PROMISE ELPIS

At a Glance:
Promise Elpis resources on online child sexual violence for professionals

Adapting multidisciplinary response and interagency collaboration to meet the specific needs and requirements arising in the context of online child sexual violence

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PROJECT PARTNERS:

CHARITÉ
UNIVERSITÄTSMEDIZIN BERLIN

HEIDELBERG
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL

HEUNI
The European Institute for
Crime Prevention and Control,
affiliated with the United Nations

COUNCIL OF THE
BALTIC SEA STATES

Children
at Risk

CHILDREN
FiRST Protecting
Scotland's
Children

CHILD
CIRCLE

NCAC
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

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About Promise Elpis

Online child sexual violence is affecting a fast-growing number of children of all ages, in all situations, with the potential for very severe and lasting consequences.

The key objectives of the Promise Elpis project are to ensure early identification, adequate assistance, protection and access to child-friendly justice in such cases.

What does Promise Elpis do?

In Greek mythology, Elpis is the name of the spirit of hope. Promise Elpis aims to help children who have suffered online child sexual violence by:

- **Building knowledge and sharing recommendations:** building knowledge on the experience of children and professionals and developing bibliographies of international resources; sharing recommendations on regional policy development and exchange in particular in light of ongoing EU Strategies relevant to the field.
- **Promoting comprehensive child-centred case management:** contributing to a competent and committed multidisciplinary team, equipped to provide a holistic and balanced intervention including investigation and assistance.
- **Innovating and promoting specialised tools for practitioners**: supporting specialised professional interventions and operational capacity, adapted to the specific requirements and needs that may arise in cases of online child sexual violence.

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NAVIGATING ELPIS RESOURCES

About the Promise Elpis resources

The needs and rights of children who have suffered online child sexual violence must be treated comprehensively, with the same urgency and through multidisciplinary, inter-agency collaboration, as other forms of child sexual violence. The Promise Elpis partners produced a wide range of resources focusing on online sexual violence for different professionals, including law enforcement, health professionals, child protection services and therapists. These include consultation findings, guidance, practice tools and training resources.

How these resources might help your work

For each resource, you will find:
- A brief description of its key elements
- The target group for which it was developed
- Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

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ELPIS RESOURCES

Building knowledge and sharing recommendations

- What we learned from children (Children First, Scotland)
- Policy brief (HEUNI & Children First)
- What we learned from professionals (CBSS)
- Bibliographies to support research (NCAC)
- Looking ahead paper: sharing experience, learnings and reflections from Promise Elpis with regional stakeholders (Child Circle)

Promoting comprehensive child-centred case management

- Guidance and Training on Multidisciplinary interagency case management (CBSS)

Innovating and promoting specialised tools for practitioners

- Protocol & Training for a Standardised Psychosocial Counselling and Intervention in Barnahus (Charité)
- Medical support protocol & Training (Charité)
- Guidance, questionnaire and protocol to inform children (Charité)
- Guidance on adapted therapeutic treatment & Training (CBSS)
- Crisis intervention Guidelines & Protocol (CBSS)
- Investigative interview protocol & Training (HEUNI)
- Victims support guidance & Training (UKHD)
- Practical police training curriculum & Training (UKHD)
- Avatar training tool (AvBIT)

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What we learned from children
(Children First, Scotland)

CHILDREN FiRST Protecting Scotland's Children

ELPIS Project
Children and young people feedback summary
'It's important to share my story with others to help them.'
Child, 10 years old

December 2024

Funded by the European Union

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UKHD   HEUNI   NCAC

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To consult with children on what they thought should happen for child victims of online sexual violence, a creative activity book was developed by Children First in Scotland using questions on two case studies. Key messages from the consultation are contained in a report.

Children with lived experiences of online harm worked with Children First and produced a series of animation to explain to professionals how they should respond if a child is harmed online.

A Briefing Paper containing recommendations and a checklist for professionals for including children in investigations of online sexual abuse was developed by HEUNI, based on what these children have said (see below).

