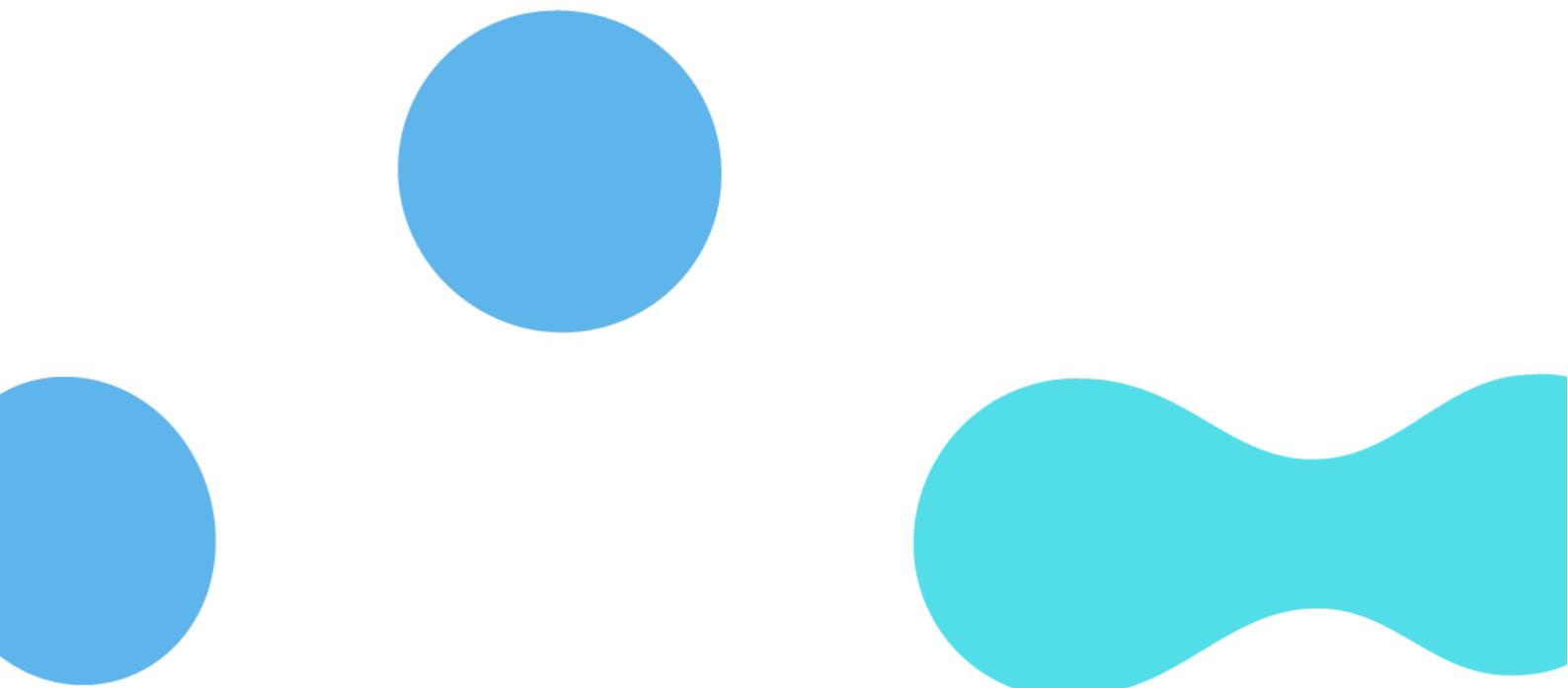


Global  
**Online Safety Regulators**  
Network

# Annual Report 2025



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# Note from Chair

2025 was a landmark year for online safety. After decades of self-regulation and years of legislative debate, social media platforms and online service providers across the globe saw regulation come into force. Internationally, there is growing recognition that regulation is needed to address online harms and their real-life impacts, even while different jurisdictions prioritise different issues and adopt different approaches. As the Global Online Safety Regulators Network reflects on its third year, the need for a dedicated network for independent online safety regulators has never been clearer.

As our members move from developing regulatory frameworks to enforcing those requirements, the Network has been a critical convening space for sharing best practice and insights for rights-respecting online safety regulators. To meet the moment, it is crucial that online safety regulators clearly communicate their regulatory expectations to industry and the public. Progressing our shared online safety goals has a real impact on the health of our information ecosystems and making online spaces safer for our communities.

