

Committee: UNICEF

Topic: Deliberating upon the growing impact of artificial intelligence on children's minds through education technology, screen dependency, and algorithm-driven content.

Country: The United Kingdom

Vision:

As the architect of the [Bletchley Declaration](#), which established the first global consensus on the need for international cooperation to manage the 'frontier risks' of advanced AI, and the author of the world's first comprehensive [Online Safety Act](#), which mandates a legal 'Duty of Care' for tech giants to proactively shield minors from harmful content, the United Kingdom recognizes that the digital frontier is no longer a 'wild west.' Instead, it is a space that requires rigorous, child-centric regulation. The United Kingdom maintains that while Artificial Intelligence is the most transformative tool of the 21st century, it must never be allowed to outpace the fundamental developmental needs of the child. Guided by the principle of 'Safety by Design,' the UK defends the right to innovation while balancing it against the urgent responsibility to prevent the cognitive and psychological erosion of the next generation."

Regulatory Frameworks:

The United Kingdom is bound by its commitment to the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#), particularly [Article 17 \(access to information\)](#) and [Article 19 \(protection from all forms of harm\)](#). Nationally, the [Online Safety Act \(2023\)](#) and its [2026 mandates](#) provide the world's most robust legal framework for platform accountability. Under this Act, technology providers have a statutory 'Duty of Care' to protect minors from priority harms, including AI-generated deepfakes and algorithmic promotion of self-harm. The UK's independent regulator, Ofcom, is empowered to enforce these duties with fines reaching 10% of global turnover. Furthermore, the [Crime and Policing Bill \(2025/26\)](#) criminalizes the possession and distribution of AI models fine-tuned for child exploitation, such as 'nudification' services, ensuring that the law evolves at the same pace as generative technology.

National Initiatives:

The UK's doctrine on digital safety is rooted in its leadership during the [2023 Bletchley AI Safety Summit](#), which transitioned the global conversation from mere innovation to proactive risk mitigation. This leadership continued through the [Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act \(2026\)](#), which established mandatory standards for Educational Technology (EdTech) to prevent 'cognitive offloading' and protect student privacy. Recognizing the dopamine-driven design of modern interfaces, the UK has launched a landmark 2026 consultation on Social Media Restrictions, piloting digital curfews and anti-engagement nudges for teenagers. Central to this strategy is the newly integrated 'AI Literacy' curriculum in British schools. Rather than digital isolation, the UK seeks a middle path: fostering 'Cognitive Resilience' where children

are taught to identify algorithmic bias and verify AI-generated misinformation, ensuring they remain masters of technology rather than its passive subjects.

Solution:

The United Kingdom's position is that AI-driven efficiency must not come at the cost of child welfare. The pursuit of technological progress must be built on the foundation of human safety. **The UK urges this Council to move beyond voluntary guidelines and toward binding international safety standards for child-centric AI. The world *must* have binding minimum standards for child safety, specifically regarding age assurance and algorithmic transparency.** We must recognize that an algorithm which prioritizes engagement over a child's mental health is not merely a product feature, but a systemic threat to developmental rights. Safeguarding childhood in a digital age requires vigilance against both addictive design and AI-facilitated harm—a balance that the United Kingdom continues to refine with responsibility, transparency, and an unwavering commitment to the rights of every child.