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What we learned from children (Children First, Scotland)

Key target groups

The animation series created by the children with lived experiences of online harm explicitly address teachers, social workers and police.
However, policy makers, professionals, NGOs and all adults who have a role in a child's life are called to learn about the experiences, perspectives and recommendations of children in relation to online child sexual abuse, and to learn about the key messages shared by these children.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

The key learnings that come from the voices of children in Promise Elpis can be summarised with these main points:

- Professionals - and adults in general - must be prepared to listen and hear what children and young people say about their experiences of online harm and abuse. Professionals - and adults in general - must see online sexual abuse within the context of child protection systems.
- Children and young people's views must be considered and respected whilst action to protect is taken.
- Children and young people must have the right advocacy and therapeutic support, at the right time, by the right people.

You might be inspired by the methodology used by Children First, to use the tools that are appropriate to the group of children you work with: using activity books, animations, feedback forms and other creative tools, developed in collaboration with children and young people. These can be greatly effective to raise awareness and consult about matters than concern them.

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Briefing paper: Recommendations and Checklist for professionals for including children in investigations for online sexual abuse (HEUNI)

Policy brief 1/2025

Listening to Young Voices: Recommendations for Including Children in Investigations of Online Sexual Abuse

These recommendations are based on insights gathered within the framework of the ELPIS Project in a task led by Children First, Scotland's national children's charity in collaboration with HEUNI, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control. The project involved listening to individual children and young people with direct experiences of online sexual harm, as well as engaging with broader groups of children to understand their views on online harm and professional responses. The recommendations reflect the voices, preferences, and lived experiences shared by participants during these sessions. For more information on the methodology and a more detailed description of the children's views, please see INSERT REF + WEBPAGE?

Messages from the children consulted in Scotland - with and without experience of online sexual abuse - were gathered in the policy brief "Listening to Young Voices: Recommendations for Including Children in Investigations of Online Sexual Abuse" developed in collaboration with and published by HEUNI, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control.

HEUNI developed five recommendations and a checklist for professionals investigating cases of online sexual abuse, focusing on how to encounter victims in a child-friendly and sensitive way. Each of the 5 recommendations is operationalised into concrete guidance for practitioners. For example, Recommendation 3, Importance of feeling heard, outlines, among other things, "Maintain eye contact, sit attentively, and use body language to convey understanding". [From "PROMISE Elpis: Voices of Children" by CBSS]

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Briefing paper: Recommendations and Checklist for professionals for including children in investigations for online sexual abuse (HEUNI)

Key target group

The check-list and recommendations are addressed to professionals investigating online child sexual abuse.
This is a helpful resource for anyone working with child victims of online abuse, and a strong example of how to build child-friendly, trauma-aware investigations that respect and empower young people.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

"Listening to Young Voices" offers practical guidance for making sure children's views are genuinely heard and taken seriously in investigations of online child sexual abuse. It shows how professionals can better involve children throughout the process.

- Let children lead: the guidance encourages professionals to put children in control of how and when they share their experiences;
- Involve them in decisions: children should help decide who knows what, where and how interviews happen, and be kept in the loop about what's going on;
- Create a safe space: Professionals are encouraged to use child-friendly language, avoid intimidating settings, and make sure the child feels supported;
- Make professionals better listeners: It promotes open-ended questions, active listening, and real engagement.

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What we learned from professionals (CBSS, Sweden)

Voices of Professionals in multidisciplinary teams: tackling online child sexual violence

by Anette Birgersson, Linda S. Jonsson, Sven Wilson

The report "Voices of Professionals in Multidisciplinary Teams: Tackling Online Child Sexual Violence", by CBSS, explores how professionals working in multidisciplinary settings – like Barnahus – handle cases involving online child sexual violence. It draws on three sources:

- An online survey with professionals from Barnahus across seven countries;
- 22 interviews with Swedish practitioners;
- A desk review of current literature and practices in this area.

The goal was to better understand how those on the front lines experience and manage these sensitive cases, and what they need - in terms of training and practice tools - to offer stronger support to children who are victims of online sexual violence.

