

GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ONLINE

Malta

Policy target No. 1: Enhancing efforts to identify victims and ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance, support and protection

Operational Goal:	Increase the number of identified victims in the International Child Sexual Exploitation images database (ICSE database) managed by INTERPOL by at least 10% yearly
Operational Goal:	Establish the necessary framework for the criminalization of child sexual abuse online and the effective prosecution of offenders, with the objective of enhancing efforts to investigate and prosecute offenders
Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN	
Description of the actions already undertaken	<p>Signature and ratification by Malta of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children and Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No: 201) on 6 September 2010; which entered into force 1 January 2011.</p> <p>Signature and ratification by Malta of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, on 7 September 2000 and 28 September 2010 respectively.</p> <p>Development of the Offenders' Register under the Protection of Minors (Registration) Act (Cap 518), aimed at protecting minors from adults who had been found guilty of abuse even in cases of online abuse, as per Schedule 1 of the said Act, which lists offences falling under the Criminal Code (Cap 9) as referred to above.</p> <p>In November 2011, the Government of Malta published a draft National Children's Policy that sets out to promote the well-being, rights and obligations, protection, active participation, inclusion, creativity and leisure of children. It also proposes a number of key policy actions under these different areas that not only provide a holistic approach to child well-being but also act as early intervention and prevention strategies. This draft Policy contains a number of recommendations that are particularly relevant in relation to the fight against child sexual abuse online, which are currently being considered by Government and which may be implemented in the near future.</p>
Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	
Description of the actions that will be undertaken and timeframe	Efforts will be made to grant access to the Malta Police Force to INTERPOL'S International Child Sexual Exploitation image (ICSE) database. (Note: This has already been agreed upon by all Member States of Interpol).

Policy target No. 2: Enhancing efforts to investigate cases of child sexual abuse online and to identify and prosecute offenders

Operational Goal: Improve the joint efforts of law enforcement authorities across Global Alliance countries to investigate and prosecute child sexual abuse online

Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN

<p><i>Description of the actions <u>already undertaken</u></i></p>	<p>Amendments to the Criminal Code (Cap 9) have been carried out, namely the introduction of Articles 204D on unlawful sexual activities, 248Bis on disability in case of offences against persons under age, and 310C on disability in case of offences against minors; and amendments to Articles 208 on offences relating to pornographic or obscene articles, 208A on indecent photographs, films, etc., of persons under age, and 208B.</p> <p>Moreover, the Criminal Code (Cap 9) has been amended to introduce Articles 208AA on solicitation of person under age, 208AB on advertisement of sexual tourism, and 208AC on aggravating circumstances.</p> <p>Establishment of the Cyber Crime Unit within the Malta Police Force, which Unit is also a supporting member of the 'Be Smart Online' project mentioned above.</p> <p>Signature and ratification by Malta of the Convention on Cyber Crime (CETS No: 185) on 17 January 2002 and 12 April 2012 respectively; which entered into force on 1 August 2012. This includes references to offences such as Child Pornography, Grooming, Child Sex Tourism, etc.</p> <p>Officers from the Cyber Crime Unit of the Malta Police Force receive technical training, on a regular basis, so as to improve their skills in this field. Such training allows the Officers working in this sensitive Unit to keep their technical knowledge and competence up- to-date. In 2013, three Officers have already attended a total of five different technical training courses abroad</p>
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Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN

<p><i>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken</u> and timeframe</i></p>	<p>Further technical training will be offered to Officers from the Cyber Crime Unit of the Malta Police Force, in the near future. The Malta Police Force is continuously attempting to identify more training courses and opportunities that will aid their Officers in improving their skills in this field. This is an ongoing initiative that does not have any particular timeframes.</p>
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Policy target No. 3: Enhancing efforts to increase public awareness of the risks posed by children's activities online, including grooming and self-production of images that results in the production of new child pornography that may be distributed online

Operational Goal Develop, improve, or support appropriate public awareness campaigns or other measures which educate parents, children, and others responsible for children regarding the risks that children's online conduct poses and the steps they can take to minimize those risks

Operational Goal Share best practices among Global Alliance countries for effective strategies to inform the public about the risks posed by online, self- exploitative conduct in order to reduce the production of new child pornography

Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN

Description of the actions already undertaken

Through the Malta Communications Authority (MCA), the Office of the Commissioner for Children (CFC) and APPOGG-Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), Malta has entered into the second phase of the project called 'Be Smart Online', which is co-financed by the European Union, to promote Child Internet Safety, as part of the EU's Safer Internet Programme aimed at empowering and protecting children and young people when online, by supporting awareness-raising initiatives and combating illegal online behaviour as well as harmful content. This project was built on the work initially carried out by the social welfare agency, namely APPOGG- Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), when a hotline and a helpline were set up. The Cyber Crime Unit within the Malta Police Force actively participates in this 'Be Smart Online' Project. Their involvement in this initiative includes providing advice on the new trends that the Cyber Crime Unit is coming across in its cases as well as participation in public events that are organised as part of this project.

The Cyber Crime Unit within the Malta Police Force regularly deploys its Officers to deliver internet safety awareness presentations in schools and youth organisations. These internet safety awareness presentations have been positively received, so much so that the Unit carries out on average around two visits per week during the scholastic year. The Officer attending the school usually addresses the students according to age-groups (hence, age- appropriateness). The internet safety awareness in schools is complimented by wider participation in media initiatives and crime prevention tips through the Malta Police Force official website.

Malta through the Office of the Commissioner for Children has produced comic books, video clips and cartoon animations with the collaboration of young students at the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology, to increase awareness among children and teenagers about internet safety. These materials are available online on the website of the Office of the Commissioner for Children: www.tfal.org.mt.

The launch of the aforementioned draft National Children's Policy has helped to create awareness among both children and parents on the importance of preventing child sexual abuse online. Furthermore, within the Maltese legal framework, the abuse of children is prohibited in all its forms. Child abuse is not tolerated, nor is possession of or access to child pornography.

Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN

<p><i>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken</u> and timeframe</i></p>	<p>The aforementioned draft National Children's Policy, which may be implemented in the near future, aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the availability of prevention programmes which focus on educating those who may provide children with access to the internet, such as parents, caregivers, school personnel, and other individuals. Educating parents on the use of the internet is seen as particularly important so that they can better understand the potential consequences and risks of online activity; and • strengthen the efforts aimed at children of different age groups with a view to raise awareness on child protection in relation to the use of new technologies. <p>In the future, the Cyber Crime Unit within the Malta Police Force plans to continue its active participation in the aforementioned 'Be Smart Online' Project'; maintain its support towards age-appropriate internet safety awareness campaigns; and carry on organising internet safety awareness presentations in schools and youth organisations, on a regular basis.</p>
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Policy target No. 4: Reducing as much as possible the availability of child pornography online and reducing as much as possible the re-victimization of children whose sexual abuse is depicted

Operational Goal: Encourage participation by the private sector in identifying and removing known child pornography material located in the relevant State, including increasing as much as possible the volume of system data examined for child pornography images.

Operational Goal: Increase the speed of notice and takedown procedures as much as possible without jeopardizing criminal investigation

Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN

<i>Description of the actions <u>already undertaken</u></i>	<p>In collaboration with local Internet Service Providers, the Cyber Crime Unit within the Malta Police Force has implemented a 'Child Abuse Internet Filter' that directs users attempting to access known child pornography websites to a 'STOP' page. Currently around 2000 internet domains are listed as active websites containing child indecent material. All internet service providers have agreed to collaborate in this initiative.</p> <p>Malta has been one of the fore-runners in an EU-funded initiative known as "Cospol Internet Related Child Abuse Material Project" (CIRCAMP). Through this initiative, the Malta Police Force has participated in a number of joint operations that tackle the dissemination of child abuse material through the internet</p>
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Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN

<i>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken</u> and timeframe</i>	<p>The aforementioned draft National Children's Policy will implement measures that aim to achieve a holistic approach towards child sexual abuse online by sharing resources and practices and adopting a collective effort between the various stakeholders.</p> <p>The aforementioned draft National Children's Policy aims to implement measures that will aid in closing down child abuse websites to avoid re-victimisation.</p>
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