

Child Sexual Abuse/ Exploitation Material or Child Pornography

DEFINITIONS

Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Material*

Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), as the preferred term of choice to "child pornography", refers to materials depicting acts of sexual abuse and/or focusing on the genitalia of the child. The term "child sexual exploitation material" (CSEM) can be used in a broader sense to encompass all other sexualised material depicting children.

These materials include children of all ages, boys and girls, and differ in level of severity of the abuse and acts ranging from children posing sexually to gross assault.

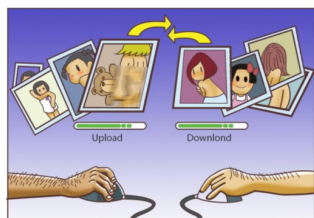
*Definition derived from Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Computer/ digitally generated CSAM/CSEM*

The term "computer (or digitally) generated child sexual abuse material" encompasses all forms of material representing children involved in sexual activities and/or in a sexualised manner, with the particularity that the production of the material does not involve actual contact abuse of real children but is artificially created to appear as if real children were depicted. It includes what is referred to as "virtual child pornography". Most of this material is computer-generated but can also be drawn by hand.

Although virtual child pornography does not involve harm to a real child, it is still dangerous because (i) it may be used in grooming children for exploitation; (ii) it sustains a market for child sexual abuse images; and (iii) it enables a culture of tolerance for the sexualisation of children and cultivates demand.

Criminal Offenses



- Obtaining access or procuring;
- (Mere) possessing;
- Offering or making available;
- Importing or exporting;
- Distributing or transmitting;
- Selling;
- Producing CSAM/ CSEM.

This is (partly) criminalized by the following legal frameworks:

CRC-OPSC: excludes accessing, mere possession and computer generated CSAM/ CSEM

Budapest Convention: comprehensive including the criminalisation of computer generated CSAM/ CSEM

Lanzarote Convention: comprehensive including the criminalisation of computer generated CSAM/ CSEM

ILO Convention 182: only covers production

AU Cybercrime Convention: comprehensive including the criminalisation of computer generated CSAM/ CSEM

Offenders & Modus Operandi

- Offenders are primarily motivated by their **sexual interest** in children or by **financial gain**;
- They operate **alone** or as part of a **network**;
- They use different **devices, software** and/or the **Internet** to produce, access or share materials;
- They sometimes apply **encryption methods** and use more hidden platforms online to conceal their conduct and avoid being detected**;
- (Computer generated) CSAM/ CSEM is sometimes used by offenders to **groom or manipulate** children into engaging in sexual activities.

** Please see ECPAT Factsheet: what is Encryption?

What can you do?



Advocate for stronger legal frameworks that criminalise all related conducts



Advocate for better resources for law enforcement, such as dedicated capacity and tools, to tackle CSAM/ CSEM and identify victims;



Advocate and cooperate with the private sector, such as Internet Service Providers, to implement policies to disrupt circulation of CSAM/ CSEM;



Educate and raise awareness about CSAM/ CSEM including risks and safe behavior online;



Conduct research and collect relevant information to enhance understanding about the scope and characteristics of CSAM/ CSEM;



Report when you come across material online;



Provide support and care for victims.