

Each month we will be focusing on a different safeguarding theme to raise awareness and signpost to resources.

**Stay
Safe
Online**

For February, our theme is
Staying Safe Online.



#StaySafeOnline



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Follow us on:



Or via email:

safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk

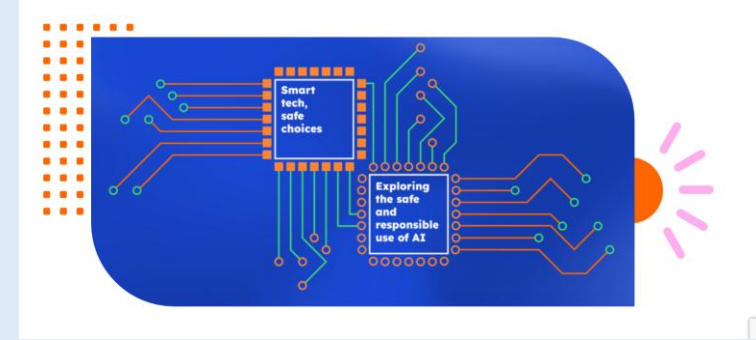


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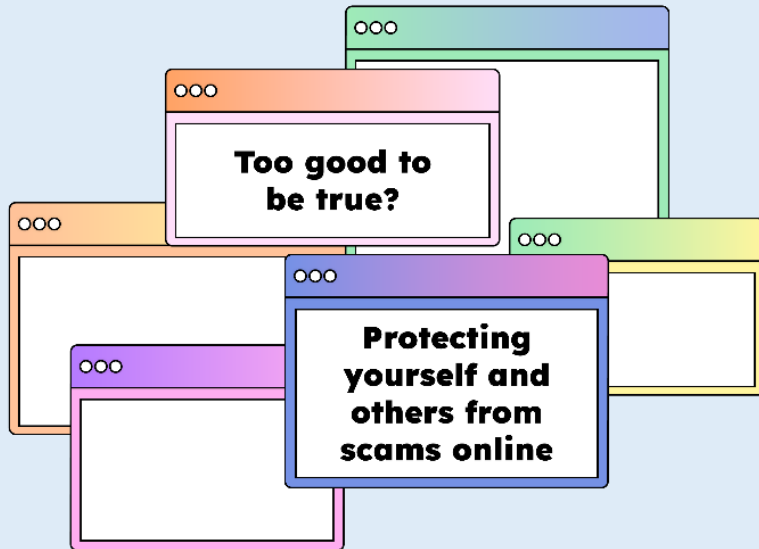
Safer Internet Day



- This month we want to raise awareness about online safety.
- Tuesday 10th February 2026 is Safer Internet day promoted by the **UK Safer Internet Centre**
- The theme for 2026 is **Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**. Further information and resources can be accessed via this link [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- Swindon Safeguarding Partnership is supporting this safeguarding initiative. We want to raise awareness about the information and resources available to support children, adults, parents, carers and professionals to **Stay Safe Online.**

SCAMS

Too good to be true?



Everyone is vulnerable to scams either online or via other methods, such as doorstep and mail scams.

On the next slides we have included some links to useful resources and websites to help protect yourself and others from scams.

SCAMS - Useful Resources



SSP 7-minute briefing: [Scams - 7 minute briefing](#)

Friends against scams:

- Website [Friends Against Scams - About](#)
- Free Online Learning: [Friends Against Scams](#)

UK Safer Internet Resources – Safer Internet Day 2025

- [Safer Internet Day 2025 Top Tips - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Education resources - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Tips for Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Research - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

- [Avoid and report internet scams and phishing-GOV.UK](#)
- [Staying Safe from Fraud and Scams - Ann Craft Trust](#)
- [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)
- [ScamSmart - Avoid investment and pension scams | FCA](#)

10 Golden Rules to prevent fraud and outsmart scammers

- 1. Be Sceptical:** Treat all “too good to be true” offers with suspicion. Remember, there are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
- 2. Take Your Time:** Don’t agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to seek independent or legal advice before making decisions.
- 3. Verify Credentials:** Before handing over money or signing anything, check someone’s credentials and their company’s legitimacy.
- 4. Money Caution:** Never send money to unfamiliar or untrusted individuals, whether in the UK or abroad. Use payment methods you’re comfortable with.
- 5. Guard Personal Details:** Never share banking or personal information with strangers. Safeguard this valuable data.