In its second year as Chair of the Network, Ofcom is proud to have supported the development and implementation of the Three-Year Strategy (2025-2027). With representation from six continents and a wide range of expertise in our diverse cohort of observers, GOSRN has grown to be a truly global network that continues to evolve and respond to the changing world. As the Network matures and expands, we remain steadfast in our commitment to human rights respecting regulation, independence, and upholding the values that brought us together as online safety regulators.

The Network's second Annual Report demonstrates continued dedication to the Network's mission and the Three-Year Strategy in action. Our Strategy reflects the need for a globally minded approach to online safety regulation, where international regulators can learn from each others' experiences, align on our expectations of industry, and ultimately create safer outcomes for users.

In 2025, members have deepened their commitment to building regulatory coherence through a joint statement on age assurance, strengthening the evidence base for online safety regulation through research deep dives, and enhancing our information sharing capabilities. The Network established a Supervision Working Group and a Risk Assessment Working Group, recognising the need for regulators to exchange knowledge and operational insights on these regulatory functions and tools. Both working groups provided members with opportunities to exchange lessons learned and surface shared principles and practices. We held quarterly

Contact Group meetings with observers, which explored topics ranging from research deep dives into the Manosphere and online misogyny to strategies for tackling child sexual abuse material online. In 2026, we will continue to iterate and build on the learnings from 2025, continuing the important work on Supervision, Risk Assessments, and youth engagement. We plan to establish new workstreams on strategic communications, regulatory innovation, and special projects to engage industry and experts.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Network in 2025. Ofcom is grateful to the Network's members and observers for their support in the last two years, particularly in this phase of growth and expansion of the Network. Ofcom is grateful to Coimisiún na Meán for its support as Vice Chair of the Network this year. We are delighted for Coimisiún na Meán to take on the role of Chair in 2026, leading the newly established GOSRN leadership Council. Ofcom will join Council for Media Services and Authority for the Prevention of Online Terrorist Content and Child Sexual Abuse Material as Council members in 2026.

Mark Bunting,  
GOSRN Chair 2025 (Ofcom)

# Introduction

The Global Online Safety Regulators Network ('the Network') was launched in November 2022 and is the first dedicated forum for independent online safety regulators around the world. The Network enables regulators to share experience, expertise, and evidence, paving the way for coherent international approaches to online safety regulation.

Our regulatory remits and duties overlap in many ways, offering us opportunities to build coherent approaches to specific areas of online safety and to learn from one another. The mission of the Network is to develop regulatory coherence across jurisdictions and to promote compliance with rights-respecting online safety regulation, by leveraging the Network's role as the only global network of and for independent online safety regulators.

Our second Annual Report provides an overview of the work of the Network in 2025 and our plans for 2026.

## Year in Review

2025 has been a year of scaling the Network's impact and enacting the Three-Year Strategy. The Network added new observers, created new working groups and policy 'deep dives', and published a quarterly newsletter. Each of these initiatives generated new opportunities for members to collaborate, share insights, and build coherence across our respective regulatory frameworks.

### 1. Working Groups and Deep Dives

Following the success of establishing Working Groups last year, the Network created new working groups focusing on Supervision and Risk Assessments. Recognising that these are new functions and tools for online safety regulators to operationalise, the Working Groups brought together observers and members to discuss common principles, assess methodologies, and exchange insights on these topics. Reports from the Supervision and Risk Assessment Working Groups will be published in early 2026.

The Network hosted quarterly 'deep dives' on policy and research topics, with discussions covering issues such as non-consensual intimate image abuse (NCII) and deepfakes, terrorist and violent extremist content (TVEC), and age assurance. In addition to these sessions for members, observers participated in quarterly Contact Group meetings where topics like child sexual abuse material (CSAM), age assurance and age- appropriate design, and reporting pathways were discussed.

### 2. Special Project: Youth Dialogues

In April and May 2025, the Network brought together 19 youth ambassadors, aged 18 to 24, from nine countries around the world in a special project, the Youth Dialogues.

Participants shared their culture and heritage, insights from their experience as youth advocates, and explored the common challenges young people face globally in digital environments. Through exchanges with representatives from 5Rights, the Family Online Safety Institute, and the Integrity Institute, the group identified practical actions that global technology companies and policy makers can take to support young people to have safer, more informed online experiences.