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What we learned from professionals (CBSS, Sweden)

Key target group

This report was created for professionals, policy makers, service coordinators, and researchers involved in protecting children from sexual violence. During the PROMISE Elpis project, these audiences were engaged through direct participation in the research (surveys and interviews), and by sharing the findings in networks that work with Barnahus and similar models.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

The key messages gathered with this research can be grouped in the following main points, that synthesise the core needs and challenges professionals identified:

- It highlights the challenges professionals face, such as the lack of reliable data, which makes it difficult to design effective support tools for online cases;
- It calls for explicit inclusion of victims of online sexual abuse in Barnahus and specialised police support, to ensure equal treatment for all victims;
- It points out that online and offline sexual violence cases often overlap, and stresses that how a case is classified should not affect the level of care a child receives;
- It underlines the urgent need for better guidelines, tools, and resources tailored to online abuse cases within the Barnahus framework.

This resource can serve as a starting point for developing or improving similar approaches in your country, asking professionals what they need, to improve their work with children and ensure that all child victims – online or offline – receive appropriate, comprehensive and coordinated care.

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Research resources (NCAC)

A comprehensive set of bibliographies has been developed using the rich research resources of the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) in the United States. These bibliographies address key areas related to online sexual victimisation of children, and provide an overview of research and practice-based insights on the following topics:

- Disclosure and Services for Child Victims of Online Sexual Victimization
- Internet Facilitated Child Sexual Abuse Materials
- Internet Facilitated Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Minors
- Online Child Sexual Abuse, Perpetrators, and Investigation
- The Online Manipulation (Grooming) of Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Victims of Online Sexual Abuse
- Forensic Interviews and Experiences with the Legal Systems

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Research resources (NCAC)

Key target group

This collection was developed to support a wide range of professionals including through the PROMISE Elpis project, particularly in the context of strengthening knowledge exchange, training, and practical guidance across sectors.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

The bibliographies help professionals explore materials to:
- Better understand and respond to victims' needs, including how children experience and disclose abuse;
- Gain insights into offenders' behaviours, including patterns of online grooming and exploitation;
- Apply trauma-informed, child-centred approaches when supporting victims;
- Strengthen investigative techniques, especially through multi-agency collaboration;
- Improve digital literacy and prevention strategies, ensuring professionals can keep pace with evolving risks.

These tools offer a strong foundation for those seeking to enhance national capacity to prevent and respond to online child sexual abuse. They also provide a model for developing similar evidence-based resources in other countries - ensuring professionals are equipped with up-to-date knowledge, skills, and sensitivity to protect children in digital environments.

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Looking ahead paper: sharing experience, learnings and recommendations with policy makers (Child Circle)

This Paper connects the experience and learning in Promise Elpis with EU legal and policy developments. It shares recommendations for EU and national policy makers to help them take targeted measures for child victims of online sexual violence. It also assists stakeholders and practitioners in connecting their work with the developing EU legal and policy framework.

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Looking ahead paper: sharing experience, learnings and recommendations with policy makers (Child Circle)

Key target group

This paper mostly targets policymakers, European and national, and decision-making professionals working in Barnahus or similar child protection systems.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this paper can be used and inspire improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse:

- Promotes a child-centred approach in all justice proceedings involving children, to ensure that child victims of online sexual violence have their needs & rights met;
- Strengthens multidisciplinary collaboration, by promoting integrated services like Barnahus, that bring together legal, medical, and psychosocial support, also with regard to transnational cases;
- Promotes the development of specialised tools and training to equip professionals with the skills and resources needed to respond effectively to the specific challenges of online child sexual violence;
- Aligns national efforts with EU strategies and policies, helping countries adopt coherent, rights-based approaches that reflect the latest legal developments;
- Highlights the importance of consulting children to include their perspectives in shaping prevention strategies, improving services, and building systems that truly reflect their lived experiences.

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Multidisciplinary interagency case management guidance & Training (CBSS)

A TOOLKIT FOR STANDARD 5: INTERAGENCY CASE MANAGEMENT

BARNAHUS QUALITY STANDARDS

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

The Toolkit for Interagency Case Management, developed by CBSS, is designed to help professionals implement Standard 5 of the Barnahus Quality Standards, which focuses on coordinated, interagency case management for child victims of violence.

