

Beyond Digital Violence

Capacity Building for Relevant Professionals Working with Children and Young People Who Experienced Sexualized Violence Using Digital Media

Safer Internet-Day 2022

“We need you!”

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Translation: www.deepl.com and Christin M. Pontius

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www.byedv.de

#SID2022 #Saferinternetday2022 #saferinternet #klicksafe #byedv #dgfpi #srh #euprojekt #inKontaktbleiben #vorteilevonsocialmedia #introvertiert #gefahrimnetz #whatsapp



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The Internet offers great opportunities for people of all ages. Not only during a pandemic, it enables and facilitates some communication, e.g. for young people who find it difficult to get in touch with others or who are looking for like-minded people.

Despite all the dangers, don't forget the advantages of new media and social networks for young people who are looking for themselves and their place in society.



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Young people know that most adults have little or no idea. They are alone in this.

Get informed! Be there for them!



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When this happens, young people are often helpless and alone. Then they need adults who know the way and accompany them.

Get smart!



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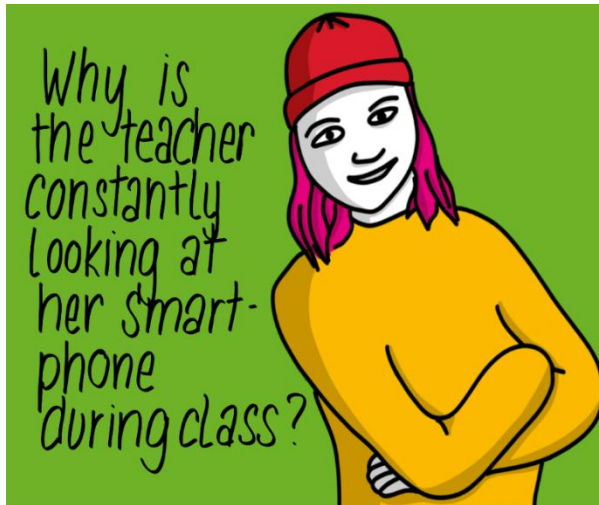
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The Internet helps people form their #identity and #orientation. Influencers are role models, not only in terms of fashion and lifestyle. At the same time, young people can hardly tell the difference between what is real, what is authentic, and what influencers do for money. In addition, there is pressure to conform, superficiality, consumerism and critical body ideals. Instagram can promote eating disorders.

How can you talk to young people around you about influencers? Who are they interested in? How much do they know?



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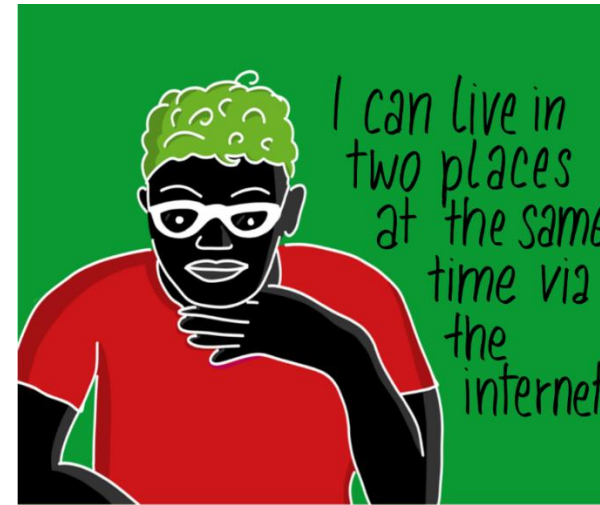
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It is the responsibility of adults to be role models for adolescents.

What kind of role model are you for the children and young people around you?



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Sometimes family members and friends live very far away. Young people can stay in touch with them via the Internet. The Internet connects people and cultures. It makes it easier for young people with a migration experience or background to stay in touch with their origins. It gives those with wanderlust a glimpse into other worlds.

Think about what these opportunities of the Internet can mean for young people.



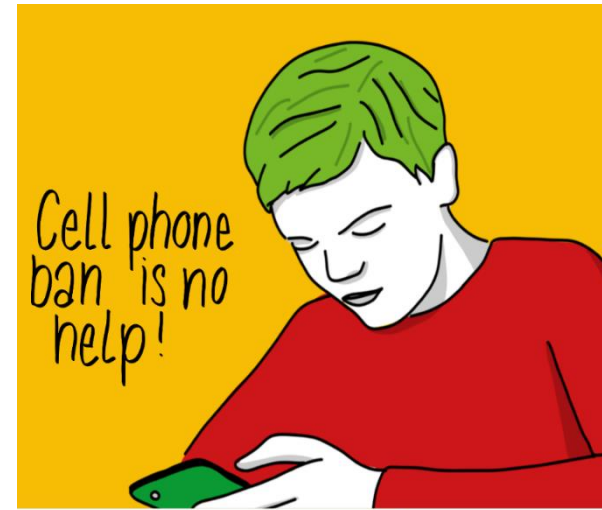
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Young people need adults who are interested in their lives. Then they can show and talk about what they enjoy - and what scares them and causes them grief.

