



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops



Secretariat of Child and Youth
Protection Presents

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
RESOURCE BOOKLET

~ 2026 ~

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April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Dear Safe Environment and Victim Assistance Coordinators,

During the month of April, we observe National Child Abuse Prevention Month. At the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), we raise awareness for the protection of children and the prevention of their abuse and neglect. The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection is dedicated to raising awareness, providing resources to families, and supporting children. This April, we are hosting Masses, novenas, pinwheel ceremonies, and Blue Day activities to engage and inspire action within our community.

The Child Abuse Awareness campaign began in the early 1980s when Congress implemented solutions to end child abuse. On April 4, 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. ([Proclamation 5039 by President Ronald Reagan, 1983](#))

In June 2023, in a [letter](#) to members of the U.S. Congress, four bishops encouraged lawmakers to address the growing problem of the exploitation of children over the Internet and through mobile technology. In that letter, they stated the following:

“Online child exploitation threatens the safety and well-being of our young people and destroys families and communities. The ability of a child to grow into adulthood in peace and security is both a human right and a demand of the common good: the dignity of the human person requires protections for our young people so that they may flourish as they mature.”

As of March 2026, the [Kids Online Safety Act \(KOSA\)](#) has not yet been signed into law though it passed the U.S. Senate in July 2024 and is advancing through the House. The KOSA focuses on critical issues, including privacy, mental health, and excessive internet use affecting the lives of children. The USCCB continues to encourage the faithful to join them in their mission to protect children online.

The month of April offers us the opportunity to come together to protect our children and ensure every child has a safe and nurturing environment where they can grow and thrive. On **April 15 at 12:00 noon**, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection will celebrate a **Mass for National Child Abuse Prevention Month** in the chapel of the USCCB building. Also in April, we invite you to join us in prayer with the **Novena for Protection and Healing from Abuse**. Information about this Novena is included in the diocesan and eparchial resources section of this booklet.

Wear Blue Day: Join us on “Wear Blue Day” on Friday, April 10 – All are encouraged to wear blue, the international color for prevention, to raise awareness and support for children and families.

Blue Sunday: Observed on Sunday, April 26, “Blue Sunday” is a National Day of Prayer for victims of abuse. On this day, please pray the Holy Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet and spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

We are grateful for the work of individuals, organizations, and policymakers who continue to work for the protection of children from abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your time, compassion, and commitment to this vital cause.

Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection



The Catholic Church is absolutely committed to the safety of children.
Together we can make a *Promise to Protect*, and a *Pledge to Heal*.

This
April
promise to
protect
pledge
to
heal



Prevention Resources for Action

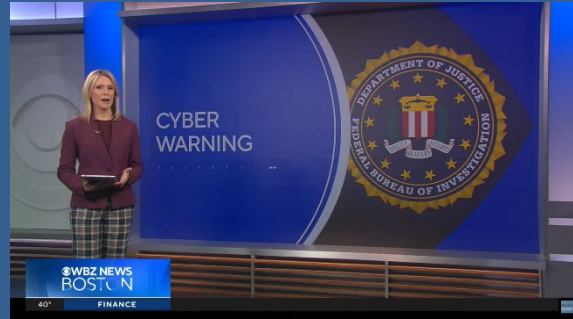
- Encourage your diocesan pastoral center, parishes and schools to become a [No Hit Zone](#). What is the goal of [No Hit Zone](#)? To create an environment of comfort and safety for parents, families, and staff. A [No Hit Zone](#) sets a precedent within the community and establishes a commitment to the promotion of effective parenting techniques. View the [No Hit Zone Toolkit](#) and [Training Resources](#).
- Participate in [“Five Days of Action”](#) organized by the YMCA, April 13-17, in which throughout the week, organizations across the country will come together to spread prevention messages on social media, host events to train parents and community volunteers, and educate the community about keeping kids safe from sexual abuse.
- **Wear Blue Day 2026**, marking National Child Abuse Prevention Month, is widely recognized on Friday, April 10, 2026 (with some local variations). Wear blue to raise awareness about child abuse prevention.
- Share the [USCCB Resources](#) on abuse prevention throughout the month.
- Share child abuse prevention resources from [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#).
- Schedule time throughout the month to pray the [Rosary](#) for healing and protection.



- Host a special safe environment training class for members of the parish, school and greater community. Visit the many trainings offered throughout this booklet.
- Invite a local speaker to present to dioceses, parishes, and schools regarding the prevention of abuse. Your local Children’s Advocacy Center or Child Protective Services may have training options available.
- Take time before or after Mass to recognize those who have both trained others in safe environment programs and those who have been trained.
- Hang these [posters](#) with the name of your Victim Assistance Coordinator and their phone number (also in [Spanish](#)) in every parish and school within the diocese/eparchy.
- [Prayer for Healing for Victims of Abuse - Join in prayer Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne from the Archdiocese of Hartford:](#)
- Watch the [Child Abuse Prevention Month Webinar 2026 – Kansas Children’s Service League](#)¹ for ideas during the month of April.

¹ Source, Kansas Children’s Service League, Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month WEBINAR 2026, website: <https://youtu.be/Pgi9bngjaMs?si=rQmzAF865hh0VXMH>.

FBI Warning Parents of New Online Threat Targeting Kids²



FBI Boston: Open Letter to Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers³

February 19, 2026

Excerpt from letter:

The FBI is extremely concerned about a sharp increase in the activity of "764" and other violent online networks targeting and exploiting children and other vulnerable individuals across the United States and here in New England. While these networks are often referred to as "764," there are many other offshoot networks and names.

Members of these networks connect with children and other at-risk individuals online through mobile messaging apps, social media and gaming platforms, then manipulate or coerce them into producing and sharing graphic content, child sexual abuse material (CSAM), or engaging in acts of animal cruelty, self-harm, or violence.

Awareness is the first step in prevention. In many investigations involving online threats, parents believe they are aware of their child's activities only to discover they didn't know what was truly happening. Have open, ongoing conversations with your child about the risks of sharing personal information, images, or videos online.

You can find helpful guidance here: [How We Can Help You — FBI](#)

Potential signs of victimization include:

- Sudden behavior changes such as becoming withdrawn, moody, or irritable
- Changes in appearance, including neglect of appearance or hiding specific body parts
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Signs of animal cruelty
- Unexplained harm to younger siblings
- Threatening to commit suicide and openly talking about death, "not being wanted or needed," or "not being around"

² Source, CBS Boston, FBI Warning parents of new online threat targeting kids, website: https://youtu.be/5R3JSi4pyVA?si=ZrCcanVnSFXI-o_E.

³ Source, Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, website: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/boston/news/open-letter-to-parents-guardians-and-caregivers>.

- Scars, often in patterns, including 764-related terms or names from online platforms
- Fresh cuts, scratches, bruises, bite marks, burns, or other wounds
- Reports of personally identifying information being posted online for victimization (commonly referred to as a "dox")
- Unexpected texts or phone calls about the child from unknown numbers to the home
- Sudden and unexplained gifts or packages arriving for the child to the home

If you or someone you know is a victim of a crime using these kinds of tactics, retain all information from the incident such as usernames, email addresses, websites, or names of platforms used, and immediately report it to:

- **1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or tips.fbi.gov**
- **FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov**

If anyone feels they are in imminent danger, please reach out to local law enforcement immediately.

The [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/)[®] provides a free service known as [Take It Down](https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/), which helps minor victims, or adults who were victimized as minors, with removing or stopping the online sharing of nude or sexually explicit content taken while under 18 years old. For more information, visit <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>.

It's Not a Game: This could be happening to your child as you watch this video. (FBI)⁴



To report an online child sexual exploitation offense, call 911 or call the [Know2Protect Tipline](https://www.know2protect.org/) at 1-833-591-KNOW (5669) or visit the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](https://report.cybertip.org/)[®] at https://report.cybertip.org.

⁴ Source, It's not a Game: FBI New York PSA, website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUvJdZIGkwo>.

