# 14th Conference on Child Sexual Abuse Online

**September 30, 2024 | 9.00 AM – 2.00 PM (CEST)**

**Platform: Youtube**
**Live from: Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana**
**Language: English**

**Event moderator:** Urša Valentič

**Organizers:**

Spletno oko (Safer internet centre Slovenia, UL FSS)

Criminal Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate

Association of Informatics and Telecommunications at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia

## TIMELINE

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| **9.00 – 9.20** | **CONFERENCE OPENING - WELCOME ADDRESSES**<br><br>- dr. Iztok Prezelj, Dean at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana<br>- Nenad Šutanovac, Director of ICT Association at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia<br>- Damjan Petrič, mag., Director of the Criminal Police Directorate, General Police Directorate |
| **9.20 – 10.40** | **CYBERTRAUMA, THE UNKNOWN KNOWN AND THE IMPACT TRAJECTORY. HOW TO NAVIGATE THIS AND HELP.**<br><br>Catherine Knibbs, Clinical Doctoral Researcher, Consultant, Public Speaker, Author, and Child Trauma Psychotherapist who specializes in Cybertrauma, United Kingdom |
| **10.40 – 11.00** | PAUSE |
| **11.00 – 12.30** | **PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS ONLINE**<br><br>Boris Radanović, UK's Safer Internet Centre, United Kingdom |
| **12.30 – 13.15** | PAUSE |
| **13.15 – 14.00** | **"DEEPNUDES" AMONG YOUNG BELGIANS. THE NUMBERS, THE MARKET, THE IMPACT.**<br><br>Niels Van Paemel, Policy Advisor at Child Focus, the Belgian Foundation for missing and sexually exploited children, Belgium |
| **14.00** | CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE LIVE STREAM |

## CYBERTRAUMA, THE UNKNOWN KNOWN AND THE IMPACT TRAJECTORY. HOW TO NAVIGATE THIS AND HELP.

**Speaker**: *Catherine Knibbs*, Clinical Doctoral Researcher, Consultant, Public Speaker, Author, and Child Trauma Psychotherapist who specializes in Cybertrauma, United Kingdom

Cath is a specialist clinician (trauma psychotherapist), consultant and researcher in the area of Cybertrauma having spent over 15 years refining and developing the theory. She is completing her PhD on the topic and is working with large global organisations helping them understand this issue from policy making to practice with professionals. She has worked with children, adolescents, and adults. Her work involves collaborating with staff, professionals who work with families, and law enforcement in cases of sextortion, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE), and first-person produced images. Additionally, she focuses on supporting educational settings and the individuals involved in these cases. She has written 5 books with Routledge Psychology (and one self-published in 2016) on the relationship between human behaviour and technology and is now writing another book for parents specifically on how to help children stay safe online given the global changes that have taken place with legislation in the last few years.

**Presentation summary**

When people are exposed to images and videos online that are violent, gory, abusive to sentient beings and include aspects of abuse in all forms, the viewer is impacted similarly to witnessing trauma. When victims of abuse are filmed and photographed, this also incurs a form of Cybertrauma, knowing those images will be shared with others. Aspects of Cybertrauma include deep shame, humiliation, anxiety about the future, inferred distress of people in the corporeal world, psychological connections to loved ones, physiological impacts that affect individuals at the body proper and cellular levels of DNA, and many other psychological, emotional, and social impacts.

The lecture will address these points to consider victims, working with victims, managing trauma responses and shame, and tips and thinking around working with children in the sensitive area of first-person produced CSA (also known as self-generated) to minimise shame and increase trust, safety and inclusion in the relationship.

## PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS ONLINE

**Speaker:** *Boris Radanović,* UK's Safer Internet Centre, United Kingdom

Boris Radanovic is an expert in the field of online safety and currently serves as the Head of Engagements and Partnerships at the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), a UK-based charity focused on online safety. He works at the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC), which is part of the European Insafe network with his work that involves educating and raising awareness about online safety for children, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders across the globe.

Radanovic has worked extensively with various European countries, including Croatia, where worked in the Safer Internet Centre, and he has been involved in numerous missions to countries like Belarus, Serbia, Montenegro, Malta, Ukraine and North Macedonia to present online safety strategies to

government officials and NGOs. His focus is on protecting children from online threats such as cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation, and scams, as well as empowering professionals through workshops and keynote speeches.

One of his key contributions includes leading online safety education efforts, where he emphasizes the evolving risks in the digital world, such as grooming and intimate image abuse. His involvement with initiatives like StopNCII.org reflects his commitment to helping prevent non-consensual sharing of intimate images online and protection of adults as well. He sits on the Trust and Safety board of Roblox and Awareness raising board at ENISA and leads the IEEE7004 working group.

**Presentation summary**

Session focuses on the challenges faced by vulnerable groups, particularly children, in the online space. These groups are disproportionately exposed to risks like child sexual abuse, exploitation, and harmful content. The digital environment makes them more susceptible to grooming, non-consensual sharing of images, and other abuses. Alongside this, we will explore key solutions like StopNCII.org, which helps prevent the spread of non-consensual intimate images, and the Take It Down platform, which offers tools to remove harmful content swiftly.

By advocating for stronger cooperation between tech platforms and initiatives like these, we can create safer digital spaces and empower victims with effective tools for protection and recovery.

# "DEEPNUDES" AMONG YOUNG BELGIANS. THE NUMBERS, THE MARKET, THE IMPACT.

**Speaker:** *Niels Van Paemel*, Policy Advisor at Child Focus, the Belgian Foundation for missing and sexually exploited children, Belgium

Since 2015, Niels Van Paemel works as a policy advisor at Child Focus, The Belgian Foundation for missing and sexually exploited children. With an academic background in Educational Sciences and Conflict and Development (MSc) at Ghent University in Flanders, Niels built up expertise from prevention to advocacy on various topics concerning the sexual exploitation of minors: non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII), sextortion, grooming, online gender based violence and AI enhanced forms of online sexual violence. Fan of Bourdieu, allergic to the Matthew effect.

**Presentation summary**

Digital sexual violence is a rising phenomenon among young people. This Belgian study discusses a specific variant of digital sexual violence, namely deepnudes. Deepnudes are defined as realistic but completely fake images or videos of another person, using artificial intelligence. The study examines to what extent young people in Belgium between the ages of 15 and 25 (N=2819) are aware of deepnudes, and how prevalent these images are.