

Safer Internet Forum 2019

From online violence to digital respect

For two decades, the European Union has played an important role in promoting a safer and better internet through a range of legal measures, funding programmes and self-regulatory initiatives. With a new Digital Europe programme being shaped, the Safer Internet Forum (SIF) 2019 will celebrate 20 years of safer/better internet funding, while identifying some of the key European challenges and opportunities which lie ahead.

This year's edition of the Safer Internet Forum will explore digital respect as an antidote to online violence in various forms. The [#DigitalRespect4Her campaign](#), launched by the European Commission earlier in 2019, highlights the challenges for girls and young women, especially, and an inclusive and respectful online culture for all EU citizens is a European Commission priority. Children and young people, in particular, should feel safe and respected online; equally, they should feel able and empowered to be active public participants in digital life.

Against this background, [Thordis Elva](#) will deliver the keynote presentation, disentangling the complex problem of online violence. There will be opportunities to hear the perspectives of different stakeholders including youth, teachers and parents, with a number of hands-on "deep dive" sessions also. Forum participants will learn from those working to combat digital violence, as well as those individuals who have been affected by it but who fought back to bring about change. This is a societal problem which is facilitated by technology but, ultimately, it is about behaviour and hence everyone has a role to play in combatting it.

Also as part of SIF 2019, INHOPE (the International Association of Internet Hotlines) will host an INHOPE@20 session and a close-of-Forum reception to celebrate its 20 years of existence.

Agenda

(current as of 22/10/2019 but may still be subject to minor changes)

09.00 – 09.30	Arrival and registration
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome from the European Commission Gail Kent, Director, Directorate Data, DG CONNECT, European Commission
09.45 – 11.00	From online violence to digital respect Keynote speaker: Thordis Elva (Writer Speaker Journalist) This opening keynote will provide an overview of the challenges faced by children and young people online, with a focus on the online abuse of women and girls, including online hate speech, image-based sexual violence, and other forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

	Chair: June Lowery, Head of Unit, Accessibility, Multilingualism and Safer Internet, DG CONNECT, European Commission	
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.45	<p>Flip the consultation – a dialogue led by youth</p> <p>Youth are often involved in stakeholder consultations. While having their voices heard is a start, a proper follow-up to the issues and priorities they raise often does not follow.</p> <p>Following the “flipped classroom” model, this session will shift the consultation perspective. A group of young people will identify a set of concrete problems in advance, based on their personal views and experiences of digital violence. They will share some of the challenges they face, while explaining how digital respect should look in order to make a difference.</p> <p>Forum participants will then take part in small-group discussions in order to deepen – together with the young people present – their understanding of what is at stake, while building towards remedial strategies and solutions.</p> <p>Panel: Better Internet for Kids (BIK) Youth Panellists</p> <p>Chair: Sabrina Vorbau, European Schoolnet (EUN)</p>	
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch break	
	<p>The following afternoon segment will be split into two streams:</p> <p>In the deep dive stream, participants will be able to attend two sessions out of a possible five. Each deep dive session will last an hour and will run twice (from 13.45 – 14.45 and again from 15.15 – 16.15).</p> <p>Participants choosing the INHOPE@20 stream will remain in that session for the duration of this agenda segment (13.45 until 16.15).</p> <p>You will be asked to select your session options when you register.</p> <p>Those wishing to attend the INHOPE@20 session should select DD6 for both sessions upon registration.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please note, although we will endeavour to honour all choices, alternatives may be offered if sessions are oversubscribed.</p>	
13.45 – 14.45 and 15.15 – 16.15	<p>Deep dive sessions</p> <p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD1: Online sexual violence and misogyny in gaming • DD2: Sexual violence against men and boys 	<p>INHOPE@20: The impact of a global network in combatting online child sexual abuse material (DD6)</p> <p>This session is a celebration of the INHOPE network and a review of what has been achieved over the past 20 years in combatting illegal online content and, specifically, child sexual abuse material (CSAM).</p>