Resources from the U.S. Department of Justice - Criminal Division⁵

Tips to Help Protect Children: Parents, guardians, caregivers, and teachers can take the following measures to help protect children from becoming victims of online child predators.

Immediately report suspected online enticement or sexual exploitation of a child by calling 911, contacting the FBI at tips.fbi.gov, or filing a report with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)[®] at 1-800-843-5678 or report.cybertip.org.

- **Discuss internet safety and develop an online safety plan** with children before they engage in online activity. Establish clear guidelines, teach children to spot red flags, and encourage children to have open communication with you.
- **Supervise young children's use of the internet**, including periodically checking their profiles and posts. Keep electronic devices in open, common areas of the home and consider setting time limits for their use.
- **Review games, apps, and social media sites** before they are downloaded or used by children. Pay particular attention to apps and sites that feature end-to-end encryption, direct messaging, video chats, file uploads, and user anonymity, which are frequently relied upon by online child predators.
- **Adjust privacy settings and use parental controls** for online games, apps, social media sites, and electronic devices.
- **Tell children to avoid sharing personal information, photos, and videos online** in public forums or with people they do not know in real life. Explain to your children that images posted online will be permanently on the internet.
- **Teach children about body safety and boundaries**, including the importance of saying 'no' to inappropriate requests both in the physical world and the virtual world.
- **Be alert to potential signs of abuse**, including changes in children's use of electronic devices, attempts to conceal online activity, withdrawn behavior, angry outbursts, anxiety, and depression.
- **Encourage children to tell a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult** if anyone asks them to engage in sexual activity or other inappropriate behavior.

⁵ Source, U.S. Department of Justice-Criminal Division, Website: <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-ceos/keeping-children-safe-online>.

Resources from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - KNOW2PROTECT® ⁶

The CyberTipline is the place to report child sexual exploitation.

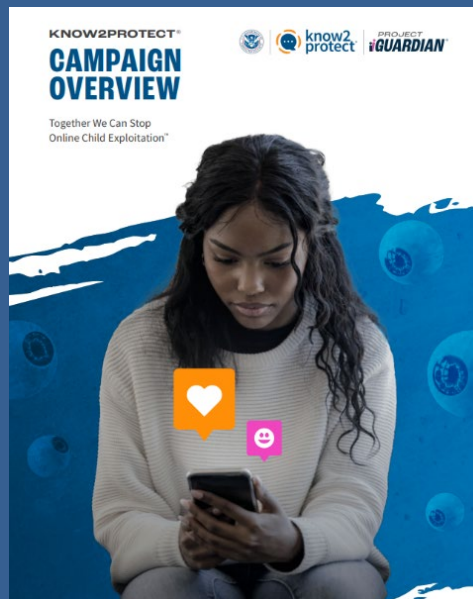
REPORT INCIDENT

NOTE: While the **KNOW2PROTECT®** website will not be actively managed, due to the lapse in federal funding, the **KNOW2PROTECT®** website contains useful resources for parents and children. The **KNOW2PROTECT®** website was last updated on February 17, 2026, and will not be updated until after funding is enacted.

Know2Protect is a national public awareness campaign developed by DHS to educate and empower children, teens, parents, trusted adults and policymakers to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA); explain how to report online enticement and victimization; and offer response and support resources for victims and survivors of online child sexual exploitation and their supporters.

Resources from **KNOW2PROTECT®**:

- [Printable and downloadable internet safety checklist in English and Spanish](#)
- [Parents and trusted adults Top 10 Tips2Protect in English and Spanish](#)
- [Tips2identify fake profiles in English and Spanish](#)
- [Top 10 Tips2Protect for teens in English and Spanish](#)



⁶ Source, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, website: <https://www.dhs.gov/know2protectPreventing>.

Resources from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – VetoViolence®⁷

VetoViolence® is a CDC website that provides free training, evidence-based tools, and resources for the prevention of violence.

Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): ACEs can impact kids' health and well-being. They can have long-term effects on adult health and wellness. Their consequences can affect families, communities, and even society. Learn to prevent ACEs by taking a free training via **VetoViolence®**. There are trainings designed everyone, also for educators, religious communities, pediatric medical providers, and mental health providers. These trainings will help you understand, recognize, and prevent ACEs. Get the insights you need to create healthier, happier childhoods for kids today and bright futures for adults tomorrow.

Introductory Training Modules are for everyone. Take this training with two modules first. It's for anyone regardless of education level or profession. Start here to understand ACEs and ways to stop them before they start. [Start here](#)

For professionals who provide mental health care and services to children and families and for students in training to provide those services. [Mental health Provider Module – Begin Training](#)

For professionals who provide health care and services to children and families and for students in training to provide those services. [Pediatric Medical Provider Module – Begin Training](#)

For education professionals and all adults who work in schools and learning environments across K-12 levels. [Educator Module - Begin Training](#)

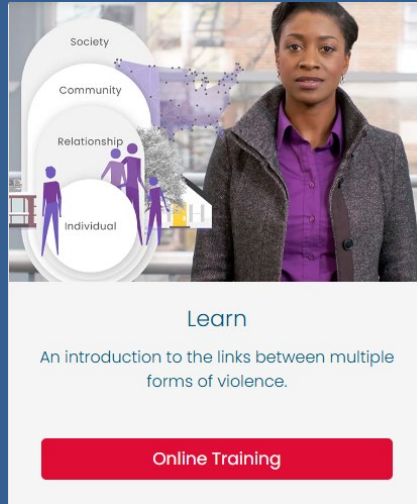
For faith, spiritual, and religious community members (includes clergy and leaders, staff, childcare providers, teachers and youth group leaders, affiliated nonprofit staff, sacred text study group leaders, community volunteers, conference and retreat leaders, and counselors). [Faith, Spiritual, and Religious Communities Module - Begin Training](#)

Want to learn more? [Visit the Resource Center](#)

⁷ Source, U.S. Department of Human Services, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, website: <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/aces-training/>.

Connecting the Dots Training - CDC Violence Prevention - VetoViolence®⁸

A free, online training that helps users explore shared risk and protective factors across multiple forms of violence. Share this training in your diocese/eparchy. Different types of violence are connected and often share the same root causes. This training explores how different types of violence can take place in the same house, in the same neighborhood, at the same time, or at different stages of life. By the end of the training, you will understand the overlapping causes of different types of violence and what can protect against violence.



Healthy Relationships Toolkit – Training for Parents

Explore interactive lessons, scenarios, and videos of real parents and teens. In this training, you will practice healthy communication skills, learn about risks and challenges in adolescence, and help your child navigate their teen years with confidence and support.

Healthy Relationships Toolkit Training for Educators

Teens who recognize risks for violence are better able to build healthy relationships into adulthood. This online accredited course uses expert interviews, interactions, storytelling, and educator insights to make teen dating violence prevention relevant for educators, youth leaders, and everyone working with teens.



⁸ Source, U.S. Department of Human Services, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, website: <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/connecting-the-dots/>.

Resources from the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Advice-Protecting Kids Online: How to talk to your kids about being online, and how to help them make good decisions and stay safe.⁹

- **Heads Up: Stop. Think. Connect:** Learn ways to help kids reduce the risks that come with socializing online.
- **How To Use Parental Controls To Keep Your Kid Safer Online:** Talking with your kids about your family’s rules and expectations is key to helping them establish good online habits.

Parental Controls Can Help Keep Your Kids Safe Online



- **Kids and Cell Phones:** When you decide your kid is ready for a cell phone, here are some tools to help you think about setting limits, keeping them safe, and teaching them how to use their phones responsibly.
- **Kids and Video Games:** Chances are the kids in your life play, or want to play, video games, including games in immersive spaces like virtual or augmented reality. Game ratings and reviews, parental controls, and other tools are available to help you learn more and talk about video games with the kids in your life.

REPORTING:

Your child may come across upsetting or inappropriate behavior from other players — like bullying, threats, requests for personal information, or bad language — while they play video games. The best first step for them is often to stop playing the game and talk to a parent or trusted adult. Most games also have a “report player” tool that makes it straightforward for your child to block or mute another player. Another option is to help them report the player to platforms like [Xbox](#), [PlayStation](#), and [Nintendo](#), or a third-party chat app that hosts the communications, like [Discord](#).