Have the courage to play along!



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Children and young people often do not tell parents and educators about unpleasant online experiences because they are afraid of punitive consequences. They have experienced that they are more likely to get trouble than help.

What attitude do you convey to the children and young people you work with?





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Violence occurs online or offline, in the media or in direct contact. Adults must take all experiences of violence seriously and protect and accompany children.

Do you still make a distinction between online and offline?



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Influencers and filters suggest that everyone is perfect. That puts pressure on teenagers. Sometimes the demands on themselves become too high. Young people need education and a clear attitude toward diversity.

What can you do within your scope to take this stress away from young people?



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Young people can talk about many topics with their friends and parents. But not all of them and not about everything. They need adults who know what they are talking about - including mediatized sexualized violence.

Get smart!



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Social networks offer a lot of room for creativity. And for self-expression. They provide resonance and feedback.

However, toxic comments, devaluations and sexualized come-ons must first be processed. Images can be misused and then find themselves (digitally altered) in so-called "pedophile forums".

Talk to young people about how they can support each other in dealing with the pressure, insults and sexualization.

Perhaps the conversation also shows some people what a powerful effect their own hate comments have. Empathy helps.



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For many young people, parents are the first point of contact for worries. They can't pick up everything either. And then what?

Are you there as a professional for children who need help and can't talk at home? Tell them that you are available, even for stress on the internet!



Posting nothing is not an option for many young people, even if they receive hate comments, threats, condemnations and insults. They need adults to empower them and help them deal well with fears and worries.

Can you embrace young people's fear, be there for them and not judge them for what they themselves do online?



The internet offers countless and uncomplicated learning opportunities that not only young people use all the time. Sometimes for spontaneous problems and sometimes to systematically acquire new skills.

The internet offers many opportunities and possibilities, even for those who otherwise have fewer resources.

Get informed and help young people use the media wisely.



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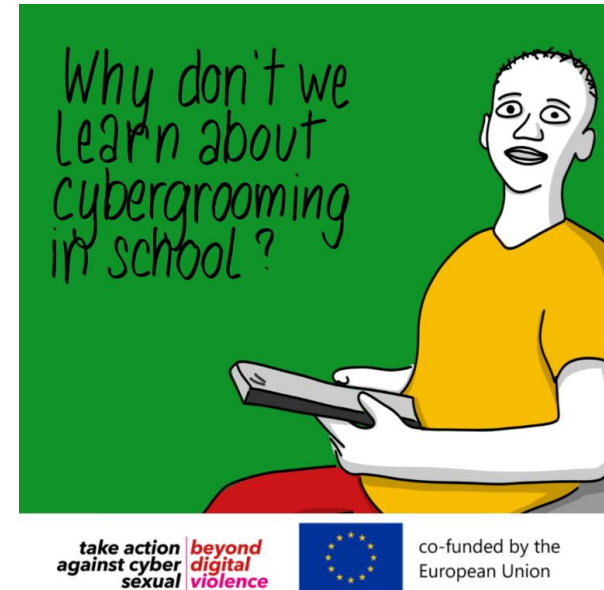
Even children are sometimes sent violent depictions, intimate photos or even images of abuse unintentionally. This overwhelms them. But who can they talk to about it?

Find out about technical and legal options! Offer emotional relief!



Young people often turn to their friends first. Victims of violence and their peer supporters need adults who know what to do and who take responsibility.

Get informed! Be there for them!



Cyber... - what? Young people need adults who know and educate them - also about violence. They expect school to teach them about issues that concern them.

What will you do in the next substitute lesson in class? Maybe talk to the pupils about their online experiences?



Online games are fun, bring contacts, help to learn English. They satisfy needs: Efficacy, recognition, sharing, adventurousness. And they can be a place where bullying occurs, exclusion, rip-offs (through in-app purchases). Virtual games are abused for cybergrooming.

Talk to young people about it. Explain to them what cybergrooming is and how it happens. Give them the chance to talk about it!



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Young people often hear from adults that they are the experts on the internet and new media and that they know much more about it. In doing so, adults abdicate their responsibility and often leave children and young people in the lurch. But these want parents and educational professionals who know the ropes and don't just point the finger!

Be that person!