

ONLINE SAFETY FOR UKRAINIAN YOUTH

PRE-CAMPAIGN SURVEY: FINDINGS
November 2022



INTRODUCTION

STOP THE TRAFFIK met with Teach for Ukraine, an NGO in Ukraine that engages the best graduates and young professionals from diverse backgrounds to invest their skills and energy to teach for two years in Ukraine's rural schools. Teach for Ukraine shared their concerns with us about the risk children and young people face being recruited into exploitation via online channels.

The risks children face to exploitation online have increased since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is due to the rise in children attending class via virtual lessons and parents having to work during the day. Children and young people are increasingly spending more time online, unsupervised, which is presenting more risks of online exploitation.

Identified exploitation has included the use of children for espionage purposes, detailed in the report '[Grave Violations Committed Against Children: Challenges and Consequences of 9 Months of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2022](#)' (page 20-23) by the Ukrainian organisation [Alemda](#).

Recruitment of children online for sexual exploitation was rife before the war, with an increased risk in recent years as reported in the [BBC article](#) from 2021. Such risks remain prevalent across Ukraine.

Teach for Ukraine highlighted a lack of knowledge and resources about child safety online.

To find out more, we surveyed young people, teachers and parents from Ukraine to gauge their knowledge of the subject and understand their awareness of the risks young people face online.

The survey results will enable STOP THE TRAFFIK to create a project plan and put objectives in place to ensure teachers, parents, and young people across Ukraine feel confident and equipped with knowledge and resources to reduce the risk of recruitment and exploitation occurring via online platforms.

We are planning a **Ukraine-wide project** addressing the knowledge gaps around online safety for children and young people online.

We aim to provide parents with information about how to spot potential indicators of exploitation online, how to talk about it with children, what to do if they have suspicions of potential exploitation that might be occurring, and where to go for information and support.

We aim to provide teachers with resources and training about online safety.

We aim to provide children with tips on how to keep safe on social media and what to do if they are concerned about something they have seen online or a message they have received.

**"IT WILL BE
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The surveys enabled us to understand the following:

- What Ukrainians have experienced
- What risks exist for young people online
- The current understanding of the risks facing children online and how to access support
- What information should be provided in the campaign
- What type of campaign format will be useful
- How can we help teachers and parents to provide more information for young people and protect them from possible danger

The pre-campaign surveys have a total of 220 respondents.

PEOPLE UNDER 18



87% of respondents have seen suspicious ads or messages online, with 11% saying they don't know how to identify them.

46% would like to know more about how to stay safe online.

TikTok is the most popular social media network for young people who responded. 72% of respondents prefer Tik Tok, 54% - Instagram and 18% - Telegram.

Most of the children who responded said they discussed online safety with friends (41%) and parents (39%)

*Of the people who responded to the survey

90% of parents felt that it was necessary to introduce online safety lessons in Ukrainian schools.

99% of parents don't know of any organisations in Ukraine that work to spread awareness of the issue.

The majority of parents thought the biggest risks for children on the internet are suicide risk (87%), risk of fraud (82%), sexual exploitation (77%) and exploitation for espionage purposes (61%).

65% of parents think the risks children and young people face online have increased due to the Russian invasion.

78% of parents do not feel confident that they know how to keep their children safe online.

*Of the people who responded to the survey

PARENTS



TEACHERS

Assistance in interviewing Teachers for this report was provided by the educational organization "Teach for Ukraine"

98% of teachers felt it is necessary to introduce online safety lessons in Ukrainian schools.