⁹ Source, Federal Trade Commission, Protecting America’s Consumers, website: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/identity-theft-and-online-security/protecting-kids-online>.

- **Protecting Your Child’s Privacy Online:** Here’s information about parents’ rights under the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). **What is COPPA?**

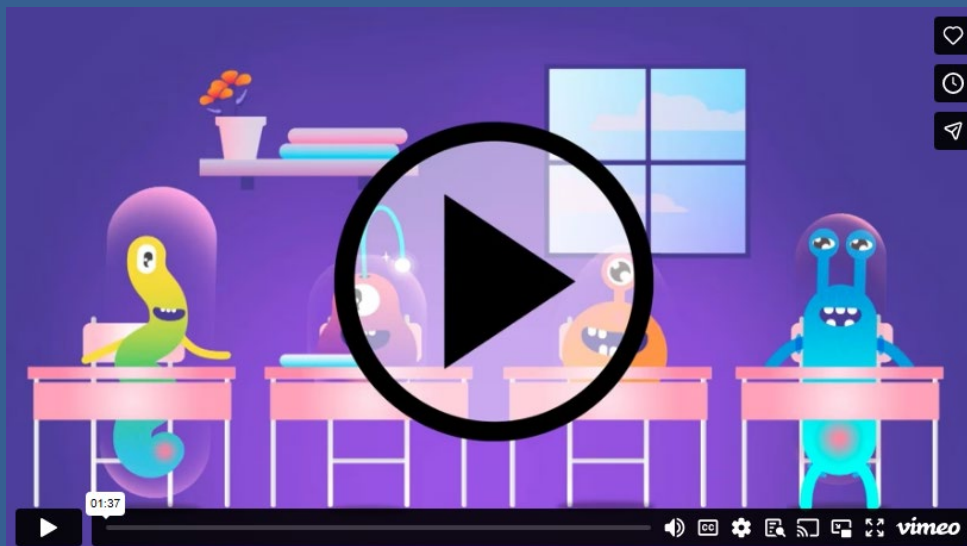
What if it looks like a site or service is breaking the rules?

If you think a site has collected information from your kids or marketed to them in a way that violates the law, report it to the FTC at **ReportFraud.ftc.gov.**

REPORT MISCONDUCT BY TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS HERE.

Welcome to Youville!

Youville is a free, downloadable, educational program to help children ages 8-12 develop skills to be safer online. Want to teach 8–12-year-olds about privacy and online safety, digital citizenship, understanding advertising, and spotting scams? Youville has free tools for you:



Access the Youville lessons:

- Meet educational standards (CCSS, ISTE, AASL, NHES).
- Use games to make solving challenges fun.
- Include step-by-step lesson plans, slides to guide discussions, downloadable activity sheets, and an answer key so you can answer questions along the way.
- Let you pick and choose topics. Each lesson stands alone. Short on time? Try a 5-minute warmup activity, or a 10-minute mini lesson. Complete an entire lesson in about 40 minutes.

Download Youville Bookmark!!

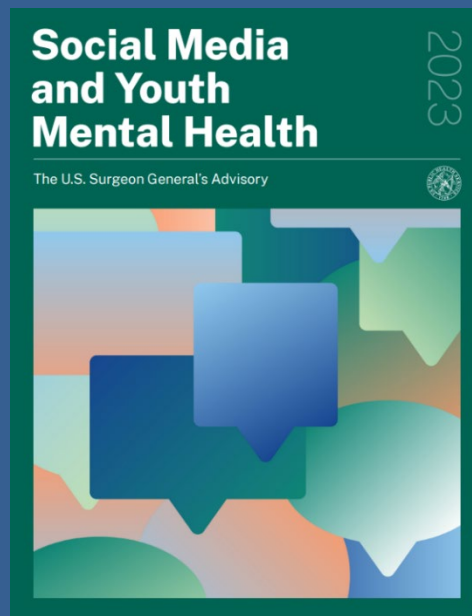
Resources from Prevent Child Abuse America®: The Shift - Voices of Prevention - A Podcast®¹⁰

The Shift explores bold ideas, upstream solutions, and real stories from changemakers, experts, and parents across the country—spotlighting what’s working to prevent harm and promote family well-being.



The Surgeon General's Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health (2023) - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services¹¹

This Advisory describes the current evidence on the impacts of social media on the mental health of children and adolescents. It states that we cannot conclude social media is sufficiently safe for children and adolescents and outlines immediate steps we can take to mitigate the risk of harm to children and adolescents. [Download short summary.](#) [Download advisory:](#)



¹⁰ Source, Prevent Child Abuse America®, website: <https://preventchildabuse.org/the-shift-voices-of-prevention/>.

¹¹ Source U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, website: [Social Media and Youth Mental Health | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/social-media-youth-mental-health/).

Resources from StopBullying.gov - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ¹²

What Is Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying includes **sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else.** It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior. Learn about [Cyberbullying Tactics](#) and [Cyberbullying and Online Gaming.](#)



StopBullying.gov - What to do if you experience cyberbullying?

Watch Videos



¹² Source, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, website: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it>.

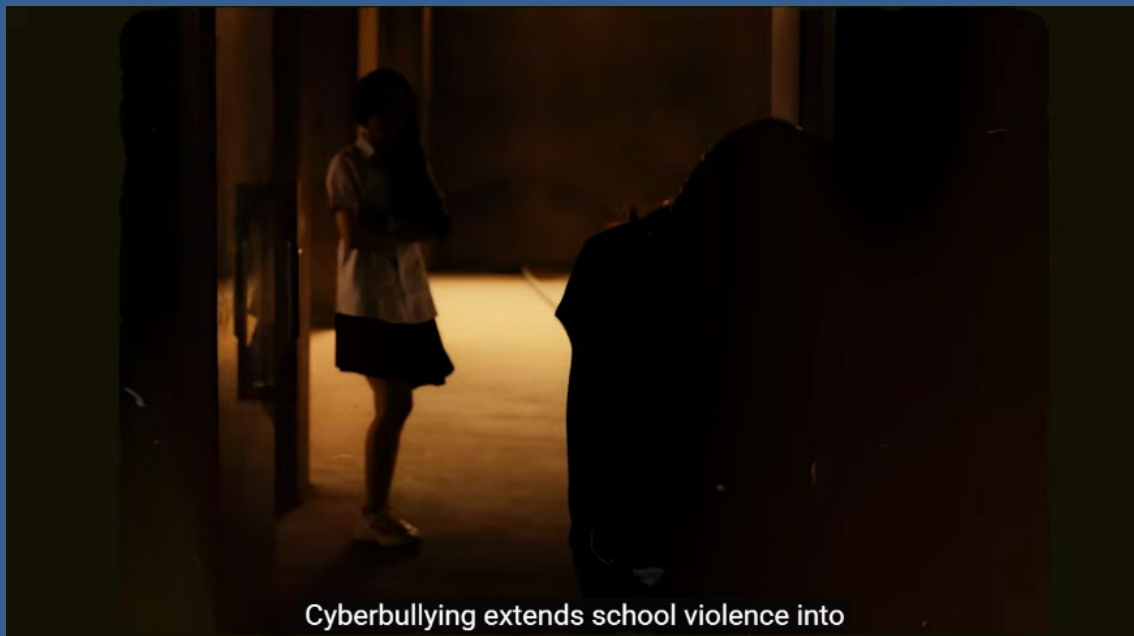
- Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy. ([StopBullying.gov](https://www.stopbullying.gov))
- **Federal Laws:** Although no federal law directly addresses bullying, in some cases, bullying overlaps with discriminatory harassment when it is based on race, national origin, color, sex, age, disability, or religion. Learn more at [Federal Laws | StopBullying.gov](https://www.stopbullying.gov/federal-laws).

What kids can do: ¹³

Are you being bullied? Do you see bullying at your school? There are things you can do to keep yourself and the kids you know safe from bullying.

