

WHAT IS KNOW2PROTECT?

Together We Can Stop Online Child Exploitation™

Know2Protect is a Department of Homeland Security national public awareness campaign to educate and empower children, teens, parents, trusted adults and policymakers to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA).



KNOW2PROTECT.GOV

Provide free resources and information to key audiences such as discussion guides, reporting guidance, preventive measures and a dedicated portal for children and teens.

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborate with community, nonprofit, government and private sector organizations to amplify important messaging and achieve campaign goals.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Deliver tailored messaging to targeted audiences with owned channels across Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube.

PAID MEDIA

Amplify Know2Protect messaging and creative ads across social media, digital platforms and traditional media to increase awareness of this crime and our campaign.

TRAINING

Offer outreach programs to educate the public about the growing threats children and teens face online, including Project iGuardian®, the official educational program of the Know2Protect campaign and Childhood Smart, offered by the U.S. Secret Service in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

KNOW THE THREATS

Online CSEA is a horrific crime that targets some of the most vulnerable people in our communities — our children and teens. It includes a broad range of criminal acts that involve the victimization of a minor for sexual gratification or some other personal or financial gain.

DHS uses its unique law enforcement authorities to investigate and prevent online CSEA. We take a whole-of-department approach: DHS's Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Secret Service, the Cyber Infrastructure and Security Agency, and Science and Technology leverage our investigative resources and state-of-the-art technologies, support state and local law enforcement partners and conduct thousands of online safety presentations in schools across the country to help prevent these crimes through education and outreach.

In the last decade, online CSEA has increased exponentially and is now a global epidemic. In 2023, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children — the nation's clearinghouse for child sexual abuse material — received 36 million reports of child sexual abuse material online, a drastic increase from 2014, when it received 1 million reports. The lack of understanding of online CSEA and increased technology use among children and teens has created space for these crimes to flourish. For too long, our communities have been left on their own when it comes to understanding the online dangers that exist and how to prevent them.

Know2Protect shines a spotlight on this horrific crime. It relies on the expertise and authority of HSI special agents tasked with finding online predators and bringing them to justice. It spreads awareness about these global threats, shares preventive strategies to stop future victimization, empowers the public to report suspected abuse and supports survivors of online CSEA.