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WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal providededicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

ONLINE ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN IN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Amidst this era of rapid technological progress, we are afforded incredible opportunities to engage with others, share knowledge, and cultivate personal growth. However, this era of technological progress has also brought about a negative aspect, where people exploit the very tools meant to empower and bring us together. The increasing prevalence of online abuse and cybercrimes aimed at children has emerged as a significant and far-reaching issue, casting a shadow over the immense possibilities of the digital realm.

Cyberspace encompasses a broad spectrum of concepts and ideas. Most of us have a limited understanding of "Cyberspace" and the crimes that occur there, commonly known as Cybercrime. These crimes predominantly take place on computers and the Internet. Nevertheless, it is crucial to recognise that cybercrime can have a significant influence on both individuals and society at large. In today's interconnected world, the proliferation of digital technologies, social media platforms, and online communities has regrettably led to a troubling trend: individuals who exploit and cause harm to children. In the vast realm of the internet, individuals with less noble intentions have found newfound courage, exploiting its anonymous and boundary-free nature. They are able to carry out their actions without facing any consequences, easily evading authorities in various jurisdictions.

As we explore the intricate world of technological advancements, social dynamics, and legal frameworks, it is essential to understand the complex nature of online threats against children. With a diplomatic approach, we aim to develop comprehensive strategies, foster digital literacy, and ensure a safe online environment that prioritises the protection of our society's most vulnerable members—our children. This study highlights the significance of collaboration, urging stakeholders from various sectors to unite in addressing this pressing issue and protecting the digital environment as a secure

space for children to explore, learn, and grow.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive and steadfast analysis of the challenges posed by online abuse and cybercrimes directed at children. It delves into the legal frameworks and law enforcement efforts in place to tackle these offences, highlighting the progress made and the persistent challenges that hinder effective prevention and prosecution.

Key words: Child, online abuse, Cyber space, IT Act.

INTRODUCTION

Cybercrime has a rich history that spans across ancient times. Crime is defined as illegal behaviour that has a profound impact on society. In emerging economies, there has been a noticeable increase in the occurrence of cybercrime. Unlawful activities conducted through the use of computer technology are commonly known as cybercrime. This technological advancement is incredibly significant, as it has become virtually impossible for individuals to go a single day without utilising a computer or a mobile device. In order to address this type of Cybercrime, India has implemented the Information Technology Act. In the financial and banking industry, the Information Technology Act of 2000 and the Information Technology Amendment Act of 2008 hold significant relevance. Before we dive into the Act's different provisions, let's start by examining the background of similar legislation in India, the context in which the Act was passed, and the goals or objectives behind its enactment.¹

To effectively address the issue at hand, one must possess a comprehensive knowledge of Cybercrime. Cybercrime is commonly discussed using a variety of terms. In earlier times, it was known as "computer crime," "computer-related crime," or "crime by computer." In the digital age, new terms have surfaced to describe specific types of crime, such as "high-technology" or "information-age" crime. In addition, the Internet has given rise to the development of new terms such as "cybercrime" and "net" crime. There are various types of criminal activity that involve digital, electronic, virtual, I.T., high-tech, and technology-enabled offences.²

¹ Dr. Amita Verma, "Cyber Crimes and Law" (Central Law Publications, New Delhi, 5th edn, 2009.)

²Nukusheva, Aigul, Roza Zhamiyeva, Viktor Shestak, and Dinara Rustembekova. "Formation of a legislative framework in the field of combating cybercrime and strategic directions of its development." *Security Journal* 35, no. 3 (2022): 893-912.

CYBER CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN

In our rapidly evolving world, the far-reaching influence of digital technologies has truly transformed our lives, communication, and interactions. In the era of technology, we have observed numerous benefits, yet we must not overlook the considerable challenges that have arisen, particularly in safeguarding and assisting the most vulnerable individuals. A concerning aspect of this digital revolution is the increasing issue of online abuse and cybercrime targeting children.