- [Treat Everyone with Respect](#)
- [What to Do If You're Bullied](#)
- [Protect Yourself from Cyberbullying](#)
- [Stand Up for Others](#)
- [Get Involved](#)

Tackling the Growing Threat of Cyberbullying – United Nations (UNICEF) ¹⁴



¹³ Source, StopBullying.gov, website: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/what-you-can-do>.

¹⁴ Source, United Nations, UNICEF, website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UW092mJhT8>.

Resources from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Cyberbullying ¹⁵

The feeling of being laughed at or harassed by others, can prevent people from speaking up or trying to deal with the problem. In extreme cases, cyberbullying can even lead to people taking their own lives.

Who should I talk to if someone is bullying me online? Why is reporting important?

For bullying to stop, it needs to be identified and reporting it is key.

- If you think you're being bullied, the first step is to seek help from someone you trust such as your parents, a close family member or another trusted adult.
- In your school you can reach out to a counsellor, the sports coach or your favourite teacher – either online or in person.
- And if you are not comfortable talking to someone you know, **[search for a child helpline in your country](#)**¹⁶ to talk to a professional counsellor.
- If the bullying is happening on a social platform, consider blocking the bully and formally reporting their behaviour on the platform itself. Social media companies are obligated to keep their users safe.
- It can be helpful to collect evidence – text messages and screen shots of social media posts – to show what's been going on.
- For bullying to stop, it needs to be identified and reporting it is key. It can also help to show the bully that their behavior is unacceptable.
- If you are in immediate danger, then you should contact the police or emergency services in your country.

**1 in 3 children are
at risk of cyberbullying.**

Cyberbullying ends with you and me – UNICEF South Africa ¹⁷

¹⁵ Source United Nations, UNICEF, website: <https://www.unicef.org/stories/how-to-stop-cyberbullying>.

¹⁶ Source, Child Helpline International, website: <https://childhelplineinternational.org/helplines/>.

¹⁷ Source, United Nations, UNICEF South Africa, website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-VneyK8kpU>.

AI for Children (UNICEF) – Project Toward AI Policies and Systems that Uphold Child Rights ¹⁸

UNICEF's guidance offers practical recommendations for governments and industry to support child-centred AI policies and systems. It was updated in 2025 to reflect the rapidly changing AI policy and technology landscape.

Highlights

As part of the **AI for children project**, **UNICEF** has updated its guidance (version 3) to promote children's rights in government and private sector AI policies and practices, and to raise awareness of how AI systems can uphold or undermine these rights. Drawing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the guidance offers 10 requirements for child-centered AI:

3.0 | DECEMBER 2025

unicef
for every child

Guidance on AI and Children

For AI policies and systems that uphold children's rights, UNICEF calls on governments, the private sector and others to meet these **ten requirements**:

1. Ensure **regulatory** frameworks, oversight and compliance for child-centred AI
2. Ensure **safety** for children
3. Protect children's **data and privacy**
4. Ensure **non-discrimination and fairness** for children
5. Provide **transparency, explainability and accountability** for children
6. Respect human and child rights through **responsible AI practice**
7. Support children's **best interests, development and well-being**
8. Ensure **inclusion** of and for children
9. Prepare and **skill** children for present and future developments in AI
10. Create an **enabling environment** for child-centred AI

Learn more about the **Guidance on AI and children** here:
[unicef.org/innocenti/reports/policy-guidance-ai-children](https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/policy-guidance-ai-children)

¹⁸ Source, United Nations, UNICEF, website: <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/projects/ai-for-children>.

Resources from Boys Town National Hotline® and Crisis Support: ¹⁹ **Boys Town** is here to help you through difficult times, and help you see the hope of a brighter day. Kids, teens and parents can find support and online resources from trained counselors and mental health experts.

Boys Town National Hotline®
Reach Out and Get Help
800-448-3000
Text VOICE to 20121

Help at the End of the Line

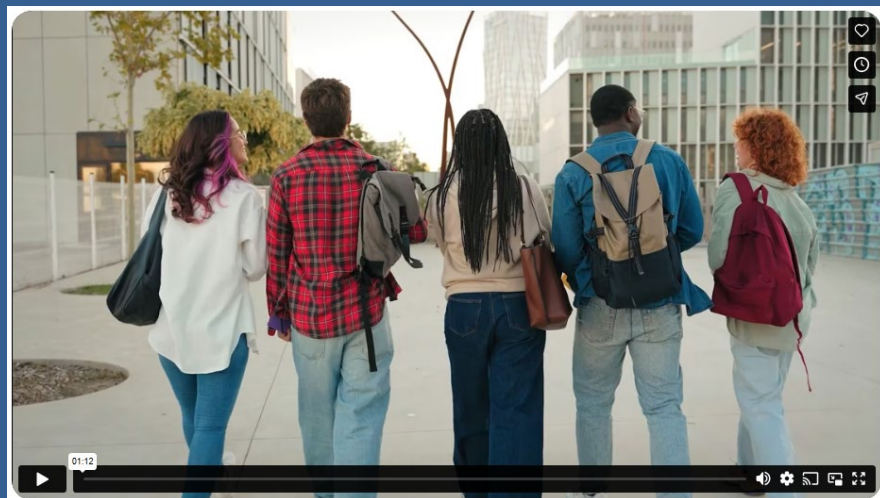
The **Boys Town National Hotline®** is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is staffed by specially trained Boys Town counselors. It is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology (AAS). We take toll-free calls from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories and Canada. Spanish-speaking counselors and translation services for more than 100 languages also are available 24 hours a day. The speech- and hearing-impaired can contact us by email: **hotline@boystown.org**.

The Hotline is proud to also provide unparalleled services to several national lines, including **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** and the **National Grad Crisis Line (877-GRAD-HLP)**.

2024 Hotline Trends

What Are the Top Issues Kids are Facing?

These are the top reasons young people contacted Boys Town in 2024.



¹⁹ Source Boys Town, website: <https://www.boystown.org/child-family-services/crisis>.

The devastating effects of video game addiction on children – 60 Minutes Australia



20

Resources from Cleveland Clinic - Video Game Addiction ²¹

Video game addiction (internet gaming disorder) is characterized by severely reduced control over gaming habits, resulting in negative impacts on daily functioning, including personal, social, educational and occupational responsibilities.

Symptoms and Causes

What are the signs and symptoms of video game addiction?

Signs and symptoms of video game addiction (internet gaming disorder) include:

- Poor performance at school, work or household responsibilities as a result of excessive video game playing.
- Withdrawal symptoms, such as sadness, anxiety or irritability, when games are taken away or gaming isn't possible.
- A need to spend more and more time playing video games to get the same level of enjoyment.
- Giving up other previously enjoyed activities and/or social relationships due to gaming.
- Being unable to reduce playing time and having unsuccessful attempts to quit gaming despite the negative consequences it's causing.
- Lying to family members or others about the amount of time spent playing video games.
- A decline in personal hygiene or grooming due to excessive video gaming.
- Using video games as a way to escape stressful situations at work or school or to avoid conflicts at home.
- Using video games to relieve negative moods, such as guilt or hopelessness.

If you or a loved one are experiencing these signs and symptoms, talk to your healthcare provider or a mental health professional.

[VIEW Treatment Centers at the American Addiction Centers webpage.](#)

²⁰ Source, 60 Minutes Australia, website: <https://youtu.be/F4soyu2chGY?si=qw-uxuvvdKW-6Bzd>.

²¹ Source, Cleveland Clinic, website: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/23124-video-game-addiction>.

How Predators Exploit Fortnite & Children’s Favorite Games – Arizona’s Family Investigates ²²

In this episode of Arizona's Family Investigates podcast, reporter Amy Cutler and anchor Nicole Crites dive into the disturbing case of an 11-year-old boy who received graphic videos from a pedophile he met on Fortnite. Hear from the boy's parents, learn how the predator lured children through Discord, and understand the measures that led to his 32-year imprisonment. This detailed investigation highlights the complexities of online safety, especially for vulnerable children, and offers critical advice for parents on protecting their kids in the digital age.



