



Trigger Warning

This case study describes child sexual abuse online.



Name	Tilda*
Country	Sweden
Age	8 years old when abuse started, abuse lasted 10 years.

Description of crime

From the age of eight, Tilda* **began going online daily** to escape a difficult home environment. She was experiencing physical abuse and neglect from her mother.

Tilda encountered her abusers after joining several Facebook groups. Her new online 'friends' initially asked her to post pictures of herself. **The offenders then contacted her directly and began grooming her by building what appeared to be friendships.**

The perpetrators sent **expensive gifts** to Tilda, even sending packages to the treatment facility where she was living.

Through coercion and manipulation, the offenders forced Tilda to create and distribute exploitative material online.

Over a period of **10 years**, Tilda was exploited by approximately **60 perpetrators** in total.

I was severely depressed, I was underage, I didn't sleep, I was starving myself, and I was self-harming (...). I think that it's painfully obvious that I've been sexually abused, groomed in my life.

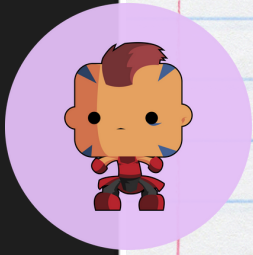
They knew everything about me. We were friends, we were very good friends, I thought.

Quotes from Tilda



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Name

Anna*

Country

Poland

Age

6 years old when abuse started,
abuse lasted 8 years.

Description of crime

At the age of 6, Anna* started being sexually abused by her grandfather. The abuse lasted 8 years.

During those years, the **experiences of abuse caused her severe emotional distress, including suicidal ideation and attempts.**

When she was 14, Anna got caught stealing perfumes. She then disclosed the abuse to her mother, who reported to the authorities.

But for months no action was taken against Anna's grandfather. As months passed without contact from the investigators, **she felt that no one believed her.**

In her most vulnerable moment, she fell on the hands of another man who sexually abused her in exchange for money.

Anna died of a sepsis short after.

For eight years, I let him do it so he wouldn't hurt anyone else, but I can't take it anymore.

Anna testified that her grandfather stopped only when she had a panic attack and went rigid.

Quotes from Anna



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Name	Athena*
Country	Greece
Age	17 years old

Description of crime

Athena* was contacted by an unknown man through the messaging platform Snapchat. He seemed nice and the initial conversation felt very normal.

After chatting a little bit, **he asked her to videocall privately**. He then said he liked her and would like to see more of her. He pressured her to take off her shirt so he could see her breasts.

Then, he insisted her to **send him naked photos**. Although she refused at first, she ended up sending him some pictures.

After that, he started blackmailing her for more photos, **threatening her to tell her family and embarrass her at school if she did not comply**.

Athena was so afraid she kept sending him intimate photos and video calling him naked in order to avoid the humiliation.

I told him that I didn't want to (...) and that he was making me feel awkward, but he pressured me to show him more. In the end, I did, but I felt terrible.

At that moment, I was quite shocked, I started shaking.

Quotes from Athena



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Name	Multiple girls
Country	Finland
Age	Between 6 and 15 years old

Description of crime

Between 2022 and 2023, over **200 minors across** Finland were contacted by a 30 year-old man through Omegle, an anonymous video chat service.

The perpetrator would lure the victims into chatting on social media and then **convinced them to dress in revealing clothes and perform sexual acts for them on camera.**

Still today, there are **177 unidentified victims.**

The suspect is currently being investigated for sexual abuse and enticement of a child for sexual purposes (a.k.a. grooming).

Grooming has increased by 300% since the negotiations on the proposed Regulation began.

Other details



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Name

Giulia*

Country

Italy

Age

10 years old when abuse started,
abuse lasted 2 years.

Description of crime

Giulia*, from Sulmona, Abruzzo, reported having suffered continued sexual violence and extortion for 2 years.

At the age of 10 years old, **Giulia was sexually assaulted at home by her two cousins - aged 14 and 18 years old.** For two years, they would **take turns** to rape her every fortnight, while the other **filmed** the assault.

Then, they would threaten her to share the videos online. Regardless of her actions, **the videos were shared on a WhatsApp group reaching more than 40 people.**

The case is currently under investigation, so neither of the cousins have been convicted.

Child sexual abuse is a heavily underreported crime.

Giulia reported the crime to her mother only when the video was shared online.

Police may trace the videos beyond Whatsapp, potentially expanding the number of witnesses to Giulia's abuse.