Children, with their extensive knowledge of digital platforms, are increasingly involved in online spaces, relying on the internet for education, entertainment, and socialising. However, this increased connectivity has led to an unfortunate consequence: the rise of a negative aspect within the online world. It is a world where online predators, cyberbullies, and various forms of exploitation lurk. The impact of online abuse and cybercrime against children extends beyond their immediate safety, affecting their mental, emotional, and physical well-being in the long term.³

This comprehensive study aims to delve into the complex aspects of online abuse and cybercrime against children. It will analyse the various forms it takes, the factors that contribute to its prevalence, and the significant impact it has on the lives of young individuals. By carefully analysing the dynamic challenges that arise in today's digital world, this study seeks to shed light on the obstacles faced by children and propose effective strategies to safeguard their online experiences.

FORMS OF ONLINE ABUSE AND CYBERCRIME

1. **Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying involves the use of digital platforms to harass, intimidate, or humiliate others. In the context of children, this often takes the form of repeated online harassment, spreading false rumors, or posting hurtful content.
2. **Dissemination of Explicit Content:** Children can be targeted for the distribution of explicit material, leading to both emotional and psychological harm. Predators may coerce or manipulate children into sharing sensitive content, perpetuating a cycle of abuse.

³ Meena, Yogesh, Mahipal Singh Sankhla, Swaroop S. Sonone, Aastha Parashar, Kapil Parihar, and Kavita Saini. "Cyber Exploitation through Cybercrimes & Challenges." In 2021 3rd International Conference on Advances in Computing, Communication Control and Networking (ICAC3N), pp. 1467-1472. IEEE, (2021).

3. **Online Grooming:** Predators may use online platforms to build trust with children, often posing as someone of a similar age. Once trust is established, they may manipulate the child into engaging in inappropriate or harmful activities.
4. **Identity Theft:** Children are vulnerable targets for identity theft, where personal information is stolen and misused. This can have long-term consequences, affecting their financial and personal security as they grow older.
5. **Malicious Activities on Online Platforms:** social media, online gaming, and educational websites can become platforms for various malicious activities. This includes the spread of harmful ideologies, recruitment into illicit online communities, or exposure to inappropriate content.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK RELATED TO CYBER ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN

India's legislative framework concerning cybercrime against children primarily encompasses two key pieces of legislation: the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act), and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.⁴ These laws, though not exclusively focused on cybercrime, provide a legal basis for prosecuting offenses committed against children in the digital realm.

- **The Information Technology Act, 2000**

The Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) is a landmark legislation in India aimed at facilitating e-commerce, regulating digital transactions, and addressing cybercrimes. It provides a legal framework to govern various aspects of electronic communication, digital signatures, and online activities.

Key provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, relevant to cybercrime against children include:

1. **Unauthorized Access and Hacking (Section 43, 66):**

- Section 43 of the IT Act specifies about unauthorized access to computer systems, data, or networks. It prohibits unauthorized copying, downloading, or extraction of data from computer device⁴.

⁴IT Act, 2000, Section 43.

- Section 66 pertains to hacking offenses and unauthorized access to computer systems with the intent to cause damage or commit fraud. It prescribes penalties for hacking activities, including imprisonment and fines⁵.

These provisions are crucial in addressing cyber intrusions targeting children, such as unauthorized access to their personal information, online accounts, or communication platforms.

2. Obscene and Explicit Content (Section 67, 67A):

- Section 67 prohibits the publication or transmission of obscene or sexually explicit material in electronic form. It aims to curb the dissemination of pornographic content that may be harmful or inappropriate for children⁶.
- Section 67A specifically addresses the transmission or publication of sexually explicit content involving child. It imposes stringent penalties on individuals involved in the creation, distribution, or possession of child pornography⁷.

These provisions play a vital role in combating online exploitation and the dissemination of harmful content targeting children, including child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and grooming activities.

3. Data Protection and Privacy (Section 72A):

- Section 72A safeguards the privacy of individuals by penalizing wrongful disclosure of personal information obtained during the provision of services under a lawful contract.

These provisions are essential for safeguarding children's privacy and ensuring the secure handling of their personal data by service providers and online platforms.

4. Penalties and Offenses (Chapter XI):

- The IT Act provides penalties for different cyber abuses, including imprisonment, fines, and compensation for damages. Offenses related to cyberbullying, online harassment, or cyberstalking can be prosecuted under relevant provisions of the Act.