Their discussions culminated in a [call-to-action letter](#), urging global technology companies and policy makers to invest in digital literacy education and user empowerment tools, and to meaningfully engage with youth people through co-design.

### 3. Publications

This year the Network refreshed the [Regulatory Index](#), updating its contents to reflect new member from the Netherlands, the Authority for the Prevention of Online Terrorist Content and Child Sexual Abuse Material, and progress in our members' jurisdictions. The Regulatory Index continues to be an invaluable resource which provides an overview of online safety rules in our members' jurisdictions and a comparative analysis of our respective rules.

Advancing the goal of enhancing regulatory coherence on a topic of paramount importance, the protection of children online, the Network published a joint statement on Age Assurance. The statement advanced common principles for the deployment of age assurance approaches and reaffirmed the Network's shared commitment to creating safer online spaces for children.

In 2025, the Network published a quarterly newsletter which shared updates from members and observers.

In early 2026, the Network expects to publish statements from the Supervision Working Group and results from the Risk Assessment Working Group.

### 4. Member and Observer growth

Observers are a vital part of the Network. Their expertise on a wide range of online safety matters enhances the Network's engagement with the diverse ecosystem of researchers, civil society organisations, and international public authorities working to tackle online harms. In 2025, the Network welcomed new observers, including the

OECD, Save the Children, University of Southern California's Neely Center, NMHH (Hungary), and HateAid. The Network expects to admit new observers again in early 2026, recognising that the rate of growth for the Network must balance the needs and capacity of members.

In 2026, the Network seeks to expand its geographic diversity and range of expertise through growing its membership and observer base. The leadership Council will be responsible for membership growth, with a focus on independent online safety regulators outside of Europe.

## 5. **External engagement**

In 2025 the Network was represented at a range of global forums and conferences around the world, including Rightscon (Taiwan), Internet Governance Forum (Norway), Trustcon (United States), INHOPE Summit (United States), and Institute for Strategic Dialogue's Digital Policy Lab (Germany).

The Network also participated in multilateral engagements, through the UNESCO Global Forum of Networks and engaged with global stakeholders including the Christchurch Call Foundation, the Global Privacy Assembly, and the Digital Trust and Safety Partnership, among others.

# Looking forward to 2026

## **Leadership - GOSRN Establishes a Leadership Council**

At the end of 2024, the Network agreed to establish an Executive Board with a Chair and Vice-Chairs, supported by a secretariat and hosted by the Chair.

At the annual meeting in Dublin, members elected Coimisiún na Meán (Ireland) Chair of the Global Online Safety Regulators Network for 2026. Members also agreed that Ofcom (UK), Council for Media Services (Slovakia), and Authority for the Prevention of Online Terrorist Content and Child Sexual Abuse Material (Netherlands) would form a leadership Council, steering the Network's strategy and workplan for 2026.

## **Three-Year Strategic Plan (2025-2027) and 2026 Projects**

Published in 2025, the Three-Year Strategic Plan sets the priorities and direction for the Network. In 2025, the Network prioritised implementing the Strategic Plan through a variety

of initiatives.

In 2026, the Network will continue its Supervision Working Group, continuing the progress made in 2025 to deepen knowledge exchange and operational insight into supervision functions within online safety regulators. The Risk Assessment Working Group will continue until Q2 2026, with the aim of sharing the results of its work on risk assessment methodologies and practices following a period of intensive work. A third Working Group will be established and dedicated to exploring regulatory innovation, including addressing topics such as generative AI. Each working group will publish a statement related to its activities and engage with observers in its development. Further, the Network will establish dedicated workstreams and special projects on youth engagement, industry partnerships, and academic partnerships.

In 2025, the launch of the GOSRN newsletter provided a space for observers and members to share their research and updates with the wider community, and the Network will continue this in 2026. The Network will create a dedicated strategic communications workstream, to bolster the Network's external communications, increase visibility at international conferences and events, and build the profile of the Network and its members with key stakeholders.

Finally, the Network will continue to recruit and expand its membership and observers, an effort that will be spearheaded by the incoming Chair. The Network benefits from the rich expertise of its members and observers and seeks to build partnerships with jurisdictions with newly legislated online safety functions, as well as public authorities, experts, and civil society organisations engaging in work to make online spaces safer.

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