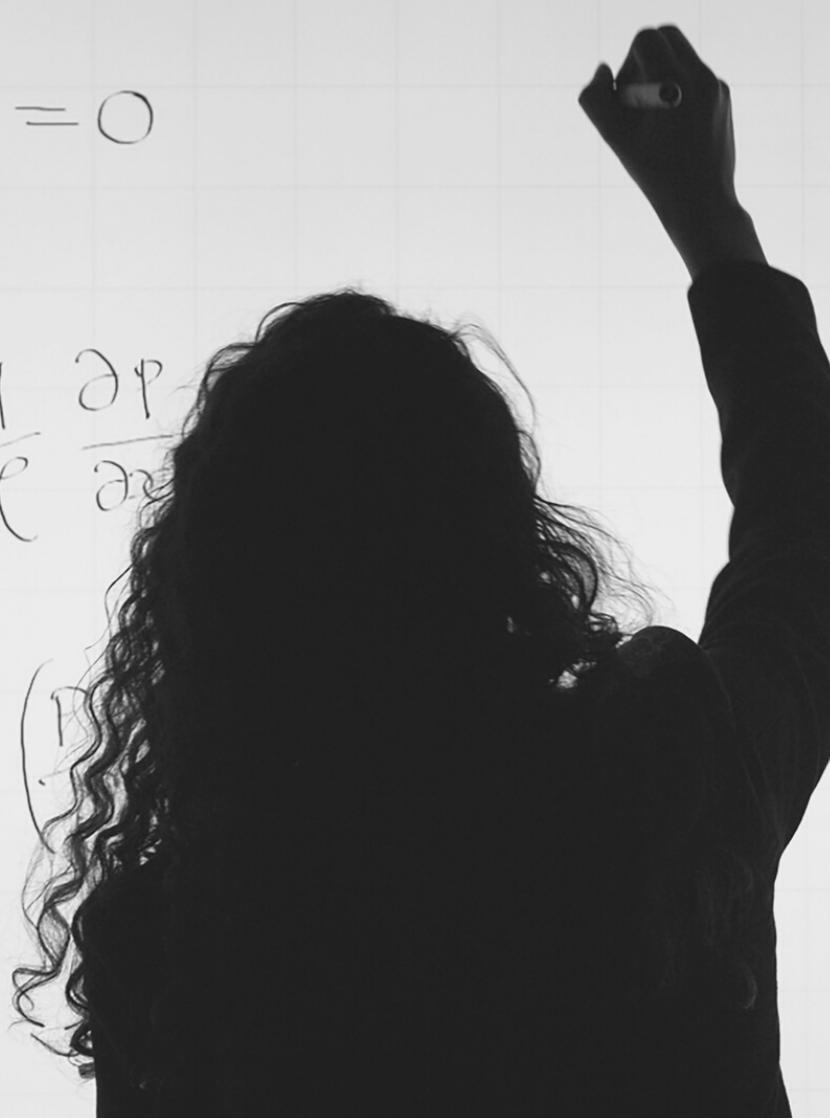
The majority of teachers thought the biggest risks for children on the internet were fraud (96%), risk of suicide (89%), sexual exploitation (74%), and risk of exploitation for espionage purposes (65%).

96% of teachers felt that the risks increased with the Russian invasion.

93% of teachers felt that organisations could help by supporting teachers at all stages of project implementation.

89% of teachers felt that organisations could help by creating informative content.

*Of the people who responded to the survey

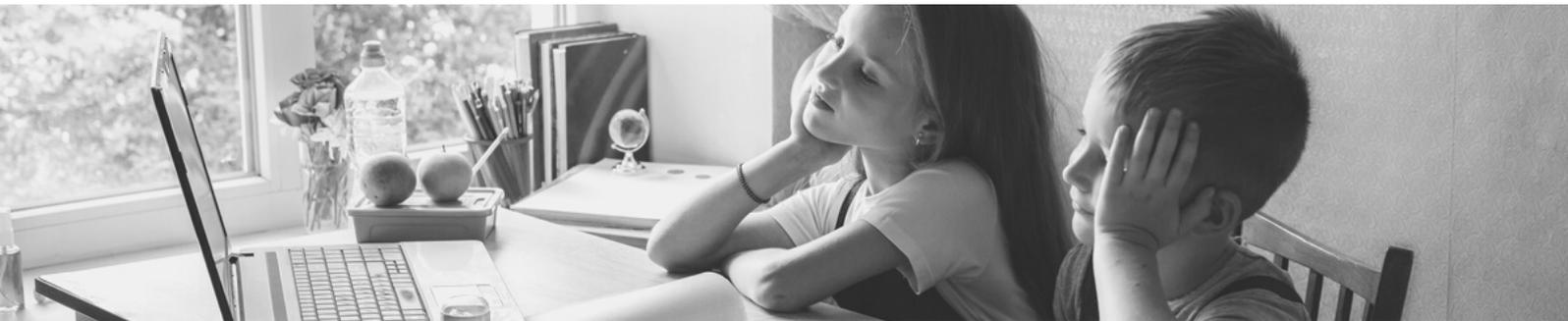
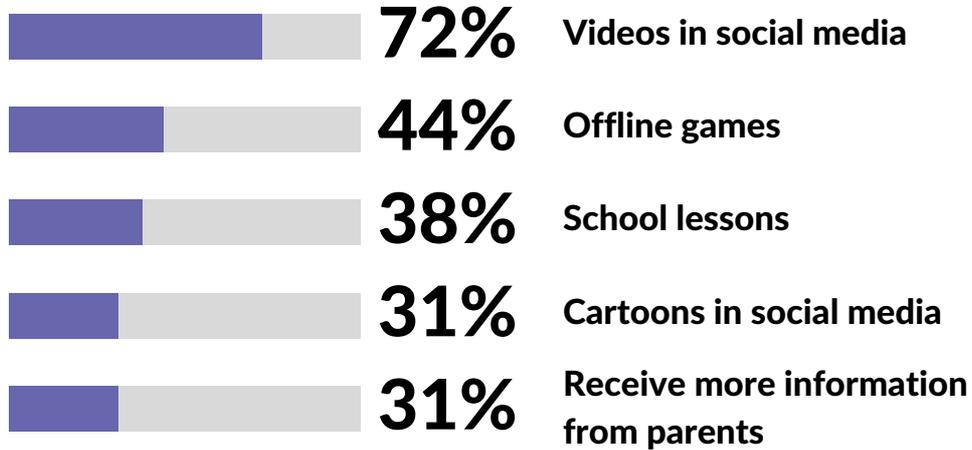