- [00:00](#) Disturbing Case of Online Predation
- [00:26](#) Parents' Shock and Precautions
- [01:28](#) The Predator's Modus Operandi
- [02:24](#) Building the Case Against the Predator
- [04:33](#) Parental Guidance and Safety Tips
- [05:24](#) Interview with Nicole Kreitz
- [09:15](#) The Importance of Digital Awareness
- [29:14](#) Challenges in Regulating Online Platforms
- [32:20](#) Community Feedback and Final Thoughts

²² Source, Arizona’s Family Investigates, website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BalvJNrBOM>.

Resources from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)[®] - Generative AI (GAI) ²³

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) technology allows a user to create new images, videos, audio and text based on user requests or prompts. This technology has many benefits, but at the same time, **NCMEC** is deeply concerned about the numerous ways it is being used to sexually exploit children. Over the past two years, **NCMEC's CyberTipline** has received more than 70,000 child sexual exploitation reports involving GAI, and the numbers are expected to grow as we continue to track these trends.

Key Risks: Protecting children from the harms of GAI sexual exploitation requires education and guidance from trusted adults. Understanding the risks is a critical first step to being able to help. GAI risks to children include:

- **GAI Exploitative Imagery:** GAI is being used to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM) that depicts children engaged in sexually explicit conduct and nude images of children like content created by “nudify” apps. The creation and distribution of this fake imagery – including synthetic media, digital forgery and nude images of children – can have serious legal consequences and cause severe harm to victims, including harassment, bullying and psychological and emotional harm.
- **Online Enticement:** Individuals can use GAI tools to create fake accounts on social media to communicate with a child with the intent to commit a sexual offense.
- **Sextortion:** Offenders can use GAI to create explicit images of a child that are used to blackmail the child for additional sexual content, coerce a child to engage in sexual activity or to obtain money. NCMEC has seen cases in which the child refuses to send a nude image to the offender, and the offender then creates an explicit GAI image of that child to blackmail them for more explicit images.
- **AI Bullying and Peer Victimization:** GAI technology may be used to create or spread harmful content, such as fake images or videos. This content is often created by a child’s classmates and can end up circulating in schools.

²³ Source, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, website: <https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/generative-ai>.

What NCMEC is Doing About it

Responding to Reports

Using GAI to create child sexual abuse imagery and nude or exploitative images of a child should always be reported and taken seriously. NCMEC's CyberTipline provides the public and electronic service providers with the ability to report multiple forms of suspected child sexual exploitation, including CSAM and online enticement. After NCMEC handles a CyberTipline report, all reports are made available to the appropriate law enforcement agency. To make a CyberTipline report, please visit report.cybertip.org.

Helping Victims Take Back Control

If a sexually explicit image of you or someone you know – whether real or GAI-created – is circulating online, NCMEC's **Take It Down** service can help. This tool allows individuals to anonymously request the removal of explicit images from participating platforms.

NCMEC also has resources to help you learn how to report exploitative content to the internet service provider and platform where the content is posted to help to mitigate the spread of the image or video. Visit [Is Your Explicit Content Out There?](#)

Preventing Abuse Through Education

NCMEC's digital citizenship and safety program, **NetSmartz**, is an innovative educational program that uses games, animated videos, classroom-based lesson plans, activities and much more to help empower children to make safer choices online.

Supporting Victims & Families

For families with a missing or sexually exploited child, NCMEC provides **support services** such as crisis intervention and local counseling referrals to appropriate professionals. Our **Team HOPE** program connects families with peers who have had similar experiences and can offer coping skills and compassion.

The CyberTipline is the place to report child sexual exploitation

The **CyberTipline** is the place to report child sexual exploitation.

If you believe you or someone you know is a victim of exploitation, **we are here to help.**


[Report Incident >](#)

[Want to learn more before you make a report?](#)



Take It Down ²⁴

Remove your nudes from the Internet.



Take It Down.
Having nudes online is scary,
but there is hope to get it taken down.

This service is one step you can take to help remove online nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit photos and videos taken before you were 18.

Get Started +

Please remember:

- **Take It Down** is for photos or videos containing nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit content, taken before you were 18.
- You can submit anonymously.
- Your photos or videos won't leave your device.

NetSmartz ²⁵

NetSmartz is an interactive, no-cost online safety education program from the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)**® designed to teach children ages 5–17, parents, and educators about internet safety. It provides age-appropriate videos, games, and lesson plans aimed at reducing risks like cyberbullying and online exploitation

[Watch Into the Cloud: Session 3! Now available in Spanish](#)

²⁴ Source, National Center for Missed and Exploited Children, website: <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>.

²⁵ Source, National Center for Missed and Exploited Children, website: <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home>.

Character AI pushes dangerous content to kids, parents and researchers say | 60 Minutes²⁶



A teen told a Character AI chatbot 55 times that she was feeling suicidal. Her parents say the chatbot never provided resources for her to get help. They are one of at least six families suing the company.

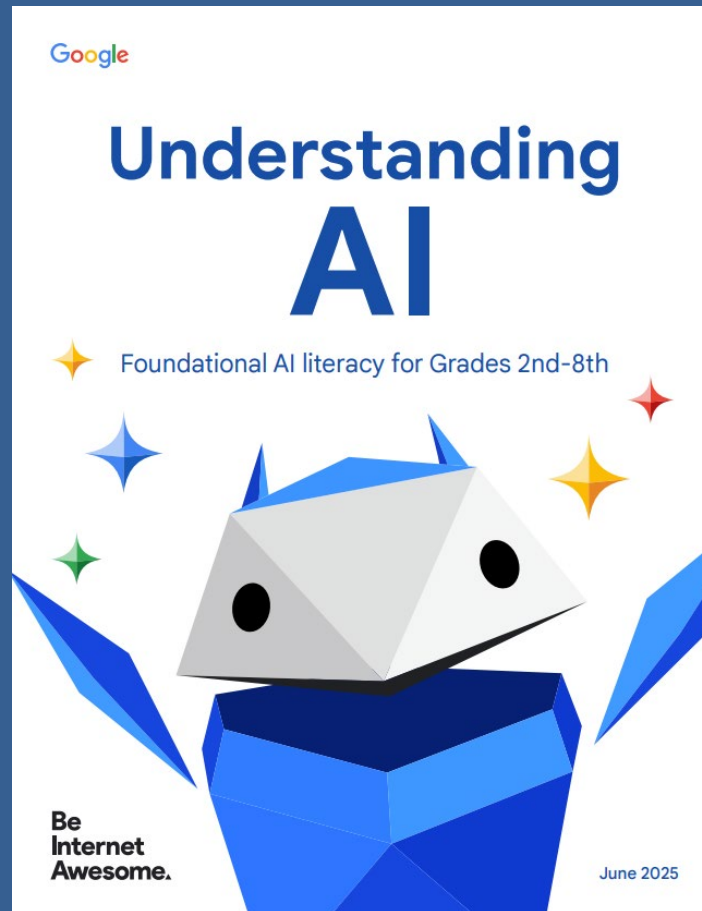
Resources from Be Internet Awesome²⁷

To make the most of the Internet, kids need to be prepared to make smart decisions. **Be Internet Awesome** empowers kids with tools and education to confidently and safely explore, grow, and play online.

Access the **AI Literacy Guide**: For educators of grades 2-8, the Be Internet Awesome AI Literacy Guide offers downloadable lesson plans and classroom activities to make foundational AI literacy concepts engaging for students.

²⁶ Source, 60 Minutes, Character AI pushes dangerous content to kids, parents and researchers say, website: <https://youtu.be/6ocUfNHycL0?si=MBVlgX50yITGVAKB>.

²⁷ Source, Be Internet Awesome, website: https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us.



Be Internet Awesome World on Roblox: Explore the magical world of the Internauts while learning how to be safe online in this immersive, action-packed gaming experience on Roblox! **Play Now!**



Be Internet Awesome Interland: Kids can play their way to being Internet Awesome with **Interland**, an online adventure that puts the key lessons of digital safety into hands-on practice with four challenging games. **PLAY NOW!**

FOSI – Family Safety Institute²⁸

FOSI brings together and highlights the best safety messages, tools and methods to reach parents, children and caregivers.

