



- Eine Stimme für Betroffene -

MOGiS e.V. - a voice for those affected

Dorothee Hahne
2nd Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Head of the Abuse Working Group

Postfach 11 15 49, 86040 Augsburg
dorothee.hahne@mogis-verein.de

Speech on the Greens/EFA expert hearing

28 March 2023 12:30 - 14:00 Brussels - EU Parliament

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules on preventing and combating the sexual abuse of children (Com/2022/209 final -2022/1055(COD))

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for inviting me, as founding member and deputy chairperson of the association "MOGiS - e. V. - a voice for those affected" and as representative of the expert working group on sexual abuse, to comment on the present proposed regulation 2022/0155 (COD).

We were founded in 2009 because we did not feel represented by the "victim" associations present in the media and politics. "The aim of our association is to give those affected by interventions in sexual self-determination and physical integrity a voice in the discussion about child and victim protection and the enforcement of basic and children's rights. The needs of those affected are at the centre of this. In particular, the understanding of these issues is to be improved through educational work.

From our point of view, the present proposal is unacceptable. As people affected, we see our "safe spaces", our protected areas and communication channels endangered or destroyed. For those affected, this need is existential, if not vital.

Highly qualified experts such as Matthew Green, cryptographer and professor at Johns Hopkins University, who clearly warns against the proposal, as well as other scientifically sound statements by numerous experts and organisations such as FSM, Inhope, ECO etc. are apparently not taken into account in the discussion, although they offer the most competent expertise.

If the EU is to be empowered to interfere with fundamental rights with such a paper, then it is inexplicable why it cannot pass resolutions that get to the root of the problems and change them. We are in favour of concrete guidelines that fundamentally change the abuses related to sexual violence against children.

Instead of building up a highly bureaucratic, uncontrollable and error-prone monitoring structure, we need guidelines that strengthen the social fabric, that promote the willingness to take responsibility for one's own actions - the willingness to take responsibility for future generations, for beneficiaries and weaker ones in the power structure of our society.

We know that the majority of sexual violence against children takes place in the immediate social environment, which is massively neglected in this paper declared as "prevention".

We know that the majority (WDR, for example, spoke of 90%) of the perpetrators themselves have a history as victims of their own sexual abuse.

We know that victims of childhood sexual abuse have an immensely increased risk of becoming victims of further rape.

More and more depictions and incidents of sexual violence against children are being reported online. However, this violence and its causes mainly take place in the real world, these images and their causes arise offline. The fact that more and more images are being reported merely means that fewer images were previously reported and not necessarily that the number of images is increasing.

Now that the dark field is becoming brighter or more tangible, it is becoming apparent that the complaint and reporting offices work, that deleting instead of blocking is the most effective solution. (100% of reported cases in Germany are deleted on average within 2.8 days, worldwide 98.5% within approx. 7 days - ECO/Annual Report 2022). The latest developments in Germany show that automated reports from the USA with a system-related high proportion of false reports overburden the law enforcement agencies and make effective work more difficult (ARD Tagesschau, 10.03.2023). Instead of legitimising baseless surveillance instruments, that potentially place all people under general suspicion, we should create ways and means that enable all people to participate in positive change! We need real prevention, effective measures to perceive the problems and their causes.

In facts:

- We need... private and guaranteed secure online communication!
- ... nationwide, specialized and fully financed counseling, assistance and therapy services for all types of victims, regardless of whether they are victims, perpetrators or witnesses of a crime.
- ... mandatory qualification and further training programs for all those who work as teachers, educators or in comparable positions with children in need of protection. Strengthening school programmes on urgently needed media skills and on basic democratic social rights. ... Better paid educators and teachers in smaller classes that effectively promote social experiences.
- ... on the technical side: Reporting options for content relevant to criminal law that are easily and comprehensibly accessible for all communication and online offerings. e.g. as a button in messengers, apps and browsers, etc. Reporting crimes online must be a breeze!
- ... an increase in the number of specially trained personnel in both law enforcement and social services on the subject of sexual violence and IT security.
- ... Transparency - All processes need unconditional transparency and clearly defined systems to prevent misuse of the new tools.
- Above all, we need language that is appropriate for those affected and that creates the conditions for sexual violence against children and beyond to reach people as an issue that affects us all. Sexual violence comes from the middle of our society and therefore it needs the middle of society - the awareness for change that allows everyone to participate.

A language that still starts from the perpetrator's perspective manifests more and more the perpetrator system, prevents solutions, retraumatizes and stigmatizes those affected!

- Reported, criminally relevant images must be deleted and may not be stored! As long as they are relevant to the investigation, they must only be available to the investigating authorities - offline. The state and also the Union must not disregard the victims' right to their own image. Only what is deleted is really gone!

We also know that neural network models from perceptual hash values of misuse representations are error-prone, so misuse of this technique is likely. Intra-agency models for law enforcement that could be developed with hash values of indexed data may be worth discussing, but then only on the condition that they are implemented offline without exception and with 100% permanent and controllable access rights.

- The central storage in the EU centre planned so far is unacceptable. The world's largest pool of such abuse representations can never be safe. The volume of this special data is far too much of a criminal incentive, and the EU is obviously planning the world's largest pool of CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) with this proposal. The AI-driven mass processing of images, with which so many destroyed fates are linked, is beyond what we understand by human dignity.

Abuses cause assaults, and encroachments on our rule of law are not a solution to abuse, but the manifestation and further concatenation of an abusively structured society.

However, if we use all the independent studies, scientific expertise and other empirical data available to us, we can create the conditions for real effective change.

A final note about myself: As a composer with a focus on live electronic applications, I have been developing and programming interactive software for over 30 years, working with new media and using, programming and administering numerous online and database applications. As an abuse survivor, this gives me a broader understanding of IT and computing.

Dorothee Hahne