

IDENTIFICATION OF ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & ABUSE

What is Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse?

Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OSEA) involves using information and communication technologies to **exploit** or **sexually abuse** individuals, particularly minors. It includes **grooming**, **sextortion**, **cyberstalking**, and exploitation for financial or emotional gain. OSEA often blurs the lines between abuse and exploitation, requiring urgent attention and preventive measures globally.

Who is affected by OSEA?

- Children and vulnerable individuals are most at risk.
- Victim profiles: young girls, individuals living in poverty, those who have experienced childhood violence and abuse, individuals with limited access to education and job opportunities, and members of marginalised groups.
- Perpetrators: May be strangers, acquaintances, or close individuals, including peers.

Vulnerability factors

Context	Weakening Factors	Triggering Factors
Intrafamilial	- Abuse, violence, parental neglect	- Family breakdown, foster placement
Personal	- Low self-esteem, addictions	- Meeting risky groups, emotional shock
Social	- Poverty, isolation, peer pressure	- Internet/social media exposure

Additional factors:

- Lack of digital literacy or understanding of online risks.
- Emotional trauma, prior abuse, or unmet emotional needs.

How to recognise if you or someone is being victim of OSEA?

1. Receiving Risky or Dangerous Messages

- Messages requesting personal information, intimate images, or money.

2. Grooming

- Excessive interest in your life.
- Offering gifts, emotional manipulation, and requests for secrecy.

3. Love Bombing

- Overwhelming compliments and attention.
- Attempts to isolate you from family or friends.

4. Sextortion

- Requests for explicit images, followed by blackmail.
- Threats to share content unless demands are met.

5. Cyberstalking

- Excessive messages, doxxing, or monitoring your online activity.
- Spreading false information or rumors.

6. Catfishing

- Inconsistent information, refusal to video call, or requests for money.



If you think you are experiencing OSEA or witnessing someone you know being victim of it, there is a list of contacts that you can call and get support. Scan the QR code and select the country