Safety Cards for Your Devices: Don't just give your child access to a new device without establishing some rules.

I AM EXCITED TO GIVE YOU THIS
TABLET

BUT THERE ARE SOME RULES THAT COME ALONG WITH IT...

TIME LIMITS
You are allowed to use this tablet __hours per day unless we have agreed otherwise.

RESTRICTIONS
You should not use your tablet at these times, places, or in these situations without permission:

APPS
You agree to ask me before you download new apps or make in-game purchases.
Or, we may agree to a pre-approved amount for purchases.

CONTENT
I want you to learn and have fun with technology, so it matters to me what you're doing online. I may ask where you're going, who you connect with, and what you're doing on your tablet. I'm excited for the opportunities technology gives you, but I also want you to stay safe.


Family Online Safety Institute

For more information: fosi.org/parenting

IF YOU AGREE TO
FOLLOW THESE RULES

I PROMISE TO...

NOT OVERREACT
If you come across something on your tablet that makes you feel uncomfortable, I want to know about it so I can help you. I promise that if that situation ever comes up, I will listen first and not overreact.

LEARN NEW THINGS
I want to know about the cool things you do on your tablet so we can talk about them. I promise to try out new and different things with technology so we can spend time online together.

BE RESPONSIBLE
I know it's important that I also set a good example when using my own devices. I promise to make sure I read information before I purchase and download apps and make conscious decisions about my own time limits too.

CHILD SIGNS HERE

PARENT SIGNS HERE


Family Online Safety Institute

For more information: fosi.org/parenting

²⁸ Source, Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI), website: <https://fosi.org/>

Additional Training for Adults

- **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program**: A national network of 61 coordinated task forces, representing over 5,400 federal, state, and local law enforcement, dedicated to investigating, prosecuting and developing effective responses to internet crimes against children. Offers the following two conferences:
- **The Family Online Safety Institute emphasizes three core pillars to promote a balanced approach to online safety: Policy, Practice, and Parenting.** FOSI brings together and highlights the best safety messages, tools and methods to reach parents, children and caregivers.
- The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC)** is committed to providing training, technical assistance and resources to public safety and child-serving professionals. NCMEC hosts in-person classroom training sessions in its Walsh Training Center located in Alexandria, VA headquarters, as well as facilities located across the country at regional offices and partner agencies. Online courses are available through NCMEC Connect, designed to provide easy access to training and resources for professionals on the frontlines. Contact NCMEC training staff via email, **training@ncmec.org**.
- **Department of Homeland Security - Know2Protect® Training**: The Department of Homeland Security utilizes outreach programs to educate the public about the growing threats kids and teens face online.
- **The Wizer Mission: Engage Your Family to Stay Safe Online**: Viral videos filled with stories and tips along with other engaging content to educate your family and keep them safer in the digital world. Visit the **No-Nonsense Security Awareness Training & Phishing Simulation**.
- **DoD Cyber Awareness Challenge 2026**: Hands-on phishing and cybersecurity education with gamified quizzes that test your ability to spot threats.
- The **Centre for Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults (CPCS) at Saint Paul University (Université Saint-Paul)** in Ottawa, Canada, is designed to help eliminate the threat and trauma of abuse of any kind, especially sexual abuse in society and in the Church. For more information visit the **CPCS's website** and the upcoming **events**.
- **Tutela Minorum - Inside Safeguarding**: Inside Safeguarding is the official podcast of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM). PCPM offers monthly insights

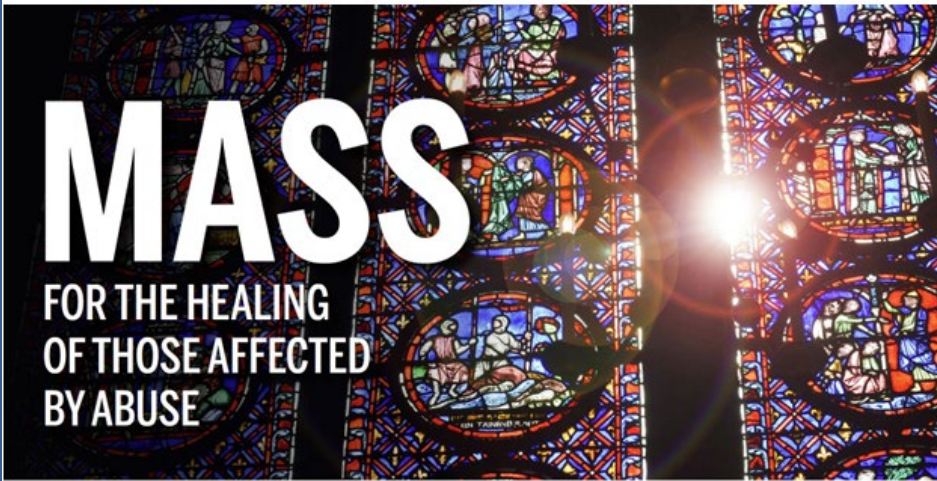
from global experts working to end abuse and promote a culture of accountability and care. [Inside Safeguarding provides 8 episodes](#) of safeguarding lessons and initiatives in the Church.

- [SafeGuards Trauma Informed Training](#): Serving vulnerable children, youth, adults and families in Ontario. Safeguards builds the capacity of people and communities through trauma-informed training and practice.
- [FADICA Funder Safeguarding Resource Hub](#): offers resources to build awareness and take action. To help funders and nonprofits develop safeguarding practices, our Resource Hub features informational videos and documents developed by leading experts in prevention and risk management.
- The [Center for Child Protection, a children’s advocacy center](#), offers free prevention education and professional training to the Travis County Community in Texas.
- [DC.gov Child and Family Services Agency, Mandated Reporter Training](#): Mandated reporters are an integral part of the protection of children in the District of Columbia. Individuals who frequently work with children are often the first adults to see signs of child abuse or neglect. The nature of their child-friendly professions makes them uniquely qualified to protect children from maltreatment. Individuals in those professions are mandated reporters because they are legally mandated to report child abuse and neglect. [Register Now](#).
- [Virginia Department of Social Services, Mandated Reporters – Training & Resources](#): Mandated reporters are certain persons who are identified in the Code of Virginia as having a legal responsibility to report suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation. The purpose of mandated reporting is to identify suspected abused and neglected children or vulnerable adults as soon as possible so that they can be protected from further harm. Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) cannot act until a report is made. Mandated reporters play a critical role in preventing any future harm to children and vulnerable adults.
- [Center for Hope’s Online Training Institute](#) is designed for professionals, youth-serving organizations, caregivers, community members, and others looking to improve their skills to promote the safety and well-being of children, youth, and adults.


DIOCESAN and EPARCHIAL RESOURCES


Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire


Mass for the Healing of Those Affected by Abuse- Bishop Libasci will celebrate Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester on **Monday, April 20 at 5:00 PM**. The service will be live streamed from the Cathedral website: <http://www.stjosephcathedralnh.org>. Questions about the Mass can be directed to Marc Guillemette, Coordinator of Victim Assistance and Pastoral Care at mguillemette@rcbm.org.





MASS
FOR THE HEALING
OF THOSE AFFECTED
BY ABUSE

 **WHERE** St. Joseph Cathedral | Corner Pine & Lowell St.
Manchester, NH

 **WHEN** Monday | April 20 | 2026 | 5:00 pm

 **STREAM** www.stjosephcathedralnh.org

 **ALL ARE INVITED** Join us to pray for all those affected by abuse in the church and in our society



Diocese of Manchester

Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California

Joan Vienna, Coordinator of the Office of Safeguard the Children, presents the 2026 booklet to celebrate and increase awareness with the theme “Keeping Kids and Young People Safe!” Today, Tomorrow, Forever. The booklet includes information and ideas for you and your Parish Safeguard the Children Committee to help organize special events this month, such as ceremonies, blessings, bulletins, announcements, petitions, posters, and stickers.

