

# SAFER INTERNET DAY

06 Feb 2018

[News Article](#)

A better internet starts with you!



The [Safer Internet Day \(SID\)](#) is a global movement celebrated in over 130 countries each year. Its aim is to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people, and to call each stakeholder to play their part in creating a better internet for all. Each year on this day, millions of people unite to inspire positive change, and Europol is proud to join the cause. In 2018, we are supporting its theme: "Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you" by sharing our tips and advice on online safety, a reminder for all, but especially for the youngest among us, on responsible and careful online behaviour.

In order to achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of all the EU citizens, Europol is strongly committed fighting against cybercrime: the [European Cybercrime Centre \(EC3\)](#), established in 2013, works to prevent and detect all forms of cybercrime in the EU and drives intelligence-led, coordinated actions against key cybercrime threats through cross-border investigations and operations by Europol's partners.

As a form of cybercrime, child sexual exploitation is one of Europol's priority crime areas under the 2018-2021 EU Policy Cycle. In this context, EC3 provides assistance and expertise in combatting the distribution of child abuse material through online environments, and tackles the criminal online behaviour against children, such as grooming, self-generated indecent material, sexual extortion and live distant child abuse.

At the same time, several prevention and awareness-raising campaigns, guides, and materials have been set up over the last years to empower EU citizens to protect themselves online. The [Say No!](#) and [Deterring youngsters](#) from cybercrime campaigns are especially relevant, as they target young people, parents and carers, teachers and educators.

Europol Executive Director Rob Wainwright stated: *"Education, both at home and at school, has traditionally placed emphasis on teaching youngsters about respect, both for those around them and for themselves. Our societies have developed based on this very principle and so have we as citizens. If this has worked in the offline world, then why not pursue the same goal online? I encourage everyone to spend a moment thinking about their online behaviour and how, simply by being respectful to others online, they can help make the internet a better and safer place for all."*

Everyone has a responsibility to make a positive difference online. Follow our advice to stay safe in the digital age:



# Keep control

what and with whom you share your private information online?



## Keep your private stuff private

Don't share your personal information - phone number, address or school - with someone you have only met online. What do they need it for?

Always set the privacy settings of your social media accounts to protect your private data.



## How do i look? Be aware of your online presence

Abusers look for young people who use a sexualised username, post sexualised pictures or talk about sex online. Think about how your online profile makes you appear to others.

## Want to meet up? Always put your safety first

It is a bad idea to share your location or meet up with someone you have only met online. But if you do so, stay safe: meet in a public place and take a trusted adult with you.



## A 'friend of a friend'? To be sure, ask your friend

It's easy for anyone to post fake photos and stream a fake video over a webcam. If they claim to be a 'friend of a friend', ask your friend if they have met them in person. Anyone can learn about you and your friends from information that they find online.



## Finally... Just between us? Make sure you don't expose yourself (or your privacy)

## USE OF RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

# AS A PARENT, WHAT CAN YOU DO?



### TALK

Have a chat with your child about acceptable online behaviour and take an interest in what they do.

### EXPLAIN

Real life rules apply in the online world too. The following types of behaviour are to be avoided:



**Stealing** or using anything online that is not free or doesn't belong to them.



**Harming anyone** – while it might not be as obvious as in the real world, cybercrime is not victimless.



**Bullying anyone**, through chat, social media or any other online means.



**Being disrespectful or impolite online** – they should not use their digital knowledge to hurt others.



**Hacking** - using RATs, DDoS attacks, stressers/booters to attack others is not just unethical, but illegal.

### LISTEN

Learn about and understand how they spend their time online. Try to assess their level of cyber knowledge and, if your child is passionate about computing, look into opportunities to further their education.



EN [Keep control. What and with whom you share your private information online?](#) [599.39 KB]



EN [As a parent, what can you do?](#) [1023.99 KB]

#### CRIME AREAS

[Cybercrime](#)

#### TARGET GROUPS

[General Public](#) • [Law Enforcement](#) • [Academia](#) • [Professor](#) • [Students](#) • [Researcher](#) • [Press/Journalists](#) • [Other](#)

#### ENTITIES

[European Cybercrime Center \(EC3\)](#)

Source URL: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/safer-internet-day>