Continued

10 Golden Rules to prevent fraud and outsmart scammers

- 6. Direct Website Access:** Always log on to websites directly rather than clicking links in emails.
- 7. Seek Independent Evidence:** Don't rely solely on glowing testimonials. Look for solid, independent proof of a company's success.
- 8. Consult Professionals:** If an offer involves money, time, or commitment, seek independent or legal advice.
- 9. Report Scams:** If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it promptly. There's no shame in being deceived; reporting helps prevent others from falling victim.
- 10. Get Help:** If you suspect a scam, contact Action Fraud at 0300 123 2040. If you know the suspect or they're nearby, call 101.

Remember!

- Your information may be crucial in completing the bigger picture and protecting others.
- Stay informed, stay cautious, and don't hesitate to report any suspicious activity.
- If you've been scammed, consider resetting your passwords, notifying your bank, and updating your anti-virus software and seek professional advice and/or report using an online form from [Report Fraud](#).

Every Report Counts



EVERY REPORT COUNTS

- 19th January 2026 - The City of London Police, the national lead force for fraud, announced the public launch of Report Fraud - a new national service designed to transform how victims and businesses across England, Wales and Northern Ireland report cyber crime and fraud, and how law enforcement and industry respond.
- Find out more:
 - Press release: [Report Fraud launches | City of London Police](#)
 - You Tube link: <https://youtu.be/CpZRbpNxCOM>
 - Report cyber crime and fraud: [UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud - Report Fraud](#)

Scammers - Advice and Support

✓ Citizen's advice:

- ✓ [Check if something might be a scam](#)
- ✓ [Get help with scams](#)

✓ Age UK: [Scams advice – How to spot and avoid scams](#)

✓ [What to do if you're a victim of scams or fraud](#)

✓ National Cyber Security Centre: [Phishing: Spot and report scam emails, texts, websites](#) [NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

✓ Ofcom: [Top tips to stay safe from the scammers](#)

✓ Money Saving Expert: [30 ways to stop scams](#)

✓ Victim Support: [Fraud](#)

✓ Neighbourhood Watch YouTube recordings:

✓ [Understanding the psychology behind scams \(youtube.com\)](#)

✓ Website: [ScamSmart - Avoid investment and pension scams | FCA](#)

✓ Website: [Friends Against Scams - National Trading Standards \(NTS\) Scams Team initiative](#)

✓ National Trading Standards:

✓ [Scams Team](#)

✓ [eCrime Team](#)

✓ Website: [Free Website Scam Checker - Check a website by Get Safe Online](#)

Resources for Professionals

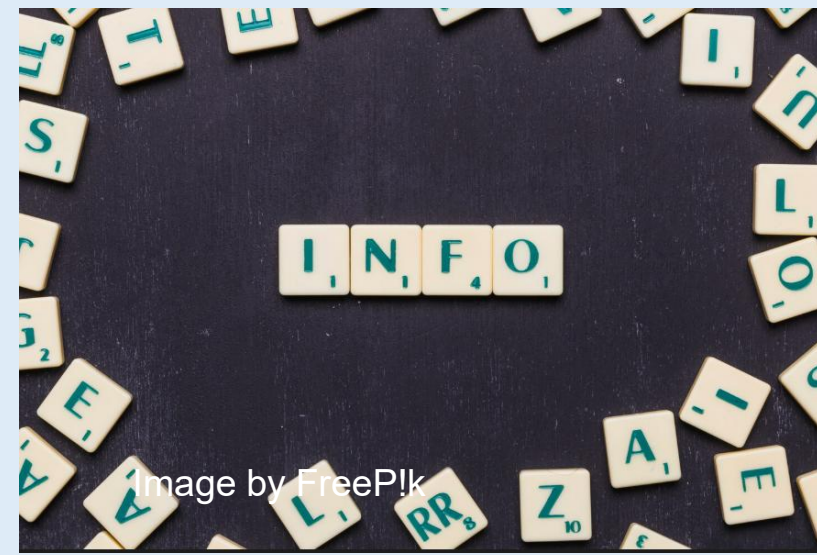


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[Online Safety Act](#)

[Grok](#)

[Com Networks](#)

[Differences between girls' and boys' online experiences](#)

[Childline Campaign – Race to a Milli](#)