It has been developed in close consultation with Barnahus professionals, and provides practical tools, case examples, and clear frameworks to actionable guidance for improving interagency collaboration, reducing (re)traumatisation, and promoting more effective support for child victims.

The toolkit is an interactive PDF which facilitates an easy way of linking to related sections of the document. It should be read in conjunction with the Barnahus Quality Standards - Standard 5: Interagency case management.

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Multidisciplinary interagency case management guidance & Training (CBSS)

Key target group

This resource is aimed at Barnahus teams and professionals working in interagency settings across Europe. It draws on the real-world experiences of Barnahus services in several countries, ensuring that the tools and examples reflect existing practices and challenges in the field.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

This toolkit is a valuable resource for strengthening interagency coordination, one of the most critical aspects of effective child protection. It can serve as a model for:
- Developing or refining national protocols for interagency collaboration;
- Training multidisciplinary teams;
- Aligning services with international best practices, such as the Barnahus Quality Standards.

For countries seeking to establish or improve child-friendly, coordinated responses to violence against children, this toolkit provides an actionable, adaptable starting point.

While it was created specifically for those working within Barnahus, it allows flexibility for each country to adapt the guidance to your local context and to Brnahus-like multidisciplinary child protection teams, taking into account:
- The lead agency responsible for case management;
- The composition of the multidisciplinary team;
- The range of services available at the national or local Barnahus.

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Protocol for a Standardised Psychosocial Counselling and Intervention in Barnahus, & Training (Charité)

This protocol was developed by Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin to provide structured, standardised guidance for psychosocial counselling and intervention in cases of online child sexual abuse within Barnahus settings. It complements the medical support protocol (see below) and together forms a holistic approach to supporting children affected by online child sexual abuse.

This protocol combines scientific background, guiding principles, and practical case-based applications to ensure trauma-sensitive, child-centred, and multidisciplinary care. It promotes consistency, transparent documentation and multiagency cooperation in psychosocial work.

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Protocol for a Standardised Psychosocial Counselling and Intervention in Barnahus, & Training (Charité)

Key target group

This tool is aimed at Barnahus multidisciplinary teams, including psychosocial professionals, social workers, psychologists, and health staff, as well as those collaborating across child protection, health, education, and legal systems. Through PROMISE Elpis, the protocol was developed in collaboration with these target groups and promoted via expert consultations and training, to ensure its practical value and adoption across different country contexts.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this protocol can be used in your daily work and inspire the improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse, while being adapted to your specific context:

- Fills a critical gap by providing clear, trauma-sensitive guidance for supporting children affected by online sexual abuse;
- Offers a holistic and multidisciplinary framework for psychosocial (and medical, below) interventions;
- Promotes the active involvement of children, emphasising their safety, well-being, and voice throughout care;
- Includes practical case examples and principles adaptable to other country contexts, making it a strong model for those developing similar protocols;
- Encourages ongoing training and interagency collaboration as essential elements of a sustainable, effective response to online child sexual abuse.

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Medical support protocol & Training (Charité)

This protocol offers structured, multidisciplinary guidance for the medical examination and care of children and adolescents affected by online child sexual abuse.

Developed over two years by a research group at Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the protocol addresses the growing urgency of responding to the complex medical and psychological impacts of online child sexual abuse. It presents evidence-based procedures, case examples, and clear steps to promote standardised, trauma-informed medical intervention within Barnahus and similar settings. The protocol is closely linked to the document on standardised psychosocial care (see above), reflecting a holistic approach to child health and protection.

PROMISE ELPIS

Medical support protocol & Training (Charité)

Key target group

The primary audience for this protocol includes multidisciplinary teams working in Barnahus institutions, such as paediatricians, forensic specialists, psychologists, social workers, and legal professionals.
Within PROMISE Elpis, the protocol was developed and disseminated through cross-sectoral collaboration and experts' engagement, reaching national and European stakeholders who are building or improving child protection services in the context of online abuse.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this protocol can be used in your daily work and inspire the improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse, while being adapted to your specific context:

- Responds to a critical gap by providing one of the first comprehensive medical care protocols specifically for children affected by online sexual violence;
- Promotes standardisation and legal clarity in medical interventions, while ensuring trauma-sensitive, child-focused care;
- Encourages integrated cooperation among medical and psychosocial teams to support a holistic response to online child sexual abuse within Barnahus or similar models;
- Offers practical case examples and step-by-step procedures, making it adaptable for countries seeking to develop or refine protocols for medical care in cases of online abuse.