2026 April Child Abuse Prevention Month Booklet

2026-2027 Working Together Brochure (English)

2026-2027 Working Together Brochure “Trabajando Juntos Español” (Spanish)

Archdiocese of Chicago

Pinwheels for Prevention: **15th Annual Prayer Service for Child Abuse Prevention on Friday, April 17th, 2026, at the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Healing Garden: 1080 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago.**

Please join the Archdiocese of Chicago in its ongoing commitment to the ministry of protecting children at the Annual Prayer Service for Child Abuse Prevention.

Watch the following compelling 2023 Prayer Service and listen to Michael Hoffman, Chairman of Hope and Healing Committee and victim-survivor of clerical abuse.



USCCB-Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection Novena:

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month. While dioceses work year-round to prevent abuse, during this month a special emphasis is placed on the importance of learning how to protect the vulnerable from this evil.

Together, for the next nine days, let's pray that the vulnerable are protected from abuse, and that survivors of abuse may be accompanied on their paths to healing.

Novena

for Protection and Healing from Abuse

Intercessions

- Day 1:** May the most vulnerable be protected from all types of abuse and exploitation.
- Day 2:** May those who have been sexually abused receive comfort and healing.
- Day 3:** May those who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.
- Day 4:** May those who provide help for the abused act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.
- Day 5:** May all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.

Day 6: May all those who have committed abuse acknowledge the harm they have done, repent, and accept justice that ultimately comes from God.

Day 7: May those who have been abused receive the courage to tell their story, and may they be believed and supported.

Day 8: May Church leaders, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, promote justice and healing for survivors of abuse.

Day 9: May our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, fulfill his role as good shepherd and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.

Prayers

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be, Prayer for Healing

Prayer for Healing

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.

Soothe their restless hearts with
hope, steady their shaken
spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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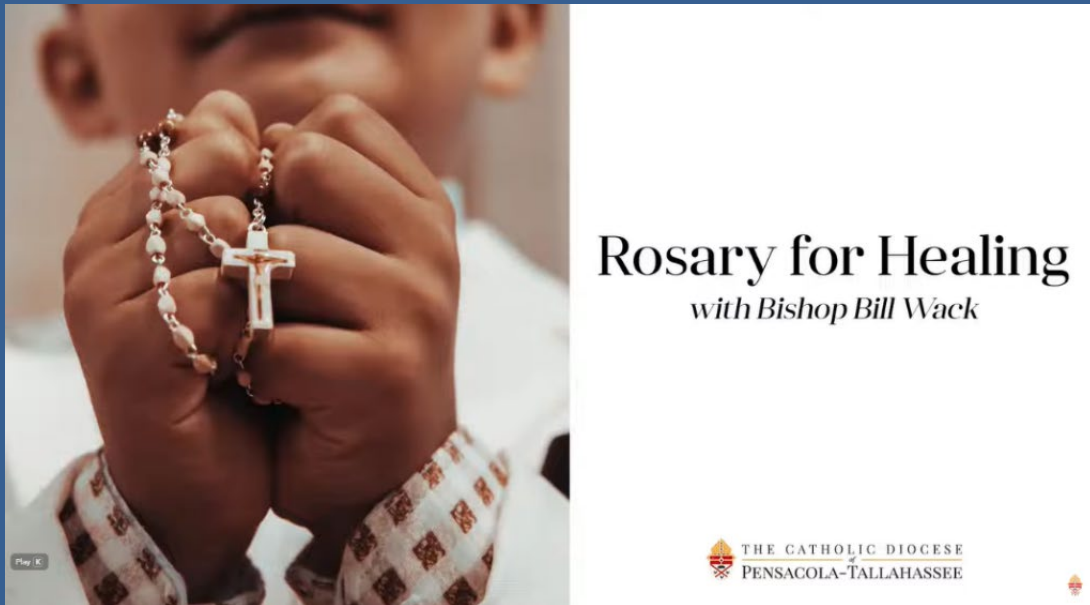


United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Child Abuse Prevention Month - One Minute with Bishop Burbidge:



Rosary, Glorious Mysteries for Healing: National Child Abuse Prevention Month - Led by Bishop William A. Wack



Wear Blue Day

Wear Blue Day: Join us on **“Wear Blue Day” on Friday, April 10** – All are encouraged to wear blue, the international color for prevention, to raise awareness and support for children and families. Please consider encouraging your parish staff and/or school community to wear blue on Friday, April 10.

Blue Sunday – National Day of Prayer for Children and Families affected by Abuse.

- **Blue Sunday:** Observed on **Sunday, April 26, “Blue Sunday”** is a National Day of Prayer for victims of abuse. On this day, please pray the Holy Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet and spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Raise awareness, invite family and friends to pray the **Rosary for Healing and Protection** (English) and **Spanish**.
- Wear blue in support of survivors.

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)



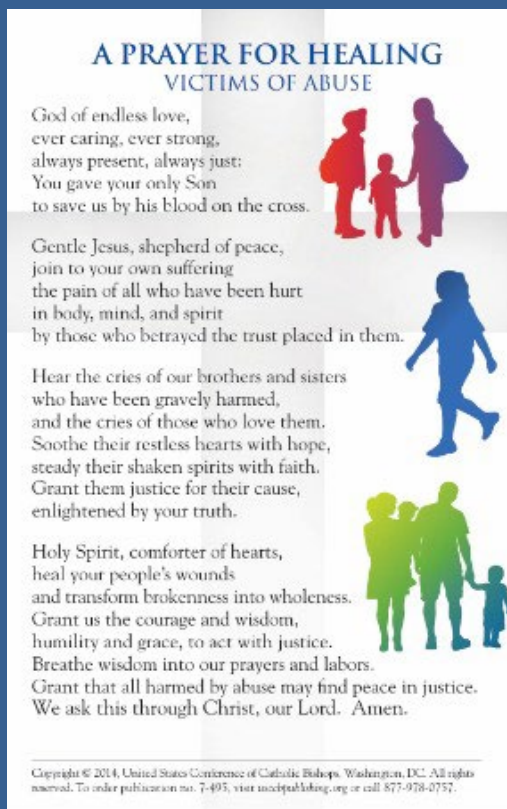
*A Rosary for
Healing & Protection*



Together, we can ensure that all children are safe from sexual abuse and can provide assistance and support to victims who are on the path to healing.


You can help in these efforts by offering your prayers for healing and protection.

This rosary will help you to lift up their needs in prayer, offering them to God through Mary who offers her loving protection to all her children.



**A PRAYER FOR HEALING
VICTIMS OF ABUSE**


God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.



Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.



Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.



Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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SCYP Prayer cards, posters, bookmarks, etc.

The *Charter*, prayer cards, posters, bookmarks, etc. are available for use by dioceses and eparchies. These resources can be found on the Resource webpage for the USCCB Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection.

Poster:



Bookmark:



Bulletin inserts:

STOP CHILD ABUSE

PROTECT THEIR FUTURE

APRIL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Children need to feel safe at home, school, and in the community.

Teach children how to handle conflicts wisely, without resorting to violence

Listen to their stories and meet their emotional needs.

Physical punishment is not a solution. Replace it with educational and loving discipline methods.

If a child shows signs of stress offer emotional support and, if necessary, professional help.


Motivate children to talk about their feelings without fear.



Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection
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APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Identify and Report Warning Signs of Child Abusers

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also often try to isolate their victims from family or friends and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

The Effects of ABUSE

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include:

- Loss of faith and trust in God.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and other indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches.
- A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place.

Steps to Prevent ABUSE

Communicate with Your Children

It is extremely important to communicate openly with your children. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers them. This will help you identify warning signs and grooming behaviors perpetrated by offenders before they escalate to abuse.

Educate Yourself and Your Children on Abuse

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm and to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

Holding Offenders ACCOUNTABLE

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused.

In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry.

