SPECIAL PROCEDURES
UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Protecting children from sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Progress, new challenges and the path forward

A child-friendly summary of:

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children
A/HRC/61/45



WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?

Mama Fatima Singhateh is the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse from 2020 - 2026. For six years, she has been working to bring better protection to children around the world from sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This is her final report — what she found, what changed, and what still needs to happen.

DID YOU KNOW...?

A Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the Human Rights Council to report on human rights issues around the world. They visit countries, talk to governments and other relevant actors, and make recommendations.

6
years of work

120+
contributions for the report

7
countries visited

- **Change the name of the mandate by removing words that can hurt or shame children**
- **Created Youth Adviser role to hear more from young people**
- **Helped countries improve laws and policies**
- **Brought attention to invisible victims: boys, gender-diverse children, street-connected children**
- **Developed a practical checklist for countries and others**
- **Advocated for proper help and support for survivors**



WHAT RISKS DO CHILDREN FACE?

Online

Grooming
Adults building trust online to exploit children

AI-generated abuse material
Fake pictures or videos about children being harmed

Sextortion
Threatening to share private pictures to scare a child

Off-platforming
Moving conversations to encrypted, hidden channels

DID YOU KNOW...?
Reports of AI-generated abuse material jumped from 6,835 to 440,419 in one year. Online grooming reports increased by 192% in one year.

Beyond the digital world

Armed conflicts
1 in 5 children live in conflict zones. Sexual violence rises dramatically during wars.

Displacement
Children on the move are more at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Climate disasters
After disasters, families may struggle or be separated, making children more at risk.

Mining zones
Growing demand for minerals creates areas where children are exploited.

Harmful behaviours
Children may harm other children in sexual ways. A child can be both hurt and hurting others.





WHAT STILL NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Despite progress, major gaps remain

Laws exist but aren't applied consistently
Especially in countries with many levels of government in different states, cities, etc.

Not enough data
Many cases go unreported. Some groups of children aren't counted.

Prevention comes too late
Professionals lack training to detect abuse and often react only after harm occurs.

Systems don't coordinate
Police, schools, hospitals, etc don't work well together, causing slow response and support to children.

Companies aren't accountable
Companies are often not obliged to make their products safe for children.

The next Special Rapporteur must act fast and keep this work moving forward.



WHAT DOES THE REPORT RECOMMEND?

Update laws and policies to cover online threats and new technologies

Strengthen prevention, including in the community and at school

Require tech companies to do assessment on child rights

Improve coordination among all relevant sectors and at all levels

Teach digital safety in all schools

Include child protection in emergency and climate plans

Train professionals to detect and respond to abuse

Collect better data on all forms of child abuse and exploitation

Build systems that help & protect families to reduce the risks of harm to children

What can YOU do?

- **Know your rights.** You have the right to be safe — online and offline.
- **Think before sharing** personal information. Trust your instincts.
- **Speak up.** If you or someone you know is being harmed, tell a trusted adult. It is never your fault.
- **Be an ally** to children who are excluded or invisible. Your voice matters.

When young people, communities, and leaders work together, change becomes unstoppable.