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$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{e} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

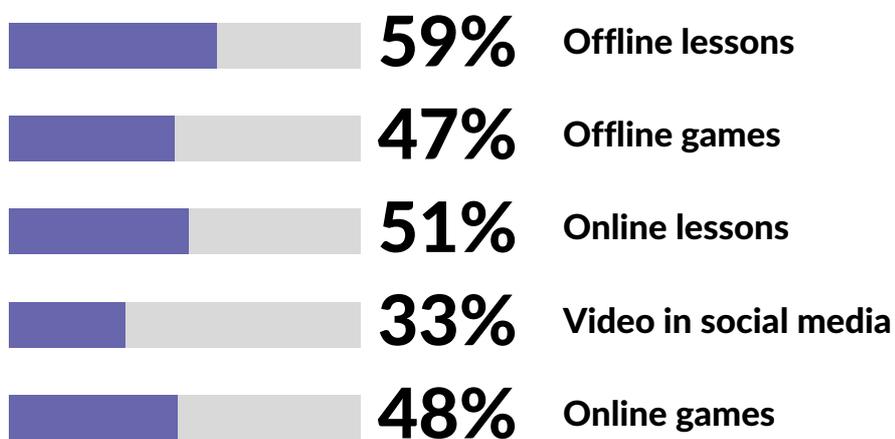
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{p}{e^{\gamma}} \right) + u \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{p}{e^{\gamma}} \right)$$

CAMPAIGN FORMAT

The majority of respondents under 18 (72%) would like to learn more about online safety by videos on social media



The opinion of parents and teachers differs significantly, as they thought the subject is best taught via offline and online lessons



**"MANY PARENTS DON'T
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SAFETY ON THE
INTERNET SERIOUSLY. I
HAVE MET PARENTS
WHO TAKE THE
PROBLEM LIGHTLY. SUCH
LESSONS ARE NEEDED
NOT ONLY FOR
CHILDREN, BUT ALSO FOR
PARENTS"**



QUOTES

Our children are being hunted by agents... children cannot understand when they are being manipulated in a game or social media chats.

Children spend a lot of time on the Internet, we need to teach them how to do it safely.

My older child had a bad experience online at age 10.

Children should always know information about danger which changes every day.

Children have unlimited access to the Internet, parents cannot always control their safety

Respondents also explained why it is necessary to run online safety campaign in Ukraine:

- 1 Because not all parents talk about online safety with their children.
 - 2 So children understand when someone aims to exploit them.
 - 3 So children can protect themselves from negative influences on the internet.
 - 4 So children understand how to act in a dangerous situation.
 - 5 A child should have enough knowledge to protect themselves from paedophiles and the dangerous games on the internet.
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CONCLUSIONS

Children and young people in Ukraine are at risk of and are targeted for exploitation. This includes* sexual exploitation and recruitment into espionage. Parents and teachers shared this opinion in survey results and comments. Some parents indicated that their children had experienced potential grooming online.

The majority of children and young people said they had seen suspicious adverts or messages online. Through survey answers and comments, the children indicated they would like more information about how to stay safe online, with the preferred option being informative videos on social media, followed by offline games. The children and young people also indicated their preferred social media platform is TikTok.

The vast majority of both parents and teachers agree that online safety needs to be taught in schools. The majority of both teachers and parents think the risks to children online have increased since the invasion. Parents' responses showed they lacked confidence in teaching their children about online safety. Teachers indicated that to teach children about online safety, they need support from organisations with project planning and resources.

*Both parents' and teachers' answers indicated they thought children were most at risk of fraud and suicide. This information will be shared with the relevant organisations for a response.



OUR PLANS

The results of the survey helped us formulate the goals of the future online safety campaign.

- Create videos on social media for children with online safety information.
- Launch a TikTok campaign with the aim to reach under-18s with online safety information
- Create a landing page with information for young people about online safety and support organisations that can offer advice.
- Support teachers with training and resources.
- Support parents with advice about how to keep children safe online and provide 'conversation guides' about how to discuss the matter with their children. We aim to launch a Facebook/Instagram campaign to reach parents and caregivers across Ukraine with the relevant information.

CONTACT

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT -

www.stophetraffic.org
Ilona.oleksiuk@stophetraffic.org