[SSP Training/resources](#)

[National Resources](#)

Online Safety Act 2023

- The Online Safety Act 2023 (the Act) is a new set of laws that protects children and adults online.
- It puts a range of new duties on social media companies and search services, making them more responsible for their users' safety on their platforms.
- The Act will give providers new duties to implement systems and processes to reduce risks their services are used for illegal activity, and to take down illegal content when it does appear.
- Further information about the Online Safety Act and how it is being implemented can be found on this webpage: [Online Safety Act: explainer - GOV.UK](#)

Grok

- Recently reported in the media has been the use of Grok AI tool on X.
- Ofcom have announced they are investigating X over the recent surge in synthetic sexual imagery generated via the AI tool Grok that has been reported to include non-consensual “undressing” and entirely synthetic sexual imagery.
- [Ofcom](#) launches investigation into X over Grok sexualised imagery

To find out more:

- [SWGfI](#)
 - [AI Abuse Using Grok Shows Why Legal Protections Have Completely Fallen Behind](#)
 - [Grok Restricts Undressing Features But Only Where It Is Deemed Illegal](#)
- [Grok and the Rise of Digital AI-Based Sexual Abuse - Survivors Network](#)
- [The Grok Scandal: A Gendered Safeguarding Crisis](#)

COM Networks

- COM networks are one of the most significant emerging threats facing children and young people - [National Crime Agency](#)
- Com groups are online networks of individuals who carry out serious, high-harm offences including child sexual abuse, serious violence, cybercrime (referred to as cyber Com), and extremism.
- Com groups are dynamic and often overlap across these threats, although not every case will involve all.
- A briefing in Swindon to safeguarding practitioners on 21st January 2026 covered the following:
 - the scale, complexity and invisibility of this online harm.
 - How these networks are linked to:
 - Sextortion, coercion, and image-based violence.
 - Socially excluded boys being drawn into offending pathways.
 - Indicators practitioners may already be seeing, but not yet connecting.
- The recording will be available on the SSP [Video archive](#)

Resources to find out more:

First two documents should open in your downloads.

- ✓ [Partnership Briefing Com Networks](#)
- ✓ [Briefing COM GROUPS Early Threat Identification Notice for Safeguarding Professionals.](#)
- ✓ [The Rise of 'Com' Networks and Extreme Coercion](#)
- ✓ [Sadistic online harm groups putting people at unprecedented risk National Crime Agency](#)
- ✓ [Violent Online Networks Target Vulnerable and Underage Populations FBI website](#)

Protecting Children in a Digital Age

Understanding Internet Safety

- This session will be facilitated by Cybersecurity Experts and Early Intervention Officer from Wiltshire Police and an to find out more about protecting children in the digital age and focuses on the following topics:
 - **Understanding Online Risks:** Explore the most common threats children face online, including cyberbullying, predators, and exposure to inappropriate content.
 - **Practical Safety Tips:** Learn actionable strategies to keep your family safe, such as privacy settings, parental controls, and recognizing red flags.
 - **Digital Footprint Awareness:** Understand the importance of managing your family's digital footprint and the long-term implications of online activities.
 - **Safe Social Media Practices:** Discover how to guide your children in using social media responsibly and safely.
 - **Protecting Personal Information:** Gain insights into safeguarding your family's personal data against identity theft and fraud.
- This session will be delivered face to face and is **free** to attend.

Date and time: Wednesday 11th March 2025 1000-1230

To book a place please click on this link [Booking Form](#)



Differences between girls' and boys' online experiences

- Briefing published by Internet Matters and draws on data from Internet Matters' annual UK survey of 1,000 9-to-16-year-olds and their parents.
- Key findings include:
 - boys' and girls' online activity is becoming more similar, as they spend the same amount of time on activities including chatting to friends and browsing social media;
 - both genders are broadly positive about their time online;
 - 69% of girls and 66% of boys report having at least one negative online experience;
 - girls are more likely to be contacted by strangers and to receive abusive and upsetting messages from people they know;
 - and while girls are more likely to speak to someone when they experience harm online, boys are more likely to take steps on the platform on which harm is encountered.

Recommendations to government include:

- mandate robust age assurance; and
- support schools and teachers in delivering media and digital literacy.
- Read the report: [Understanding girls & boys online experiences](#)

NSPCC Learning Childline Campaign – Race to a Milli

Campaign launched to help children/young people look after their mental health when using social media.