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Guidance, questionnaire and protocol to inform children (Charité)

Children's voices and experiences gathered by Children First, Scotland, were also at the core of the update of a child participation tool used as an evaluation tool for Barnahus. The original evaluation tool was modified and piloted between January 2024 and February 2025 at two locations in Germany (Berlin and Schwerin).
A shorter child participation evaluation tool for Barnahus was developed by Charité, that will monitor the satisfaction of (younger) children, adolescents, and their caregivers.

Together with the updated questionnaire, a protocol was developed, to guide the implementation of anonymised questionnaires to capture the experiences and opinions of children, adolescents and their caregivers within the Barnahus context.
The protocol offers practical and theoretical guidance, and includes insights into the steps to take to build such evaluation tools and processes, through translation, testing, adaptation, and deployment. It encourages the creation of similar tools in other national contexts to ensure that children's voices are heard and integrated into service development and evaluation.

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Guidance, questionnaire and protocol to inform children (Charité)

Key target group

The child participation tool updated by Charité is aimed for Barnahus professionals, to monitor the satisfaction of (younger) children, adolescents, and their caregivers.
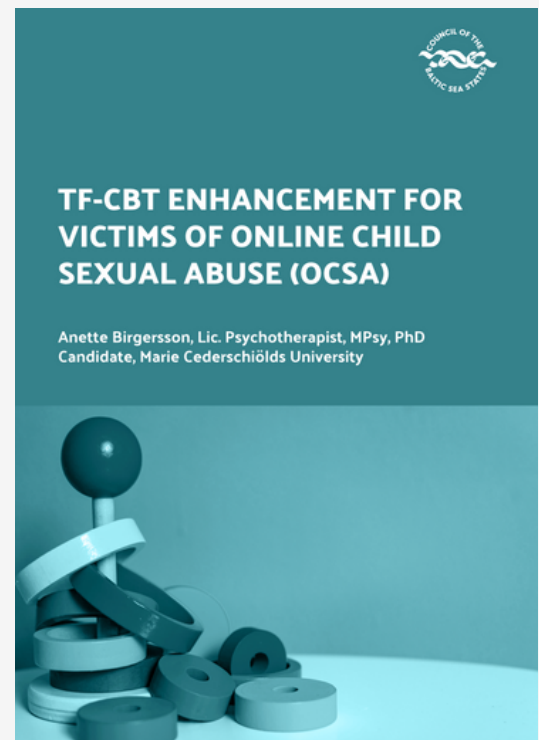
Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this protocol and questionnaire can be adapted to your context and used in your daily work and inspire the improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse:

- Amplifies the voices of children and adolescents, by providing them with safe, structured ways to express their experiences and views throughout their involvement with child protection services;
- Supports child-centered service improvement, through the anonymised collection of feedback that helps professionals understand how children perceive support systems and what they need most;
- Provides practical tools and guidance, with step-by-step instructions for implementing and adapting the questionnaire in different contexts, including in different languages and accessible formats;
- Encourages inclusive participation, by recognising the importance of language support, accessibility, and follow-up methods (e.g., interviews or re-contacting participants) to ensure diverse voices are heard and valued.

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Guidance on adapted therapeutic treatment & Training (CBSS)

TF-CBT ENHANCEMENT FOR VICTIMS OF ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (OCSA)

Anette Birgersson, Lic. Psychotherapist, MPsy, PhD Candidate, Marie Cederschiölds University

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

This guidance provides an enhancement of the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (TF-CBT) model, specifically adapted for children and adolescents affected by online child sexual abuse.

