



Dec. 19, 2024

Dear President-elect Trump:

As the next president, you have the power to protect children from one of the worst forms of online abuse: online sexual exploitation and abuse of children (OSEAC). This horrific crime is growing every year, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reported that CyberTipline reports of suspected child sexual exploitation rose from 29.4 million to over 36 million between 2021-2023.<sup>1</sup>

The End OSEAC Coalition is made up of more than 30 members seeking to improve U.S. policies and government programs to better prevent online sexual exploitation and abuse of children and provide support to survivors. On behalf of the Coalition, we want to convey the critical importance of this issue and your potential impact.

According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission in 2021, the number of perpetrators sentenced for producing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) has increased by a staggering 422% over the previous 15 years.<sup>2</sup> The Internet Watch Foundation found that the United States hosts the second-highest number of web pages featuring CSAM in the world.<sup>3</sup>

As technology expands and more of our lives exist online – especially with the pandemic causing a shift in remote work and education – there has been an even more dramatic rise in this crime. Social media, new and emerging technologies like AI, and the lack of privacy protections contribute to the ease with which offenders can contact children through a multitude of platforms including apps, video games, and websites.

Significant investments are needed to address online violence against children, support victims and survivors, and increase and improve research and data. This includes working closely with all stakeholders and holding the technology industry accountable for children's online safety.

The End OSEAC Coalition has outlined three main actions that require attention and action from the U.S. government to achieve tangible change for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse. Acknowledging the unique expertise and importance of incorporating the perspectives of those with lived experience, we urge a survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach that provides substantive room for survivor leadership and advice to interagency stakeholders.

1. Pass legislation that addresses key gaps and weaknesses in the current U.S. legal framework.

---

<sup>1</sup> NCMEC: <https://www.missingkids.org/cybertipline/data>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Sentencing Commission: <https://www.ussc.gov/research/research-reports/federal-sentencing-child-pornography-production-offenses>

<sup>3</sup> Internet Watch Foundation: <https://annualreport2022.iwf.org.uk/trends-and-data/geographical-hosting-urls/>

2. Increase U.S. budgetary allocations to government-led programs that support the prevention of and response to online sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
3. Strengthen coordination within and between U.S. government agencies on efforts to prevent and respond to OSEAC.

As organizations dedicated to the protection of children, we request that you consider the following proposals in your efforts to advance this cause:

- **Invest in programs** that prevent the initial abuse or exploitation of children, including through technology-facilitated interactions, to help reduce the number of incidents. Resources and training should be provided to educate all children, parents, and child-serving professionals on how to prevent, identify, and respond to online and offline child sexual abuse and exploitation through programs that are survivor-centered and trauma-informed. Continue to expand research on the effectiveness of prevention and education programs, and increase access for minors to readily available, high-quality mental health and counseling services that support resiliency and reduce vulnerability to targeting and grooming online.
- **Establish a senior leadership position** in the White House to coordinate action at the federal level on all forms of child sexual abuse and exploitation. This would demonstrate your administration's commitment to this issue by directing federal agencies under your purview to act – and send a strong signal for Congress to do the same. A nationwide strategy should include proactive approaches and identify necessary resources for the rescue of children from situations of sexual exploitation and abuse. The strategy should be informed by the perspectives of those with lived experience, including survivors and social workers.
- **Mobilize financial resources** in the upcoming budget for federal domestic and global agency programs that focus on prevention efforts and healing and justice for survivors, as well as improved data collection and research on the global and national prevalence of online and offline childhood sexual violence, as well as risk and protective factors, particularly for children with disabilities, children from ethnic and racial minority backgrounds, children that identify as LGBTQI, child runaways and victims of child trafficking.
- **Work with Congress** to develop comprehensive national legislation to include policies, programs, and research to prevent all forms of sexual violence against children, protect and support healing for survivors, reduce the cost of sexual violence to society, and provide access to justice for victims.
- **Support child survivors** of all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation by increasing investment in and the availability of comprehensive, victim-centered, and trauma-informed assistance programs, including mental health treatment, counseling, and legal services led by professionals specifically trained to support survivors of childhood sexual abuse and exploitation as part of larger efforts to break the life-cycle of abuse and to aid in healing. Conduct regular consultations with adult survivors of all

forms of childhood sexual abuse and exploitation to ensure policies and programs reflect their experiences, ideas, and solutions.

- **Improve online safety technology**, including age verification, anti-grooming, and child sexual abuse material detection tools, to better protect children online. Hold technology companies accountable for utilizing these tools to develop safe, age-appropriate internet experiences for child users that center their well-being and best interests, being transparent around their risk assessment and mitigation efforts to prevent and respond to online harms against children, cooperating with law enforcement investigations of these crimes, and improving efforts to detect, report and remove CSAM as quickly as possible to ensure survivors are not further victimized.
- **Boost law enforcement capacity** by funding increased staffing, incentives, and training for officers tasked with investigating OSEAC cases, including cutting-edge investigative resources and techniques. Ensure funding is available to build partnerships with other countries for joint investigation in cross-national cases and support opportunities for information sharing, training, and learning.
- **Increase funding for the Department of Homeland Security** to support child exploitation investigation efforts at home and abroad to interdict offenders and increase efforts to identify children featured in CSAM.
- **Expand U.S. foreign assistance to end sexual violence against children** through global programs and collaboration with foreign governments, multilateral agencies, academic institutions, and civil society.

The issue of OSEAC is multifaceted and requires dedicated policies and resources to prevent abuse and protect children from experiencing abuse in the first place. While the topic is overwhelming and the details horrific, you play a pivotal role in raising awareness, allocating resources, and enacting policies that work to protect kids online.

As you plan for the next four years, please consider the responsibility you have to communicate the severity of this issue – and the steps you can take to end the online exploitation and abuse of children.

Sincerely,

The End OSEAC Coalition (signing members listed below)

Augusta Associates LLC  
Carly Ryan Foundation  
ChildFund International  
Children's Justice Fund  
End OSEAC Survivors' Council  
Enough Is Enough  
Global Hope 365  
Human Trafficking Institute

International Justice Mission  
Lynn's Warriors  
Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT)  
Protect Young Eyes  
Rights4Girls  
The Brave Movement  
Thorn  
Together for Girls