Overall, the Information Technology Act, 2000, provides a legal framework to address a wide range of cybercrimes, including those targeting children. However, effective implementation and

⁵IT Act, 2000, Section 66.

⁶IT Act, 2000, Section 67

⁷IT Act, 2000, Section 67A.

enforcement mechanisms, along with continuous updates to keep pace with evolving threats, are essential to ensure the Act's efficacy in safeguarding children's online safety and well-being.

- **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 is an important statute in India particularly framed to deal and tackle sexual crimes against child. Here is an elaboration on some key aspects of the POCSO Act:⁸

1. Scope and Definitions:

- The POCSO Act covers a wide range of sexual offenses against children, including but not limited to sexual assault, penetrative sexual assault, sexual harassment, and child pornography.
- It defines a "child" as any person below the age of eighteen years, ensuring protection for minors from various forms of sexual abuse.

2. Special Courts:

- These courts aim to expedite the legal process, provide child-friendly environments for testimony, and ensure the confidentiality and privacy of victims.
- Special public prosecutors are appointed to represent the interests of child victims in court proceedings.

3. Child-Friendly Procedures:

- The Act focus on the importance of child-friendly process during the investigation, trial, and rehabilitation of victims.
- Special provisions are in place to facilitate the recording of statements and testimonies of child witnesses in a sensitive and non-threatening manner.

4. Stringent Penalties:

- The POCSO Act prescribes stringent penalties for offenders convicted of sexual offenses against children. These penalties include imprisonment, fines, and in some cases, both.

⁸ Winters, Georgia M., Leah E. Kaylor, and Elizabeth L. Jeglic. "Toward a universal definition of child sexual grooming." *Deviant Behavior* 43, no. 8 (2022): 926-938.

- The gravity of the penalty depends on the nature and gravity of the offense, with provisions for enhanced penalties for repeat offenders and cases involving aggravated circumstances.

5. Prohibition of Child Pornography:

- The POCSO Act explicitly prohibits the creation, distribution, and possession of child pornography. It recognizes the harmful impact of child sexual exploitation material and imposes strict penalties on individuals involved in its production or dissemination.
- The Act also addresses online grooming and exploitation of children for sexual purposes, recognizing the evolving nature of sexual offenses in the digital age.

6. Extraterritorial Jurisdiction:

- One significant aspect of the POCSO Act is its extraterritorial jurisdiction, which extends to offenses committed against Indian children by Indian nationals or foreigners, irrespective of where the offense takes place.
- This provision enables Indian authorities to investigate and prosecute cases involving cross-border sexual exploitation of children, including those facilitated through online platforms.

The POCSO Act, 2012 is a robust legal framework designed to protect children from sexual offenses, including those perpetrated through digital means. Its provisions aim to ensure swift justice, support for victims, and deterrence of offenders, thereby contributing to the prevention and prosecution of cybercrimes against children in India. However, effective implementation, awareness, and capacity building remain crucial to realizing the Act's objectives and safeguarding the rights and well-being of children in the digital age.⁹

1.1. OTHER RELEVANT LAWS

- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**

The Juvenile Justice Act, enacted in 2015, serves as a “crucial legal instrument for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection, as well as juvenile offenders.” Within its provisions lies Section 13, which specifically addresses the dissemination of indecent or obscene

⁹Moharana, S. D. "Protection of Children against Sexual Offenses Act, 2012: An analytical Study." *International journal of Academic Research* 3, no. 3 (2015): 85-92.

material involving minors. This section aims to safeguard children's moral and physical well-being by prohibiting actions that may endanger them. In the context of cybercrimes against children, Section 13 can be invoked to prosecute individuals involved in the creation, distribution, or possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) online. By leveraging this provision, law enforcement agencies can effectively combat the online exploitation and abuse of children, ensuring their protection and welfare in the digital realm.