	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD3: Online sexual harassment (deShame) • DD4: Online hate (SELMA) <p>Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD5: Using AI as a solution <p>There will be a coffee break between sessions</p>	<p>Please note, this session will run from 13.45 until 16.15.</p> <p>There will be a coffee break during this session</p>
16.15 – 17.00	<p>Young people using social media to bring about change</p> <p>Online awareness-raising campaigns, such as #MeToo, have been instrumental in highlighting the widespread prevalence of online harassment. This session will showcase the stories of several young people who have used social media and online platforms to bring about positive change.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Holten, Human rights activist • Gina Martin, Author and activist <p>Chair: Lili LeiBer</p>	
17.00	<p>Close of Safer Internet Forum 2019</p> <p>Claire Bury, Deputy Director General, DG CONNECT, European Commission</p>	
17.15	<p>SIF reception – sponsored by INHOPE@20</p>	

Deep dive sessions

All participants will be able to attend **two “deep dive” sessions out of a possible five** (each session will run twice from 13.45 – 14.45 and again from 15.15 – 16.15)

or

will be able to attend the **INHOPE@20 session** for the **duration of this agenda segment** (13.45 until 16.15).

An indication of the focus of the various sessions is given below.

Focus	Description
DD1: Online sexual violence and misogyny in gaming	<p>Many reports suggest that women and girls are marginalised and sexualised in gaming culture. This session will consider some of the complex issues around gender bias in gaming and the challenges that women and girls face in these environments, as well as discussing some possible solutions.</p> <p>Workshop leader: Lavinia McLean, Head of the Department of Humanities, Technological University Dublin</p>
DD2: Sexual violence against men and boys	<p>Research suggests that online sexual harassment takes place in a gendered context and is deeply rooted in structural relationships of inequality between men and women. This in turn produces disproportionately negative outcomes for women and girls. However, despite the fact that women and girls are more likely to be targeted with online sexual harassment, it is still a significant problem for boys and men. This session will consider what we know about the scale of the problem, why it is so under-reported, and strategies to address this.</p> <p>Workshop leader: Nick Dunne, Education and Wellbeing Coordinator, Brook</p>
DD3: Online sexual harassment (deSHAME)	<p>Project deSHAME (Digital Exploitation and Sexual Harassment Among Minors in Europe) aims to increase reporting of online sexual harassment among young people, and improve multi-sector cooperation in preventing and responding to this behaviour. Session participants will hear more about the project and use some of the resources that have been created.</p> <p>Workshop leader: Maithreyi Rajeshkumar, Policy and Communications Manager, Childnet</p>
DD4: Online hate (SELMA)	<p>Online hate speech is a growing problem. Education is part of the solution in order to encourage digital respect. The SELMA (Social and Emotional Learning for Mutual Awareness) project builds upon a social and emotional learning (SEL) approach to empower young people to become agents of change. It helps them to better understand the phenomenon of online hate, and provides them with tools and strategies to act and make a difference. This workshop will allow participants to engage with some of the materials prepared as part of the project, and gain a more in-depth understanding of the approaches used.</p> <p>Workshop leader: Ken Corish, Online Safety Director, South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) (UK); Stefanie Fächner, Media Education Consultant,</p>

	<p>klicksafe (DE); Niels-Christian Bilenberg, Senior Helpline Coordinator, Centre for Digital Youth Care (DK)</p>
<p>DD5: Using AI as a solution</p>	<p>This session will showcase two different applications of AI (artificial intelligence) to encourage digital respect and to prevent/disrupt child sexual abuse online.</p> <p>Led by industry stakeholders, this session will explore new social media tools aimed at helping users who may be about to make a comment that could be offensive, and age-verification tools which are being used and developed to safeguard children and young people from inappropriate communications with adults.</p> <p>Workshop leaders: Julie Dawson, Director of Regulatory & Policy, Yoti and a representative from YouTube (name to be confirmed)</p>
<p>DD6: INHOPE@20: The impact of a global network in combatting online child sexual abuse material</p>	<p>This session is a celebration of the INHOPE network and a review of what has been achieved over the past 20 years in combatting illegal online content and, specifically, child sexual abuse material (CSAM).</p> <p>With contributions from long-standing INHOPE hotlines, EC representatives, industry stakeholders and child-welfare professionals, the session will reflect on the challenges and achievements over the past 20 years. This will include discussing the lessons that have been learned and how we have used those to shape future activities under the heading of "Back to the Future". The session will also set out the vision for the INHOPE network into the future as it faces the constantly evolving challenges in finding and removing CSAM from the internet.</p> <p>Workshop leaders: Denton Howard, Executive Director, INHOPE and Fred Langford, President, INHOPE</p>