Developed by CBSS, it outlines how certified TF-CBT clinicians can tailor the core components of TF-CBT to better meet the unique clinical needs of online child sexual abuse victims. These include addressing shame, guilt, fear of exposure, and altered self-image, which are commonly intensified in online abuse contexts. The document also emphasises the importance of building trust early, using trauma-informed psychoeducation, and validating the child's experience throughout assessment and treatment.

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Guidance on adapted therapeutic treatment and Training (CBSS)

Key target group

This enhancement is designed for certified TF-CBT clinicians, with foundational knowledge of the standard model. As part of PROMISE Elpis, this resource was introduced to and disseminated among professional TF-CBT practitioners working with Barnahus services, to support better therapeutic outcomes for children affected by online abuse.
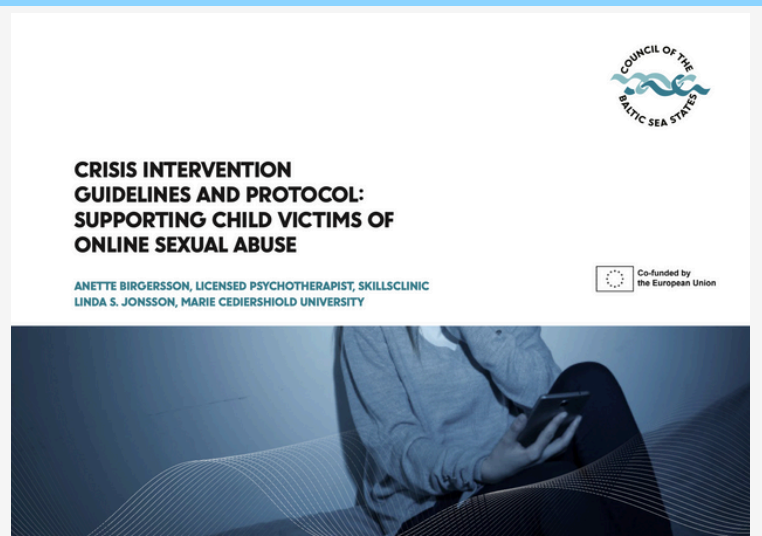
Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this guidance can be used in your daily work and inspire the improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse, also in view of the fact that the next step for this enhancement is to be tested and evaluated by clinicians:

- Offers practical, detailed adaptation of TF-CBT components specifically for the digital and psychosocial dimensions of online child sexual abuse.
- Encourages early, tailored psychoeducation and trust-building, empowering children to disclose in a safe and supported environment.
- Responds to a growing need for specialised treatment approaches in the digital age, providing a model that you, therapists, can adapt and integrate into national mental health systems or trauma-care practices in your country
- Can inspire you and other professionals to evaluate and enhance existing therapeutic models for emerging forms of abuse, ensuring that mental health responses keep pace with digital harms.

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Crisis intervention Guidelines & Protocol (CBSS)

CRISIS INTERVENTION
GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL:
SUPPORTING CHILD VICTIMS OF
ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE

ANETTE BIRGERSSON, LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPIST, SKILLSCLINIC
LINDA S. JONSSON, MARIE CEDERSHIOLD UNIVERSITY

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A guidance was developed by CBSS to complement the Stockholm Barnahus crisis support model, offering a tailored protocol for crisis interventions in cases of online child sexual abuse.

It addresses the specific psychological, emotional, and practical needs that arise in such cases, especially during the first critical days after disclosure. The tool offers professionals a trauma-sensitive, victim-centred framework, practical strategies for initial support, and guidance on navigating the persistent nature of digital abuse, including the long-term presence of harmful materials online.