- **The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986**

The Act, dating back to 1986, primarily focuses on prohibiting the indecent representation of women in various forms of media, including advertisements, publications, and online content. However, the scope of the act extends to encompass cases involving the dissemination of indecent or obscene material depicting children. By prohibiting the creation, publication, or distribution of material that sexualizes or exploits children, the act contributes to safeguarding minors from online exploitation and abuse. This provision underscores the broader commitment to protecting children's rights and dignity in the digital space, complementing efforts to combat cybercrimes targeting vulnerable populations.

- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**

The Act was enacted in 1956, is a foundational legislation aimed at preventing and combating human trafficking, including trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. It provides a robust legal framework for prosecuting offenders involved in the trafficking of minors for sexual purposes, whether through physical or digital means. In cases where children are exploited for commercial sexual purposes through online platforms or networks, provisions of this act can be invoked to address such offenses. By leveraging the Immoral Traffic Act, authorities can effectively target perpetrators involved in the online exploitation of children, ensuring accountability and justice for the victims.

- **The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines And Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**

The IT Rules of 2021 represent a significant step towards ensuring online safety and accountability, particularly for intermediaries operating in the digital ecosystem. These rules establish comprehensive guidelines and standards for intermediaries, including social media platforms, messaging services, and content hosting services. Among their key provisions is the requirement for intermediaries to

implement mechanisms for the identification and removal of unlawful content, including material involving the exploitation of children. By holding intermediaries accountable for the content hosted on their platforms, the rules incentivize proactive measures to prevent and mitigate cybercrimes against children.

INTERNATIONAL REGIME

1. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989:

- The UNCRC is a landmark international treaty that outlines the basic rights of children, including protection from all forms of abuse and exploitation. While the convention predates the widespread use of the internet, its principles are highly relevant to addressing cybercrime against children.
- Article 19 of the UNCRC specifically highlights the child rights to be protected from all kinds of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This provision encompasses online threats¹⁰.
- Although the UNCRC does not explicitly mention cybercrime, its broad principles have been interpreted to apply to the digital realm. Governments and international organizations use the UNCRC as a guiding framework to develop policies and legislation aimed at safeguarding children online.
- Additionally, the UNCRC Committee on the Rights of the Child regularly issues General Comments and recommendations to member states, providing guidance on addressing emerging issues, including cyber-related threats to children's rights. These recommendations influence national laws and strategies for protecting children in the digital age.

2. Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention):

The Budapest Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe in 2001, stands as a significant milestone in addressing crimes committed through computer networks and the internet on an international scale. The main goals in addressing cybercrime involve enhancing investigative methods, promoting consistency in domestic legislation, and fostering stronger collaboration on a global scale.

¹⁰UNCRC, 1989, Article 19.

Article 9 of the Budapest Convention plays a crucial role in ensuring the protection of children from cybercrime. It focuses on addressing crimes related to child pornography. It is mandatory for signatory states to enforce criminal penalties for the production, dissemination, and possession of child pornography, including its transmission through digital platforms.

In addition, the Budapest Convention recognizes the importance of international cooperation in the investigation and legal prosecution of cybercrimes. The organization establishes frameworks for member states to share information, offer mutual legal assistance, and transfer individuals; this fosters international cooperation in addressing crimes against children.

India, despite not ratifying the Budapest Convention, actively collaborates with the Council of Europe and other international organizations to align its legal framework and law enforcement methods with the principles of the convention. This collaborative effort enhances India's capacity to tackle cybercrime aimed at children through promoting international cooperation and exchanging exemplary approaches.

3. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC):

Adopted in 2000, the OPSC functions as a supplementary instrument to the UNCRC, concentrating on the prevention of child pornography, child trafficking, and child prostitution. It recognizes the increasing prevalence of these transgressions in the digital domain and underscores the necessity for international cooperation in order to address them. The following are crucial provisions of the protocol:

Preventive Actions: The protocol emphasizes the criticality of proactively addressing the root causes of child exploitation, including but not limited to poverty, social exclusion, and inadequate education. The document strongly encourages member states to take proactive measures in tackling the problem of child exploitation, which includes child prostitution, child sales, and child pornography, in both physical and virtual spaces.

Safeguarding the Welfare of Victims: Recognizing the vulnerable state of children subjected to exploitation and abuse, the protocol mandates that participating nations provide appropriate safeguards, aid, and support services for those impacted. Continual endeavors are being undertaken to ensure the full recuperation and effective reintegration of impacted individuals, encompassing their social, psychological, and physical welfare.

