Child Online Protection

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Today…..

With island wide shutdown, school closure, and

self-isolation measures in place, many kids are

getting more screen-time than usual…..

Parents more than ever before must ensure that kids are prepared for this increased access for these reasons:

- **Online youth spend 6 or more hours on the internet per day**

- **70% have posted contact details like email, home address, etc.**

- **Most youth keep their GPS location turned on**

- **Most parents don't know what their kids do online**

Research has found that media can influence children's:

- **Beliefs and behaviors in terms of violence and aggression**

- **Sex and substance abuse**

- **Obesity and eating disorders**

Source: "Health Effects of Media on Children and Adolescents," published in the April issue of *Pediatrics*

Cont'd…..

Heavy television and online viewing has been linked with:

- **Attention-deficit disorder**

- **Diminished academic performance**

- **Hypertension and asthma**

- **Sleep and mood disorders**

- **Psychological distress and depression.**

Source: "Health Effects of Media on Children and Adolescents," published in the April issue of *Pediatrics*

- Young people (10-16 years) who accessed or shared sexual content or images of cyberbullying or violence had up to a 50% higher risk for thoughts of suicide. **(JAMA Network Open, September 20, 2021)**

- There has been a 70% increase in the amount of bullying/hate speech among teens and children in the months since the Covid lockdown began. **(DigitalTrends.com, April 8, 2020)**

- Teachers report that cyberbullying is their #1 safety concern in their classrooms according to a recent **Google survey (January 2019)**

- 82% of online sex crimes against minors, the offender used the victim's social networking site to gain information about the victim's likes and dislikes. **(Journal of Adolescent Heatlh 47, 2010)**

Current Situation…..

- There are no statistics of online crimes against children and hence the true extent of this problem is not fully known.
- There are no policies nor strategic frameworks focused on the prevention of online crime against children and the youth
- Across the OECS internet penetration is about 75%
- Based on the Covid lockdown, the Giga project, and school closures it is fair to assume that the internet penetration is actually higher today across all of the Caribbean islands and hence this represents a much greater risk to our children
- Children not adequately prepared for online schooling
- Attempts in a few islands to initiate a COP program have not brought about the desired positive changes in behavior
- The areas of Child Pornography, violation of privacy, sex offences, defamation/ Libel and slander (Cyber Bullying) and distribution of malicious information are addressed by local laws (OECS - Criminal Code / Electronic Crimes Bill)

Power is Nothing Without Control

"A TIME TO THINK ONLINE SAFETY"

What is Child Online Protection (COP)?

COP is a comprehensive set of recommendations for all relevant stakeholders on how to contribute to the development of a safe and empowering online environment for children and young people. This initiative is in direct alignment with the COP as presented to the ITU Council in 2008 and endorsed by the UN Secretary-General, Heads of State, Ministers and heads of international organizations from around the world.

This initiative is founded on three basic tenets:

Identify - Before you use the Internet, take time to understand the risks and learn how to spot potential problems.

Protect – Watch for warning signs and consider how your actions online could impact you or your family's. safety. Take the right steps to safeguard yourself and your computer.

Report – Report content intended to cause harm, disrupt or disturb persons

Who is responsible for COP?

Individuals
- Be aware of threats to children and citizens and learn about being safe online

Educators / Schools etc
- Implement filtering and monitoring, ensure teachers and students know what is acceptable use of the schools' resources. Implement process to report incidents…

Social Support Services
- Trained to identify early warning signs and how to provide relevant support and care

Internet Service Providers / Regulators
- Provided advance threat intelligence / Internet filtering and monitoring / Reporting of suspicious online behavior

Judiciary / Law Enforcement
- Create an environment where cyber crimes can be reported, investigated and prosecuted. Ensure the relevant laws are in place to address emerging cyber crimes

Regional and International NPO
- Facilitate forums on Internet Governance and how to make the internet safer

