16th Conference on CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ONLINE



September 29, 2026
9.00 AM - 1.15 PM (CEST)

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

Event moderator: Urša Valentič

Language: English

Organizers:

Spletno oko (Safer internet centre Slovenia, UL FSS)

Criminal Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate

ICT association of Slovenia at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia

FDV UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA Faculty of Social Sciences

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA NOTRANJE ZADEVE
IN JAVNO UPRAVO

Co-funded by the European Union

TIMELINE

9.00	**CONFERENCE OPENING**
9.00 – 9.20	**WELCOME ADDRESSES**
9.20 – 10.50	**AI EVOLUTIONS & TRENDS IN CSAM LANDSCAPE** Tijana Popovic, Senior Policy Advisor at Child Focus — Belgian foundation for missing and exploited children, Belgium
10.50 – 11.10	**PAUSE**
11.10 – 11.55	**UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM OF CSAM OFFENDING: FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY OF CSAM PERPETRATORS** Valeriia Soloveva, Specialist and Researcher at the child-rights organisation Protect Children, Finland
11.55 – 12.05	**PAUSE**
12.05 – 12.45	**OUR VOICE: SURVIVOR EXPERIENCES OF ONLINE ABUSE** Valeriia Soloveva, Specialist and Researcher at the child-rights organisation Protect Children, Finland
12.45	**CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE LIVE STREAM**

PRESENTATIONS

AI EVOLUTIONS & TRENDS IN CSAM LANDSCAPE

SPEAKER

Tijana Popovic

Senior Policy Advisor at Child Focus — Belgian foundation for missing and exploited children, Belgium

Tijana Popovic has a decade of dedicated experience in online child safety. Her expertise is built on five years of case management and internet content assessment, paired with five years of strategic policy work focused on CSAM policies and EU legislation. Passionate about regulatory frameworks like the Digital Services Act (DSA), Tijana is a strong advocate for legislative measures that safeguard children and the broader public. She is deeply engaged in EU-level advocacy, routinely mobilizing cross-sector networks to foster collective knowledge and action. An anthropologist at heart, she views power dynamics as the backbone of many modern challenges—yet she refuses to give in.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the landscape of child sexual abuse. In its latest threat analysis, Europol identifies AI as a "force multiplier," further exacerbating an already deeply concerning global CSAM crisis. How did we reach this critical tipping point, and what is being done to counteract it? This lecture explores recent advancements in AI and their real-world impact. It highlights how Child Focus, the Belgian helpline and hotline, detects emerging tech-driven threats and how we drive change—both on an individual level and through collective impact.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM OF CSAM OFFENDING: FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY OF CSAM PERPETRATORS

SPEAKER

Valeriia Soloveva

Specialist and Researcher at the child-rights organisation Protect Children, Finland

As a part of the research team, Valeriia Soloveva conducts innovative research on online crimes of sexual violence against children, aiming to inform effective intervention and prevention measures internationally. She coordinates Protect Children's work to understand and prevent image-based child sexual violence in Central Asia.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

This presentation shares findings from over 20,000 respondents to an anonymous self-report survey of adults actively seeking child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online, offering a rare insight into perpetrator behaviour across the digital ecosystem, including the platforms, technologies, and online environments used to search for, view, and share CSAM. The results find early exposure to pornography and CSAM to be a major risk factor. Perpetrators access CSAM across multiple online environments, using both the dark web and popular open web platforms, with generative AI reshaping and exacerbating CSAM perpetration. The analysis shows that well-designed deterrence messages can reduce engagement with CSAM.

OUR VOICE: SURVIVOR EXPERIENCES OF ONLINE ABUSE

SPEAKER *(description on the previous page)*

Valeriia Soloveva

Specialist and Researcher at the child-rights organisation Protect Children, Finland

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Every year, 300 million children globally experience online sexual violence. The rapid development of digital spaces without robust child safeguards have diversified and multiplied opportunities for offending. Despite the alarming numbers, online child sexual violence is often not taken seriously, and its impacts remain misrepresented and misunderstood. Protect Children's new report explores experiences of 24,912 survivors of child sexual violence collected in 36 languages through the Global Our Voice Survivor Survey, unveiling the specific characteristics and devastating consequences of online abuse through the comprehensive examination of online, in-person, and mixed victimisation experiences.