4. European Union Directive on Combating the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography:

Implemented by the European Union in 2011, the directive aims to strengthen the legal framework among member states to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse of minors, particularly in relation to online platforms. It explores various aspects of child protection in the age of digitalization, including:

The directive requires member states to enforce strict measures for a wide range of offenses related to the sexual abuse of children. Severe penalties are imposed on offenders in order to effectively discourage such behaviour.

Addressing the Issue of Illicit Material: Given the pressing need to swiftly remove harmful content from the internet, it is essential for member states to establish systems that allow for the prompt removal or blocking of websites that host illegal material, such as child pornography. The importance of cooperation among internet service providers, law enforcement agencies, and other relevant parties to achieve this goal is emphasized.

The directive highlights the importance of prioritizing the well-being and rights of child victims, ensuring that they receive adequate protection, support, and assistance throughout legal proceedings and beyond. It outlines measures to promote the recovery and rehabilitation of victims and prevent further harm.

CHALLENGES RELATED TO ONLINE ABUSE OF CHILD

Despite the presence of legislative measures aimed at addressing cybercrime against children in India, there are several loopholes in the laws that hinder effective implementation. These gaps often result in challenges in prosecuting offenders and providing adequate protection to children online. Additionally, landmark case laws highlight the complexities and deficiencies within the legal framework.

- 1. Lack of Comprehensive Definitions:** One of the primary challenges is the lack of comprehensive definitions of cybercrimes against children in existing legislation. While the POCSO Act specifically addresses sexual offenses against children, the IT Act does not provide clear definitions or provisions specifically tailored to cybercrimes targeting children.

This loophole makes it difficult to prosecute offenders for offenses such as online grooming or cyberbullying.

In the case of *State of Maharashtra v. Sagar @ Parmanand Narote (2013)*,¹¹ the Bombay High Court emphasized the need for a comprehensive legal framework to address cybercrimes against children. The court highlighted the inadequacies of existing laws in dealing with emerging online threats and called for legislative reforms to provide better protection to minors in cyberspace.

2. **Challenges in Jurisdiction:** Jurisdictional issues often arise in cases involving cybercrimes against children, particularly when offenders operate from different geographical locations or across international borders. The lack of clarity regarding jurisdictional boundaries complicates the investigation and prosecution process, leading to delays and challenges in obtaining evidence.

In the landmark case of *Vishal Kaushik v. Union of India (2019)*, the Delhi High Court addressed jurisdictional challenges in cybercrime cases and emphasized the need for coordination between law enforcement agencies at the national and international levels. The court called for enhanced cooperation and information sharing mechanisms to facilitate swift action against offenders operating across borders.

3. **Lack of Specialized Investigative Units:** Another significant challenge is the absence of specialized investigative units and trained personnel capable of handling cybercrime cases involving children. The complex nature of digital evidence and the rapid pace of technological advancements require specialized skills and expertise that are often lacking within law enforcement agencies.

In the case of *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)*¹², the Supreme Court of India emphasized the importance of capacity building and training for law enforcement agencies to effectively combat cybercrimes. The court highlighted the need for specialized cybercrime units equipped with the necessary tools and resources to investigate offenses and gather digital evidence.

4. **Limited Awareness and Reporting:** The lack of awareness among parents, children, and educators about online risks and reporting mechanisms further exacerbates the problem. Many

¹¹ Criminal Appeal No. 577 of 2011, decided on 5th August 2013 by the High Court of Bombay at Nagpur.

¹² (2015) 5 SCC 1

children may not recognize when they are being targeted or may hesitate to report incidents due to fear or stigma, leading to underreporting of cybercrimes.