The 'Race to a Milli' campaign video shows TikTok stars compete to achieve one million 'likes' whilst tackling issues such as peer pressure, hateful comments and rage bait.

The campaign provides talking points for professionals to use with young people in their schools, clubs and organisations.

Read about the campaign: [Help young people navigate the mental health challenges of being online](#)



Provides support and services to children and young people, adults facing online harms, and professionals working with children.

An overview of some of their resources are included below. It is recommended you visit the website to find out more: [Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Children and Young People: *a wide range of resources*

- ✓ [Children and young people - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- ✓ [SEND - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Professionals:

- ✓ [Teachers and school staff - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- ✓ [Governors and trustees - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- ✓ [Social workers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- ✓ [Healthcare Professionals - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- ✓ [Professionals Online Safety Helpline - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Other resources:

- ✓ [Social media guides - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- ✓ [Safe remote learning hub - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- ✓ [Hotline - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) for reporting/removing sexual images of children online.
- ✓ [Report Harmful Content - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) national reporting centre - designed to assist anyone in reporting harmful content online.

Resources: Professionals

SSP Resources:

- ✓ Guidance document: [Parents guide to online exploitation](#)
- ✓ SSP webpage: [Financial and material abuse](#)
- ✓ [Neurodiversity information and resources for practitioners](#)
- ✓ [Guide to safeguarding and supporting young people](#)

Wiltshire Police website:

- ✓ [Cyber Security](#)
- ✓ [Online child abuse](#)
- ✓ [Useful contacts for advice about fraud and cyber crime](#)
- ✓ [Sexting and staying safe online](#)

Ann Craft Trust:

- ✓ [an-introduction-to-digital-safeguarding/](#)
- ✓ [safeguarding-young-people-and-virtual-delivery-creating-safer-online-spaces/](#)

Other resources:

- ✓ [Top tips for staying secure online - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)
- ✓ [Helpful Family Pack](#) – leaflet where family member arrested online sexual offences involving children.
- ✓ [Appropriate Language Guide | The Hydrant Programme](#)
- ✓ [National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Crimes Report 2024](#)
- ✓ **NSPCC Learning:** [Online safety: expert insight videos](#)
- ✓ [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)
- ✓ **NSPCC Training:** [Tackling misogyny masterclass \(cost\)](#)

Resources: Professionals

Research:

- **Social Media Is Harming Young People at a Scale Large Enough to Cause Changes at the Population Level** (published January 2026) [HaidtRausch WHR 2026 Jan14](#)
- **The Anxious Generation Website:** [Tech and Society Lab - The Anxious Generation](#) research to help understand the social and psychological effects of the technological changes reshaping our lives.

BBC:

- [BBC Radio 4 - Boys, About the Boys](#)
- [BBC Radio 4 - File on 4 Investigates, Roblox: A Dangerous Game?](#)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001ddtn>
- VPNs top download charts as age verification law kicks in [BBC news article](#)
- **Review:** [Of Boys and Men by Richard Reeves – the descent of man | Society books | The Guardian](#)
- **Online Safety: The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health** - new web page on screen time and online harms bringing together key resources to help inform conversations with families and guide practice.
Visit the webpage: [Screen time and online harms: resources for members](#)

Resources: Professionals

Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

- ✓ [Home](#)
- ✓ [Harmful sexual behaviour in online contexts](#)
- ✓ [Child sexual abuse by adults in online contexts](#)
- ✓ [Managing risk and trauma after online sexual offending](#)
- ✓ [Signs and indicators of child sexual abuse](#)
- ✓ [Communicating with children](#)
- ✓ [Supporting parents and carers](#)

Resources: Professionals

Childnet:

- ✓ Childnet — Online safety for young people
- ✓ Teachers/professionals Help & advice | Childnet

CEOP:

- ✓ CEOP: CEOP Safety Centre
- ✓ Professionals | CEOP Education
(thinkuknow.co.uk)

Child Rescue Coalition

- ✓ Home webpage:
<https://childrescuecoalition.org/>
- ✓ The issue - Child Rescue Coalition -
- ✓ Information for parent/carers: Education - Child Rescue Coalition

Other Resources:

- ✓ <http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/resources>
- ✓ <https://www.ygam.org/> - *advice leaflets for Facebook, X, Instagram, SnapChat etc.*
- ✓ www.getsafeonline.org/
- ✓ Internet safety - Help for early years providers - GOV.UK (education.gov.uk)
- ✓ Top tips for staying secure online - NCSC.GOV.UK
- ✓ Professionals Online Safety Helpline - UK Safer Internet Centre
- ✓ [Stay safe at home, at work, on the move and online | ProtectUK](#)
- ✓ Responding to online abuse | NSPCC Learning
- ✓ **Sexting:** Sexting resources - UK Safer Internet Centre

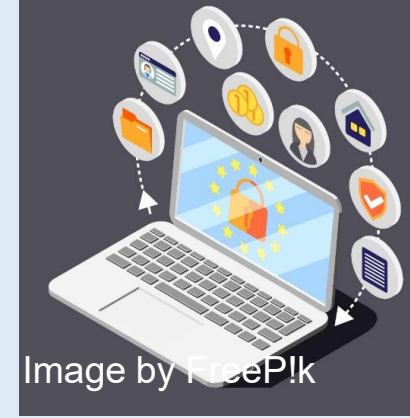


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Resources

Children and Young People

Parents, Carers and Adults

Test your Online Knowledge

- ✓ [Are you smart online? Quiz | Childnet](#)
- ✓ [Online safety quiz | NSPCC](#)
- ✓ [Take the quiz: how to stay safe online - Own It – BBC](#)



UK Safer Internet Resources

- ✓ [The Safer Internet Day 2025 Quizzes - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Resources for Young Children – 3 – 7 years

Websites covering a wide range technology and advice:

- ✓ Childnet: 3 - 7 year olds:
- ✓ www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin
- ✓ www.childnet.com/resources/digiducks-big-decision
- ✓ CEOP: 4 - 7 year olds: [CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)

Child Focused Resources for those over 4 years

NSPCC Learning:

- ✓ [Online safety | Guidance and resources](#)
- ✓ [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Childline: [Staying safe online](#)

- ✓ [Help & advice | Childnet](#) (4 – 11 year olds)
- ✓ [Help & advice | Childnet](#) (11 -18 year olds)

CEOP Safety Centre

- ✓ [8-10s | CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)
- ✓ [11-18s | CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)
- ✓ [So You Got Naked Online | SWGfL](#)
- ✓ [Home – Shore](#) – for teenagers worried about sexual behaviour

Stalking and Harassment - Young People

- ✓ [Young People 16-24 - Action Against Stalking](#)
- ✓ [Protection Against Stalking | Look Forward Not Behind](#)



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Additional Resources: Relevant for parents, carers and adults



NSPCC:

- ✓ [Keeping children safe online](#)
- ✓ [Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe](#)
- ✓ [Online abuse](#)
- ✓ [Responding to online abuse](#)

Childnet:

- ✓ [Help & advice](#)
- ✓ [Online safety for young people](#)

Barnardo's

- ✓ [Keeping children safe online](#)
- ✓ [How to talk to children about keeping safe online](#)
- ✓ [Keeping children safe online - Parent's questions answered](#)

Other resources:

- ✓ [Keeping your under 5 safe online \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)
- ✓ <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting>
- ✓ [An Introduction to Digital Safeguarding - Ann Craft Trust](#)
- ✓ [Parents Protect - Internet Safety](#)
- ✓ Information for parent/carers: [Education - Child Rescue Coalition](#)
- ✓ [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)
- ✓ [Papaya Talks](#) empowers parents/young to make informed choices.

Additional Resources:

Relevant for parents, carers and adults

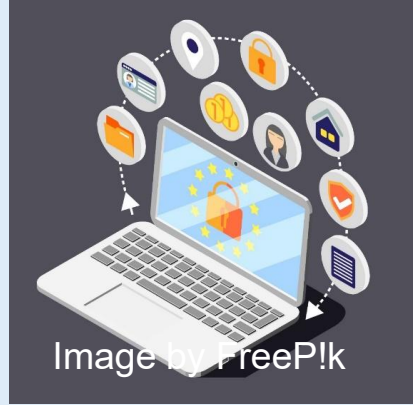
- ✓ UK Safer Internet: parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider
- ✓ www.swiggle.org.uk - child friendly search facility
- ✓ CEOP Safety Centre
- ✓ Parents and carers | CEOP Education (thinkuknow.co.uk)
- ✓ Get Safe Online | The UK's leading Online Safety Advice Resource
- ✓ Stay Safe Online — Bobby Van
- ✓ Stay safe at home, at work, on the move and online | ProtectUK

Children's Commissioner for England Report: 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

The Children's Society:

- ✓ Promoting online safety for children
- ✓ The Dark Side Of Online Gaming
- ✓ What Is The Dark Web?