Other details



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Name	Multiple girls
Country	Spain
Age	Teenagers

Description of crime

Dozens of teenage girls in Spain **received AI-generated naked images of themselves on their mobile phones**. They saw the images circulate in whatsapp groups in school.

In the original photos, **stolen from their Instagram accounts**, the children were fully clothed.

The images were artificially altered by other teenagers known to the girls - they did not need to be AI experts, **they simply paid €10** to obtain 25 hyper-realistic naked images of their peers using the nudifying app Clothoff.

Despite the artificial nature of the nudity, **the distress felt** by the girls was very real.

Clothoff enables users to digitally undress anyone in their phone's picture gallery with the slogan, 'Undress any picture with AI for free'.

When approached, the nudifying app chose not to disclose their age verification methods.

Other details



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Name

Alba*

Country

Sweden

Age

The abuse began at nine years old, and lasted nine years.

Description of crime

Alba* was approached by several adults online who **coerced her** into live-streaming exploitative material and self-harm.

At 12 years old, Alba was invited to chat rooms where **she was paid to perform sexual acts with a friend on camera**. These live streams were viewed by hundreds of perpetrators in the chat rooms.

Alba also met with a perpetrator in person, and was a **victim of multiple rapes, child sexual abuse, sex trafficking and exploitation**.

A court viewed several movies of me being (...) raped by multiple perpetrators, (...) all the while I was crying and screaming for my life – and these acts were not considered criminal because I was over the age of sexual consent.

I think that's the worst betrayal I've ever experienced. I was a child, and I was scared for my life and an entire society watched and did nothing.

Quotes from Alba

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Name	Iris*
Country	Ireland
Age	The abuse began at 11 years old, and lasted three years.

Description of crime

Iris* didn't have any friends in real life. ~~Feeling isolated and lonely~~, she turned to the internet to find social connections.

Iris connected with a perpetrator who built what seemed like a genuine friendship with her. Once trust was established, the perpetrator asked for an explicit photo and threatened to cut off contact if she refused.

Iris said no at first but was **afraid of losing her 'friend'**. Eventually, she gave in and sent the photos.

That's when the **sexual extortion** began. The perpetrator demanded more explicit images and ~~threatened to send Iris's photos to her friends and family if she didn't comply.~~

He asked me to send photos of myself naked. (...) he said that if I didn't, that he would disappear and stop talking to me. I was like 'okay, I've got nobody.

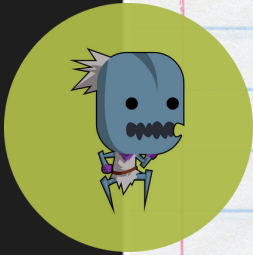
If you don't send me more, I'm going to send these to your friends and family (...). Three years of anything he wanted, whenever he wanted.

Quotes from Iris



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Name	Multiple teen girls
Country	Belgium and the Netherlands
Age	Between the ages of 10 and 16,

Description of crime

The perpetrator manipulated over 20 girls into participating in a game on **Snapchat**. Upon completing each level of the game, the girls would receive various incentives - including cash, gift cards, AirPods, and an iPhone 11 - **in exchange for exploitative images**.

As the game progressed, he requested increasingly explicit images. He then used the photos and videos that the girls had already shared as leverage and **coercion** to pressure them into sending more.

The perpetrator was sentenced for producing, distributing, possessing, and acquiring images of child sexual abuse, as well as cyber luring and grooming.

In addition to the crimes that took place online, **the perpetrator also met some of the girls in person**. He was found guilty of aggravated rape and inducing, promoting, and facilitating the prostitution of minors with aggravating circumstances.

The Court considered the significant moral and psychological impact of the perpetrator's actions on the victims and their communities, recognising that they would carry lifelong scars.

After a month of detention, the perpetrator was placed under electronic surveillance, which enabled him to continue his criminal activities on Snapchat.

Other details



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Name	Mads*
Country	Denmark
Age	14 years old

Description of crime

A 14-year-old child met an adult in an online group chat. The “platonic relationship” developed in the group chat over for about **a year** before they began messaging each other privately.

The conversations became long, and **the perpetrator made inappropriate jokes that made the child feel very uncomfortable.**

One evening, **the perpetrator began sending shirtless photos** to the child. The child didn’t feel able to ask them to stop. It escalated, and the perpetrator pressured the child to send pictures in return.

The child blocked the perpetrator the next day and informed others about the situation. The child felt betrayed, as the perpetrator had helped them through difficult times.

Quote from Mads

I feel a bit broken inside because it was someone I had known for many months before he took the relationship in that direction.