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Crisis intervention Guidelines & Protocol (CBSS)

Key target group

These guidelines are intended for a broad spectrum of professionals: social workers, police officers, psychologists, Barnahus staff, medical personnel, and child protection professionals. Within PROMISE Elpis, the guidelines were promoted to multidisciplinary teams working with children affected by online child sexual abuse, especially in Barnahus settings.
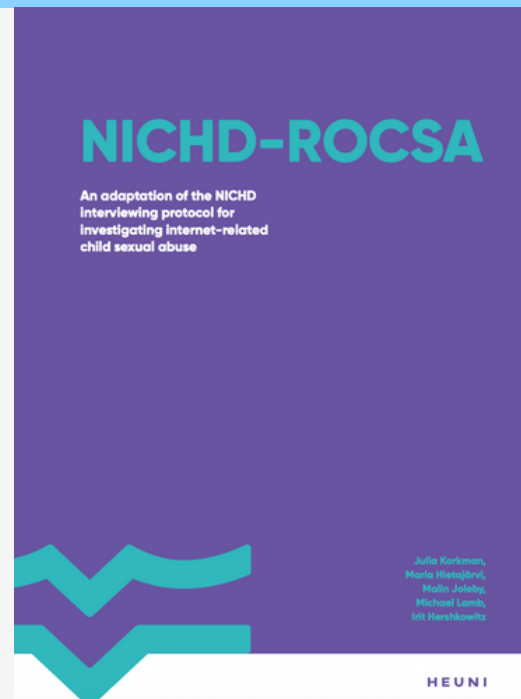
Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this Guidelines can be adapted and used in your daily work, inspiring improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse:

- Emphasise child-centred and trauma-sensitive crisis responses, including validation of the child's experience and meaningful participation.
- Support both victims and caregivers, providing concrete tools such as materials on trauma-centred approach, and on key concepts like validation, psychoeducation and motivational interviewing.
- Encourage development of specialised assessment frameworks and multidisciplinary collaboration to address the unique needs in online child sexual abuse cases.
- Advocate for policy changes, including the formal recognition of online abuse victims within Barnahus service structures and the improvement of data systems and unified case classifications.
- They are a practical and adaptable model for countries aiming to strengthen early-stage interventions in online child sexual abuse cases.

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Investigative interview protocol & Training (HEUNI)

NICHD-ROCSA

An adaptation of the NICHD interviewing protocol for investigating internet-related child sexual abuse

Julia Korkman,
Maria Hietajärvi,
Malin Joleby,
Michael Lamb,
Irit Hershkowitz

HEUNI

This protocol is an adaptation of the NICHD Revised Protocol for investigative interviews with child victims, tailored specifically for online child sexual abuse cases where technical or digital evidence is available - such as explicit images, chat logs, or online exchanges. It maintains a child-sensitive and non-suggestive approach, while offering structured guidance on how to ethically and transparently refer to existing evidence during interviews.

This tool aims to empower forensic interviewers to confidently handle online abuse cases by adjusting their strategies to accommodate new types of digital evidence without compromising child welfare or procedural integrity.

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Investigative interview protocol & Training (HEUNI)

Key target group

This resource is aimed at trained professionals who are engaged in interviewing children, who are already familiar with the NICHD Revised Protocol. Within PROMISE Elpis, the protocol supported capacity building for law enforcement and child protection professionals dealing with online child sexual abuse investigations.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this protocol can be used in your daily work and inspire the improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse:

- Offers a clear framework for integrating digital evidence (e.g., online chats, images) into interviews without leading or alarming the child, especially in early stages;
- Emphasises free recall questioning, while adapting it to the existing evidence and familiarising interviewers with the platforms, apps, and digital contexts the child may have used;
- Encourages interviewers to explore alternative hypotheses (e.g., account misuse, mistaken identity) and investigate technical dimensions of the case before questioning;
- Supports countries in updating interview practices for online child sexual abuse, and can be used as a reference for building national interviewing standards or enhancing training curricula.

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Victims support guidance & Training (UKHD)

The "Guidelines and Recommendations for Interprofessional Cooperation in Victim Protection" were developed by UKHD in Germany as a practical framework to strengthen collaboration between Barnahus-type services and regional victim support counselling centres.
The guidelines aim to harmonise procedures, clarify responsibilities, and promote a more coordinated response to child victims, particularly in cases involving online sexual violence.

A strong emphasis is placed on victim-sensitive approaches, recognising the unique challenges of online abuse disclosures, which often occur without the victim's initiative and can lead to complex psychological responses.
Drawing on the results of a nationwide survey and a model collaboration between Childhood-Haus and Weisser Ring e.V., the guidelines are accompanied by an online training course - developed and piloted during the PROMISE Elpis project - to support practical implementation and build professional capacity.

