fact that the average age of a child’s first encounter with pornography in the Czech Republic is 11 years old, and that 52% of boys watch pornography once a week or more often. She emphasized that children often come across such content accidentally, without the knowledge of parents or educators, and without any preparation or preventive education.

Michal Prívara, Ph.D., followed with a presentation on the scientific research surrounding the topic. He outlined the current state of research and its limitations – including the lack of standardized diagnostic tools and the sensitivity of the topic. He noted that the impact on adolescents can be more severe than on adults and that excessive pornography use is associated with anxiety, depression, difficulties in

interpersonal relationships, and loss of motivation in some individuals. He called for further research that takes age, cultural, and gender differences into account and better captures the complexity of the phenomenon.

Michaela Slussareff, Ph.D., addressed the broader context of the digital environment. She explained that today's children are surrounded by digital media from a very young age, and the internet often exposes them to extreme, sexualized content before they are developmentally ready to understand it. She pointed out that platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube contain sexualized elements that shape body image and relationship perceptions. She called for strengthening digital literacy, increasing awareness among parents and teachers, and emphasized the essential role of tech companies, which should bear more responsibility for the content accessible to children.

Mgr. Terezie Babilonová focused on prevention. She noted that adolescents often perceive pornography as a primary source of information about sexuality, which leads to unrealistic expectations and unhealthy approaches to intimacy. She emphasized the importance of early and open communication with children, support for emotional literacy, and the integration of media education into school curricula. She stressed that prevention should be comprehensive, incorporating emotional development, media literacy, education about healthy sexuality, and encouraging open dialogue between children and adults. She also highlighted the need to support teachers, parents, and children in navigating the online world.

In the final presentation, Mgr. Petr Lupton opened the topic of legislation. He pointed out that the Czech Republic currently lacks effective legal regulation to prevent children from accessing pornography – for example, through age verification systems. He presented examples from abroad, particularly France, Italy, Australia, and the United Kingdom. He expressed the belief that it is necessary to initiate public debate and seek solutions that are both functional and respectful of users' right to privacy.

The subsequent discussion included a number of specific proposals and suggestions – the need for data collection, development of methodological materials, systematic education for professionals working with children, and legislative changes. At the end, Mgr. Šimon Heller spoke again, not only thanking all participants but also offering collaboration on drafting an amendment that would reflect the need to protect children from pornography in the digital space.

In conclusion, the roundtable raised important questions and created space for continued collaboration between experts, lawmakers, and the non-profit sector. All speakers agreed that protecting children from pornography is a challenge that

cannot be postponed, and that changes must go hand in hand with awareness-raising, prevention, and systemic solutions.