Resources: Relevant for children, adults with learning disabilities and parent/carers



- ✓ Staying Safe on Social Media and Online | Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities
- ✓ Internet Safety | Include.org
- ✓ Stay safe - Bullying | Mencap | Learning disability
- ✓ Safety Net - An accessible guide to keeping everyone safe online – YouTube (YouTube: 2022 – duration 3 minutes)
- ✓ How to Stay Safe Online - Guidance for Adults and Young People with Learning Disabilities - Digital Safeguarding - Ann Craft Trust

Resources:

Domestic Abuse, Family Abuse and Sexual Violence

- ✓ SSP Recorded webinar – Domestic Abuse in Tech Society [Video archive - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- ✓ [Digital and online safety | Safelives](#)
- ✓ [Internet Safety for Survivors | The National Domestic Violence Hotline \(thehotline.org\)](#)
- ✓ [Staying safe online | Reducing the Risk](#)
- ✓ [Secure your tech – Refuge](#)
- ✓ [Online safety checklist | eSafety Commissioner](#)
- ✓ [Online Safe Spaces - UK SAYS NO MORE](#)
- ✓ [Revenge Porn Helpline - 0345 6000 459 | Revenge Porn Helpline](#) supports adults (18+) experiencing intimate image abuse, also known as, revenge porn.
- ✓ [Get Safe Online | The UK's leading Online Safety Advice Resource](#)

Resources: Stalking and Harassment

- ✓ National Stalking Helpline | Suzy Lamplugh Trust
- ✓ Stalking and harassment (supportline.org.uk)
- ✓ Paladin – National Stalking Advocacy Service (paladinservice.co.uk)
- ✓ Home - Victim Support
- ✓ Hollie Guard – Personal Safety App
- ✓ Non-profit organisation | Action Against Stalking | Scotland
- ✓ Report a stalker - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- ✓ Home - Women's Aid (womensaid.org.uk)
- ✓ How to protect yourself from stalking and harassment | Wiltshire Police
- ✓ Alice Ruggles Trust | Putting an end to stalking

Resources for Young People

- ✓ Young People | AAS Website (actionagainststalking.org)
- ✓ Protection Against Stalking | Look Forward Not Behind

Hate Speech

- ✓ **Stop Hate UK:** [Home - Stop Hate UK](#)
- ✓ [Equality online - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- ✓ [Wiltshire Hate Crime poster - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- ✓ [Free speech versus hate speech - parents and carers information](#)
- ✓ [Victim support hate crime leaflet](#)
- ✓ [Equality online poster](#)
- ✓ [Friend or fake booklet](#)
- ✓ [Hate crime and incidents | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](#)

Radicalisation

- ✓ [Radicalisation on the internet | ACT Early](#)
- ✓ [Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)
- ✓ [Act early - PREVENT radicalisation | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](#)
- ✓ [Protecting children from radicalisation | NSPCC](#)
- ✓ [Understanding and identifying radicalisation risk in your education setting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ✓ [Keeping safe: how to spot and prevent online grooming and radicalisation | British Council](#)

Reporting

You can also report via these organisations:

- ✓ [Report Child Sexual Abuse Images & Videos Online \(iwf.org.uk\)](http://iwf.org.uk)
- ✓ www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/
- ✓ [UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud - Report Fraud](#)
- ✓ <https://reportharmfulcontent.online>

Email signature

If appropriate, please add the text below to your email signature

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership's Theme for February 2026 is
Staying Safe Online

**Stay
Safe
Online**

Find out more by visiting the [SSP Events](#)



or follow us on

@SwindonSafegua1

#StaySafeOnline



And finally...

Please let us know if the information and resources have been helpful to you.

You can give your feedback by clicking on the link below

[Feedback on SSP Monthly Safeguarding Theme 2026](#)

or scanning the QR code.



It will take you two minutes!

Are you on our circulation list?

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