



Protect Children has Analysed Over 4 Million Child Sexual Abuse Material Images to End the Revictimisation of Victims and Survivors, Support Their Recovery, and Restore Their Dignity

STATEMENT – JUNE 2026

Every image of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) represents a child whose safety and fundamental rights have been violated. Every image may cause severe and long-lasting impacts to victims and survivors.

Protect Children works actively to remove CSAM from the internet and prevent the continued suffering and revictimisation of victims and survivors. Through our work within [Project Arachnid](#), **we have now analysed over four million CSAM images**. Each image is reviewed by our dedicated team of analysts to verify content and trigger takedown notice requests to electronic service providers (ESPs). **Our work, led by the [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#), has led to more than 2.25 million removal requests sent to ESPs worldwide through Project Arachnid**, helping to disrupt the circulation of abusive and illegal material online.



Over 4 million CSAM images analysed



More than 2.25 million removal requests sent to ESPs

Project Arachnid is an innovative victim-centred tool developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection that detects online CSAM and sends removal requests to ESPs.¹

Understanding the Lasting Impacts on Victims and Survivors

Crimes involving child sexual abuse material may have devastating and long-lasting negative consequences for victims and survivors. **Nine in ten victims and survivors of image-based child sexual abuse and exploitation who responded to the [Global Our Voice Survivor Survey](#) report that their abuse led to long-term negative consequences.**²

The most reported consequences include depression, anxiety disorder/panic attacks, difficulty in forming and maintaining personal relationships, self-harming behaviours, somatic symptoms, PTSD/PTS symptoms, sexual dysfunction, suicide attempts, social challenges, and eating disorders³



Even in daily life, the fact of the harm is constantly on my mind. Especially when I have to study or concentrate, the thought of the harm keeps coming to mind, making it difficult to concentrate. – A Korean-speaking survivor through the Our Voice survey.

¹ Learn more about Project Arachnid: <https://projectarachnid.ca/en/>

² Protect Children. (2025). Through the Lens: Insights into Image-Based Child Sexual Violence. <https://www.protectchildren.fi/en/post/through-the-lens-report>

³ Protect Children. (2025). Through the Lens: Insights into Image-Based Child Sexual Violence. <https://www.protectchildren.fi/en/post/through-the-lens-report>

Removing Every Image Makes a Difference

This milestone of four million CSAM images analysed is a reminder of the scale of online child sexual abuse and exploitation. When CSAM remains online, the abuse does not end. For victims and survivors, continued circulation of this content means ongoing harm and revictimisation.

Many survivors fear being recognised in these images. Some feel they have to search for and report the images themselves, reliving the trauma, while others cope with anxiety, shame, social withdrawal, or difficulty trusting people.



The circulation of the abuse images has impacted personal safety and caused mistrust. – A parent of a child victim of sexual violence whose CSAM has been shared.

Every image removed is a step toward supporting victims' and survivors' healing path, offering them a chance to heal without the fear that their abuse will continue circulating online⁴.

By analysing and helping remove CSAM from the internet, we are, together with Canadian Centre for Child Protection:



Reducing the suffering of victims and survivors and supporting their healing



Breaking the cycle of abuse and revictimisation



Preventing accidental exposure to abusive and illegal content



Strengthening the broader fight against child sexual abuse and exploitation

Protect Children's ReDirection research demonstrates a strong correlation between searching for, viewing, and sharing CSAM and seeking direct contact with children, with around 40% of respondents reporting they sought contact with a child after viewing CSAM.⁵ **This highlights that removing CSAM from the internet also contributes to preventing further sexual violence against children.**

The Critical Role of Our Analysts

Behind every removal request sent by Project Arachnid, there is an international team of analysts carefully reviewing the images and bearing witness to the violent nature of the images. This critical work requires a high degree of continuous dedication and emotional resilience. We are deeply grateful to our analysts for their dedication, resilience, and the vital work they do every day to protect children and support victims and survivors.



Behind every image we analyse is a child who deserves dignity and protection. Knowing that our efforts help to remove these images from the internet and prevent further harm motivates us to continue and reminds us why this work matters. – Protect Children analyst.

The knowledge we gain through our analyst work informs Protect Children's broader efforts to prevent sexual violence against children and support victims, survivors and families affected.

[Learn more about our work.](#)

⁴ C3P. (2024). Experiences of child sexual abuse material survivors. How technology companies' inaction leads to fear, stalking, and harassment. Canadian Centre for Child Protection. https://content.c3p.ca/pdfs/C3P_ExperiencesOfCSAMSurvivors_en.pdf

⁵ Insoll, T., Ovaska, A. K., Nurmi, J., Aaltonen, M., & Vaaranen-Valkonen, N. (2022). Risk factors for child sexual abuse material users contacting children online: Results of an anonymous multilingual survey on the dark web. Journal of Online Trust and Safety, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.54501/jots.v1i2.29>.