

**Ensuring the Inclusion of Children and Adolescents in Contexts of Poverty in the
Transformation of Safe Spaces in the Digital Environment
to put an end to Online Sexual Violence:
A Pathway to Achieving Social Justice.**

1. Context

At the CSocD62 Forum with the theme "Fostering Social Development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication and focusing the emerging theme: "The influence of digital transformation on inclusive growth and development: A path to achieve social justice", and under the commemorative framework of the thirtieth anniversary of the Year of the Family: At Afectividad y Sexualidad we consider crucial to address a fundamental aspect to achieve these goals: the protection and inclusion of girls, boys and adolescents in contexts of poverty in the digital environment. In this context, the world faces the challenge of ensuring that these virtual spaces are safe to prevent sexual violence. This reflection takes on greater relevance when considering that social justice and equity are essential pillars for the well-being of our society. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure the full and safe participation of young people in the digital transformation, not only as a preventive measure, but as a significant step towards the realization of the ideals of sustainable development and justice for all.

The search for social justice is essential to ensure equity and protection for all sectors of society. In the digital context, especially for girls and boys, there are significant challenges. Ensuring their inclusion in the creation of safe online spaces to prevent sexual violence. This transformation not only demands protection measures, but also the fostering of critical thinking skills and the promotion of cybersecurity from an early age, thus ensuring a safe use of the internet and access to information in contexts that live in poverty and lack cyber opportunities.

According to studies such as the one conducted by Lexia and Afectividad y Sexualidad in 2023, it is revealed that 63% of young people, mainly those from low socioeconomic levels, lack solid social support. This lack of safe connections exposes them to a higher risk of online victimization, increasing their vulnerability to sexual violence in digital environments. These data highlight the urgency of intervening to ensure the online safety of vulnerable and impoverished groups.

The statistics show an alarming reality: between 4% and 35% of respondents have experienced some form of online violence in the last three months. Worryingly, more than a quarter of respondents have been the victim of online insults or taunts at least once. The data reveals that 50% of respondents have experienced bullying, harassment or threats in the digital environment, rising to 55% in the case of women. In addition, annual figures

for online sexual harassment range from 10% to 38%, with a prominent scenario in which adults pose as minors to interact with victims.

The most alarming statistics indicate that approximately 95% of cases of sexual violence against children and adolescents go unreported (ENVIPE, 2021). In addition, over the course of 2022, the country's hospitals attended 9,959 people between the ages of 1 and 17 due to situations of sexual violence, which represented a significant increase of 21.8% over the previous year. This alarming increase in the number of cases treated shows the seriousness of the problem and the urgency of taking effective measures to combat it.

The relationship between poverty and sexual violence is undeniable. Studies supported by UNWOMEN have shown that girls from impoverished backgrounds are 2.5 times more likely to be married as children compared to those from higher socioeconomic strata. This vulnerability at an early age increases their exposure to exploitation and violence.

It is imperative to adopt concrete measures that encourage cybersecurity education from an early age, promoting the active participation of society in the prevention and eradication of online sexual violence. Ensuring full inclusion in the digital transformation is not only a right, but a crucial step towards a just, equitable and safe society for future generations and for the families of today and tomorrow.

2. Rationale and objectives

Participating stakeholders will share best practices and opinions on cybersecurity, safe online incursion, democratization of technology and the creation of safe spaces for children and adolescents:

1. Need for Protection in Digital Environments:

- The increased vulnerability of children and adolescents in digital environments.
- The importance of ensuring their inclusion in safe online spaces to prevent sexual violence.

2. Relevance of Social Justice and Equity:

- The concept of social justice as a fundamental pillar for the protection of society.
- The urgency of addressing digital challenges to ensure equity and safety for all.

3. Statistical Data:

- The figures showing the high incidence of online violence, harassment and threats in Mexico, the study done by Lexia and Afectividad y Sexualidad.
- The worrying percentage of unreported cases of sexual violence against children and adolescents.

4. Preventive and Educational Approach:

- The need to promote critical thinking skills and cybersecurity education from an early age.
- The importance of intervention to ensure the online safety of vulnerable groups.

5. Call to Action:

- The urgent call to governments, educational institutions and society in general to create safe and equitable digital environments.
- The need to adopt concrete measures and promote active participation in the prevention of online sexual violence.

These points highlight critical areas that experts could emphasize in addressing the importance of ensuring the inclusion and safety of children and adolescents in the digital environment to prevent sexual violence and achieve social justice.

3. Panelist include:

- Civil Society Organization – Afectividad y Sexualidad. It is dedicated to seeking the best interests of children and adolescents, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The organization has had Special Consultative Status granted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 2017. Throughout its 22 years of experience, it has collaborated with civil society organizations in the defense of the rights of children and adolescents, focusing its efforts on the prevention of child abuse and sexual abuse. Represented by María del Rosario Alfaro Martínez. She has a degree in Family Sciences and a Master's Degree in Prevention Studies on Gender Violence.

- The government sector - Senator Josefina Vázquez Mota. President of the Commission on the Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Mexican Senate, former Secretary of Education and former Secretary of Social Development of the Government of Mexico.

- The private sector - Promotora Social Mexico (PSM) is a venture philanthropy organization that promotes social entrepreneurship initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of the least favored people in society. It participates in the following sectors: education, health, economic development and early childhood development. Represented by Pedro Castillo, who is the director of transformative initiatives. He is a member of the board of the NGO un kilo de Ayuda and Early Childhood Pact.

- Academic circles - Dr. Edgardo Toro. Social Worker from the University of Valparaiso in Chile and Doctor in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences from the University of Edinburgh. He is a researcher with multiple investigations on childhood, violence, and is the creator and responsible for the diploma course on sexual violence in the digital environment offered by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso.

4. Expected results

1. To make social justice and sexual violence against children and adolescents visible in order to give a voice to all victims who seek reparation and restitution of rights.
2. To share experiences and practices that contribute to the cybersecurity of children and adolescents in contexts of poverty.
3. Participate in initiatives that support collaborative successions that promote the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG1.

5.Format

- The side event will be led by a panel of speakers consisting of a moderator and four keynote speakers, who have recently been active in poverty eradication through the appropriation of the SDGs in Mexico from various sectors: government, private sector, CSOs and academia.
- Following the panelists' presentations, the round of questions will be open to member states or members of the audience who wish to expand their knowledge on the topic discussed. The moderator will facilitate this process.
- Key audience
 - a) Member States: UN Member States are expected to attend this side event with the purpose of expanding their knowledge on the work carried out by stakeholders at regional, national and local levels to eradicate poverty and violence against children and adolescents in Mexico.
 - b) UN agencies, programs and funds: UN stakeholders are expected to attend the event and share their best practices and ongoing work in support of the SDGs. This event seeks to promote collaborative partnerships between stakeholders and UN programs, funds and agencies.
 - c) Non-governmental organizations, CSOs and other stakeholders: All non-state actors working on the implementation of the SDGs, as well as others focused on the eradication of poverty and sexual violence against children and adolescents in Mexico are expected to attend.
 - d) The general public.

6.Coverage

- It will be carried out via zoom.
- Live tweets will be made during the event.
- Relevant materials will be distributed during the event, as well as through official websites and social networks.
- Presentations will be uploaded to the partners' websites along with a brief summary of the results and recommendations.
- A report on the event will be sent to participants and other stakeholders.
- A newsletter will be published after the event to discuss results and conclusions.