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Victims support guidance & Training (UKHD)

Key target group

This Guidance was developed for Barnahus professionals, victim support counsellors, and interagency coordinators.
It was then shared and tested through the PROMISE Elpis project, including through the development and evaluation of an online training course to support uptake and application of the guidance more widely.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

This product offers a transferable blueprint that can inspire similar frameworks in other countries, aiming to improve interagency victim support and coordination.

There are several ways in which this guidance can in fact be used in your daily work and inspire the improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse:

- Offers a replicable model for strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation between child protection services and victim support agencies;
- Provides a flexible framework that can be adapted to regional or national contexts with different structures and resources;
- Emphasises the need for training and coordination, suggesting and offering an online training format as an effective method for implementation;
- Can serve as a template for developing national guidelines, enhancing victim care and ensuring cohesive, victim-centred service delivery.

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Practical police training curriculum & Training (UKHD)

A training curriculum was developed by UKHD to strengthen the capacity of police officers and investigators to conduct developmentally appropriate, legally sound video interviews with children and adolescents who are victims and witnesses, particularly in cases of online sexual violence.

Delivered as a three-day specialised seminar at the Baden-Württemberg Police University, the course combines theoretical instruction with hands-on exercises, covering key topics such as the legal framework, technical requirements, and child-sensitive interview techniques. The training is grounded in current research and real-life challenges, ensuring participants can apply their learning directly in practice.

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Practical police training curriculum and Training (UKHD)

Key target group

The curriculum is aimed at criminal investigators and police officers in Baden-Württemberg who are already involved in interviewing underage victims and wish to deepen their expertise.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

There are several ways in which this curriculum can be used in your daily work and inspire the improvements in the treatment of child victims of online sexual abuse:

- Offers a replicable model for police training in child-sensitive interviewing, combining theory, legal insight, and practical exercises.
- Emphasises the importance of adapting interview techniques to age, developmental stage, and the digital context of abuse.
- Supports evidence-based and trauma-informed approaches that improve both victim protection and the quality of evidence gathered.
- Can inspire the creation or adaptation of similar curricula in other countries to meet the rising need for specialised training in cases of online child sexual exploitation.

PROMISE ELPIS

Avatar training tool (AvBIT)

The AvBIT Labs Avatar based interview training gives those developing new skills/protocols a possibility to safely put into practice what was learned. The system can be used for any kind of interview training.

Trainees work in pairs, one with a role of the interviewer and the other of the interviewee, the avatar child. The trainee with the role of the child controls the avatars behaviour, reactions and expression of feelings. When the avatar speaks it uses the trainee voice modified by the system to sound child-like. It is for the interviewer and the person who controls the avatar to choose what kind of setting that they would like for the interview.

The training with Avatars avoids re-traumatisation of children when those in training are still getting familiar to the techniques. The model also provides the possibility of creating better understanding of the child situation and feelings from the part of the trainees, when they are in the child/avatar role.

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Key target group

The Avatar training tool targets professionals from different areas and background, involved in the response and treatment of cases of online child sexual abuse.

In the PROMISE Elpis Project, trainings on child-friendly forensic interview, medical and psychosocial support were carried out to professionals of the respective areas working with the Barnahus and similar models and dealing with online child sexual abuse cases.

The trainees were able to learn new techniques and protocols and practice them with the avatars. Their Avatar sessions were recorded and reviewed in order to optimize their learned skills.

Key points of interest to inspire you to use of this resource or consider the development of similar resources in your country

During the PROMISE Elpis Project, the appearance of the avatars and the system as a whole were improved. The 12 new avatars in the image above are the latest version and are totally AI-generated.

They have a broad range of age and ethnicities, which opens up for other wide range of institutions to use the system for different kind of interview training.

The Avatar training tool is available from Avbit. Its use does not require downloading any software, but rather logging into a web platform. You just need a computer, webcam, headset and network connection. The training can be recorded for reviewing afterwards.