Industry
- Ensure legal framework is in place to ensure adequate penalties are imposed on cyber related crimes

Top Online Dangers To Kids

- Themselves

- Sexual predators

- Child pornography

- Cyberbullying

- Violation of Privacy

- Malicious Communication

- Cell Phone Crimes

Risky Behaviors

These risky behaviors include:

- **Excessive face time**

- **Posting personal information**

- **Interacting with online strangers**

- **Play online games with strangers**

- **Sending personal information to strangers**

- **Visiting X-rated sites**

- **Visiting extremist**

- **Talking about sex with strangers**

- **Sending sexually explicit images/nudes**

- **Posting malicious content to cause harm / distress / embarrassment**

T&T: Girl kidnapped by Facebook 'friend'

Trinidad Express-MISSING for more than two weeks, 15-year-old Melissa Samdai has contacted her mother, telling a scary story of being taken to an unknown location by a woman she met on Facebook who now refuses to let her

NEWSDAY — TRINIDAD and TOBAGO

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BREAKING   Bill Cosby guilty of drugging woman

Thursday 19 April 2018   Nalinee Seelal

Student chops off mom's hand because 'she took away my cell phone'

A 15-year-old form three student was arrested yesterday, one hour after he chopped off the right hand of his 46-year-old mother and also dealt her some chops to the back of the neck.

Online Predators and Child Pornography

- Trick children into revealing personal information

- Lure children into meeting them in person
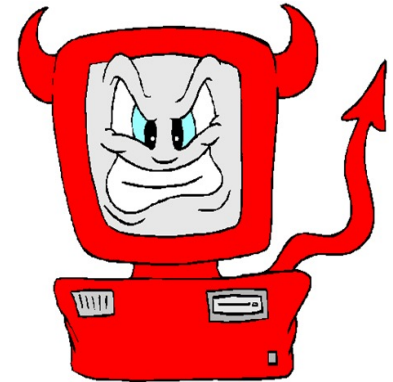
- Masquerade as children

- Visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor

- Grooming and Sexual exploitation of a minor

- Revenge Porn

Say "NO" To Cyberbullying

- Posting or forwarding a private text or embarrassing image to others

- Tricking someone into revealing embarrassing information and forwarding it to others

- Stealing passwords

- Spreading malicious rumors – e.g saying someone has HIV AIDS

Bad Internet Content: Verbal Abuse, Extremist, Fights, Hate

Bad internet content can affect our children's beliefs and values:

- Verbal abuse of race, sex or minorities

- Radical websites that promote hate and wrong doing to others

- Website that infect your computer with viruses and malware

- Malicious communication

- Violation of Privacy

Know when your Child needs help…

A few symptoms are:

- becoming uncharacteristically aggressive, depressed, anxious, withdrawn etc…

- poor bond or relationship with a friends or schoolmates

- knowledge of adult issues inappropriate for their age

- loss of self-confidence or self-esteem

- social withdrawal or a loss of interest or enthusiasm

- avoidance of certain situations, such as refusing to go to school or ride the bus

- desperately seeks affection

- decrease in school performance or loss of interest in school

- Child is being asked to keep messages or communication a secret

Know the Law

Across Caribbean

1. Barbados – Computer Misuse Act
2. Trinidad – Cyber Crime Bill
3. OECS – Criminal Code plus Electronics Crime Bi

Prohibited Conduct

1. Interfering with computer system.
2. Illegal interception of data etc.
3. Illegal devices.
4. Access with intention to commit offence.
5. Violation of Privacy.
6. Child pornography.
7. Malicious communications – Libel and Slander

Next Steps to address COP

- Creation of a policy and strategic framework for COP for the OECS
- Create a roadmap for stakeholder involvement and consultative contribution and engagement
- Obtain national buy-in and participation
- Develop a sustainable program which will address human and financial resources

THANK YOU & HAVE A GREAT DAY !!!!!!

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