"The abuse itself causes a deep wound that may last a lifetime, but often the scandal in the Church is because the door was closed and the victims were not welcomed and accompanied by authentic pastors."
—Pope Leo XIV, Jan. 10, 2026

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

ABRIL es el Mes de la Prevención del Abuso de Menores

Cada abril, las parroquias y escuelas católicas en los Estados Unidos participan en el Mes Nacional de Prevención del Abuso de Menores.

Los efectos del ABUSO

Cuando un niño es abusado, los efectos son graves y pueden durar toda la vida. Algunos de los efectos más comunes del abuso incluyen:

- Pérdida de la fe y confianza en Dios.
- Trastorno por estrés posttraumático, malestar psicológico y otros signos indirectos de trauma, como la ansiedad, problemas para dormir, dolores crónicos de la cabeza y dolores de estómago.
- Un mayor riesgo de desarrollar problemas de conducta, abuso de sustancias y suicidio.

Pasos para prevenir el ABUSO

Comunícate con tus hijos

Es extremadamente importante comunicarse con tus hijos. Hágales saber que pueden hablar con usted sobre cualquier cosa que les moleste. Esto le ayudará a identificar señales de advertencia y comportamientos de aseos cometidos por los delincuentes antes de que se conviertan en abuso.

Educa a ti mismo y a tus hijos sobre el abuso

Aprende como a identificar, prevenir y reportar el abuso es clave. Los padres y tutores deben permitir a sus hijos para que se protejan de el peligro y a denunciar el abuso. Pregúntele a su coordinador diocesano de ambiente seguro o delegado de la parroquia acerca de las oportunidades para un entrenamiento de ambiente seguro.

Identifica y reporta señales de advertencia de los abusadores de menores de edad

Los comportamientos de aseos son las acciones que los abusadores toman para proyectar la imagen de que son personas amables, generosas y solidarias, mientras que su intención es atraer a un menor a una relación inapropiada. Los ofensores pueden ser pacientes y pueden engañar a su víctima, a su familia o la comunidad por años.

Algunos abusadores aíslan a una víctima potencial prestándole mucha atención o regalos lujosos, mientras que otros permiten que los jóvenes participen en actividades que sus padres o tutores no aprobarían, como ver pornografía, beber alcohol, usar drogas y contacto físico inapropiados. Los abusadores también tratan de aislar a sus víctimas de la familia o amigos y alientan a sus víctimas a que guarden secretos de sus padres o otros adultos que los cuidan.

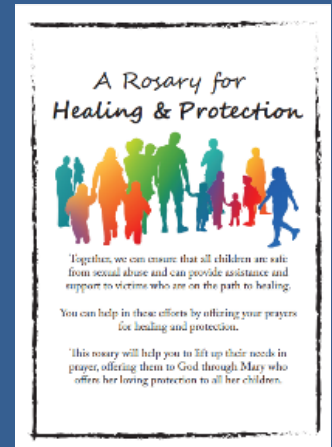
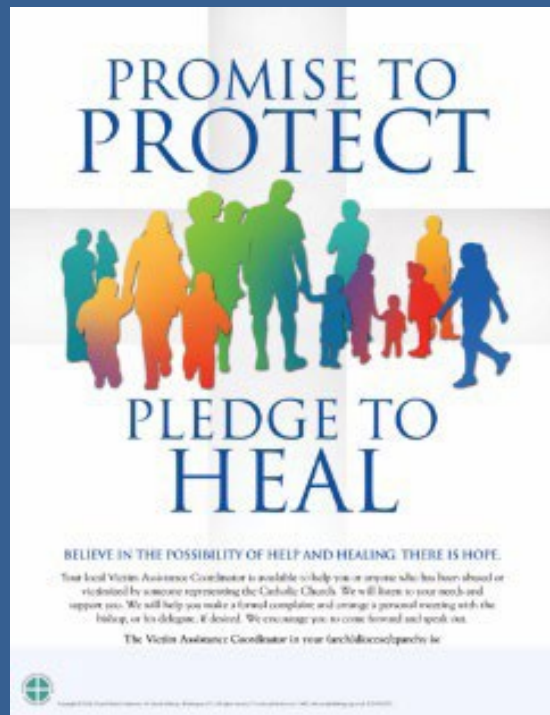
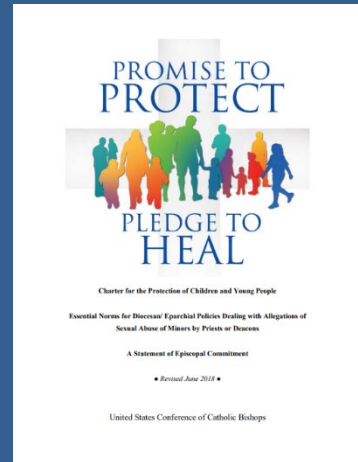
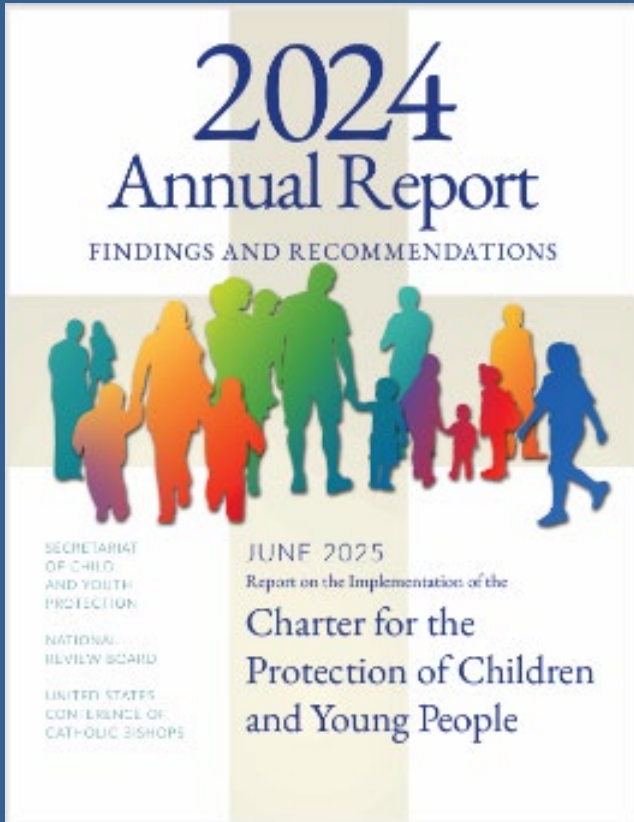
Exijan ofensores para que sean RESPONSABLE por sus acciones

Para ayudar responsabilizar a los abusadores por sus acciones, reporta cualquier sospecha de abuso a las autoridades públicas locales. También puedes comunicarte con el coordinador local de asistencia a las víctimas de la diócesis para hacer un informe y buscar ayuda para los abusados.

De acuerdo con la política diocesana, cuando se admite o establece un solo acto de abuso sexual, el ofensor debe ser expulsado permanentemente del ministerio.

"El abuso en sí mismo causa una herida profunda que puede durar toda una vida, pero a menudo el escándalo en la Iglesia se produce porque la puerta estaba cerrada y las víctimas no fueron bienvenidas ni acompañadas por pastores auténticos."
—Papa Leo XIV, 10 de enero de 2026

Confederación de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos



DOCUMENTS

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

- Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People
- 2024 Annual Report

Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors – Tutela Minorum

- Annual Report on Church Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding - Reporting year : 2024
- 2024 Annual Report - Executive Summary
- 2024 Universal Guidelines Framework (provisory text)

Vatican Documents:

- Vatican website with links to safeguarding documents in multiple languages.
- Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter, Motu Proprio, Vos Estis Lux Mundi, 7 May 2019
- Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter, Motu Proprio, Vos Estis Lux Mundi, 25 March 2023
- Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Vademecum on certain points of procedure in treating cases of sexual abuse of minors committed by clerics (5 June 2022), Ver. 2.0.
- Instruction on the Confidentiality of Legal Proceedings (2019)
- John Paul II, Apostolic Letter, Motu Proprio, Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela, 30 April, 2001.
- Book VI of the Code of Canon Law