



Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content

Overview

The Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content was founded by an international group of mobile operators within the GSMA to work collectively on obstructing the use of the mobile environment by individuals or organisations wishing to consume or profit from child sexual abuse content.





Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content



While the vast majority of child sexual abuse content (child pornography) is today accessed through conventional connections to the Internet, there is a danger that broadband networks now being rolled out by mobile operators could be misused in the same way.

The Alliance's ultimate aim is to help stem, and ultimately reverse, the growth of online child sexual abuse content around the world. Through a combination of technical measures, co-operation and information sharing, the Alliance seeks to create significant barriers to the misuse of mobile networks and services for hosting, accessing, or profiting from child sexual abuse content.

Members of the Alliance will, among other measures:

- implement technical mechanisms to prevent access to Web sites identified by an appropriate agency as hosting child sexual abuse content;
- implement Notice and Take Down* processes to enable the removal of any child sexual abuse content posted on their own services; and
- support and promote 'hotlines' or other mechanisms for customers to report child sexual abuse content discovered on the Internet or on mobile content services.

"As our industry rolls out mobile broadband networks that provide quick and easy access to multimedia Web sites, we must put safeguards in place to obstruct criminals looking to use mobile services for a means of accessing or hosting pictures and videos of children being sexually abused," said Rob Conway, Chief Executive Officer of the GSMA. "We call on governments across the world to provide the necessary legal clarity to ensure that mobile operators can act effectively against child sexual abuse content."

Governments need to ensure that they have the necessary resources in place to combat the spread of digital child sexual abuse content. Ideally, law enforcement authorities, or delegated international organizations, should have processes in place to be able to confirm that individual items of content are illegal.

The Alliance will also encourage all mobile operators, worldwide, regardless of access technology to participate in the Alliance.

The members of the Mobile Alliance include:

- GSMA
- Dhiraagu
- Dialog Telekom
- Hutchison 3G Europe
- Meteor
- mobilkom austria group
- MTN Group
- Orange FT Group
- Telecom Italia
- Telefonica Group
- Telenor Group
- TeliaSonera Group
- T-Mobile Group
- Vodacom SA
- Vodafone Group
- dotMobi

For further information on the Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content, contact Susie Hendrie at the GSMA (shendrie@gsm.org)

"As the specialized United Nations agency for information and communication technologies (ICT), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) welcomes the new Mobile Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Content to protect children from the misuse of mobile broadband networks by child predators around the world. The World Summit on the Information Society called for national and international measures against the use of ICT in all forms of child abuse and encouraged the setting up of child helplines. Those measures have been endorsed by the ITU and they are being adopted by our distinctive membership of 191 Member States and some 700 private companies. The Mobile Alliance is a prime example of the proactive action industry can take and, together with government and law enforcement support, we can make significant progress in the global fight against child sexual abuse content online."

Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union

"I welcome this agreement. It gives a very clear signal that the mobile industry is committed to making the Mobile Internet a safer place for children. The fact that this initiative has grown out of the work carried out by the mobile industry in Europe shows that Europe is, once again, leading in building a trustworthy environment for doing business."

Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media

Footnote
* 'Notice and Take Down' (NTD) - Operators and service providers are sometimes notified of suspect content online by customers, members of the public or by law enforcement or hotline organisations. If the report comes from a member of the public, the information is passed on to law enforcement or national hotline, as appropriate, for confirmation of whether the content is illegal or to take any further legal action. When issued with a NTD notice, operators and service provider takes steps to have the illegal content removed.

Terminology: The GSMA uses the term 'child sexual abuse content' or 'images of child sexual abuse' to refer to recorded images of children subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation. While the term "child pornography" is used commonly in legislation and international conventions, the GSMA prefers not to use this term, as "pornography" is commonly understood to be associated with depictions of sexual activity between consenting individuals. For this reason, use of the term "child pornography" mischaracterizes sexual representations where children are involved, and its use can cause misunderstanding.