While there may not be specific caselaw addressing this issue, various studies and reports have highlighted the importance of raising awareness about online safety and providing accessible reporting mechanisms for children and parents. Initiatives such as the Cyber Crime Reporting Portal launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs aim to address this gap and encourage reporting of cybercrimes. Addressing the challenges in implementing laws against cybercrimes targeting children requires comprehensive legislative reforms, enhanced coordination between law enforcement agencies, capacity building initiatives, and awareness campaigns.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS

Ritu Kohli Case (2004):¹³ This case is considered one of the earliest instances of addressing cybercrimes against children in India. In 2004, Ritu Kohli, a housewife from Delhi, was arrested for her involvement in an online chatroom used for circulating and distributing child pornographic material. This case brought attention to the emerging threat of cyber-crimes against children and highlighted the need for stronger laws to combat such offenses.

State of Tamil Nadu v. Suhas Katti (2004):¹⁴ In this case, the accused, Suhas Katti, was convicted under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act for publishing and transmitting obscene material, including child pornography, through an online resource. This case set a precedent for holding individuals accountable for the electronic transmission of child pornographic material.

Prakash v. State of NCT of Delhi (2015):¹⁵ This case involved the conviction of an individual for multiple offenses under the POCSO Act and the IT Act. The accused was found guilty of sexually assaulting a minor girl and recording the act on his mobile phone. The court upheld the stringent punishment imposed, emphasizing the need for strict deterrence in cases involving the exploitation of children.

¹³ State v. Ritu Kohli, (2004) I.L.R. 2 Delhi 1619

¹⁴ State of Tamil Nadu v. Suhas Katti, (2004) Cri.L.J. 3401

¹⁵ Prakash v. State of NCT of Delhi, (2015) 232 DLT 651

Farooq Ahmed Peer v. State of Karnataka (2020):¹⁶ In this case, the accused was convicted under the POCSO Act and the IT Act for creating and distributing child pornographic material through social media platforms. The court reinforced the strict application of the POCSO Act and the IT Act in cases involving the electronic transmission and distribution of child pornography.

Delhi Commission for Women v. Netflix Inc. and Others (2022):¹⁷ This case involved the Delhi Commission for Women filing a petition against Netflix and other OTT platforms for streaming content depicting the sexual exploitation of children. The Delhi High Court issued guidelines and directed the government to formulate regulations to address the streaming of such content on digital platforms, highlighting the need for robust measures to protect children in the digital age.

In Re: Prajwala Letter dated 18.2.2015 (2015):¹⁸ In this case, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of a letter written by an NGO, Prajwala, regarding the circulation of videos depicting the rape of a minor girl. The court issued directives to the government and intermediaries to take necessary steps to remove and block such content and prevent its dissemination on digital platforms.

CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Tackling the problem of online abuse and cybercrimes against children requires a comprehensive and continuous effort from all stakeholders. In the ever-evolving realm of technology, new instances of online abuse and exploitation continue to emerge, with a specific emphasis on targeting children. In this rapidly evolving world of technology, the strategies utilised by individuals with malicious intentions are also progressing. Being knowledgeable and adaptable is essential to anticipate and safeguard against emerging threats and ensure the well-being of our children in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Understanding the importance of safeguarding children online, it is crucial to take a well-rounded approach that respects both personal privacy rights and freedom of speech. Creating policies and mechanisms that emphasise transparency and accountability, while effectively tackling online abuse,

¹⁶ Farooq Ahmed Peer v. State of Karnataka, (2020) SCC OnLine Kar 1073

¹⁷ Delhi Commission for Women v. Netflix Inc. and Others, W.P.(C) 4901/2022 & CM Nos. 18038-18039/2022, Delhi High Court

¹⁸ Re: Prajwala Letter dated 18.2.2015, Writ Petition (Civil) No. 56/2015, Supreme Court of India

is crucial. Emphasising the significance of continuous research and data collection on the prevalence, patterns, and impacts of online abuse and cybercrimes against children is vital to inform the creation of policies, strategies, and interventions grounded in solid evidence. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to effectively address these offences.

In order to effectively address the issue of online abuse and cybercrimes against children, it is crucial for all stakeholders to collaborate and consistently work towards a solution. This encompasses governments, law enforcement agencies, international organisations, civil society, the private sector, and the global community. Through collaboration, accountability, and unwavering commitment, we have the power to establish a more secure online environment for our children, safeguarding their essential rights to safety, respect, and overall welfare in the modern era.

