

BEYOND THE SCREEN: HIDDEN VOICES OF ONLINE ABUSE

**Global Online Safety Film
Overview + Screening Guide**

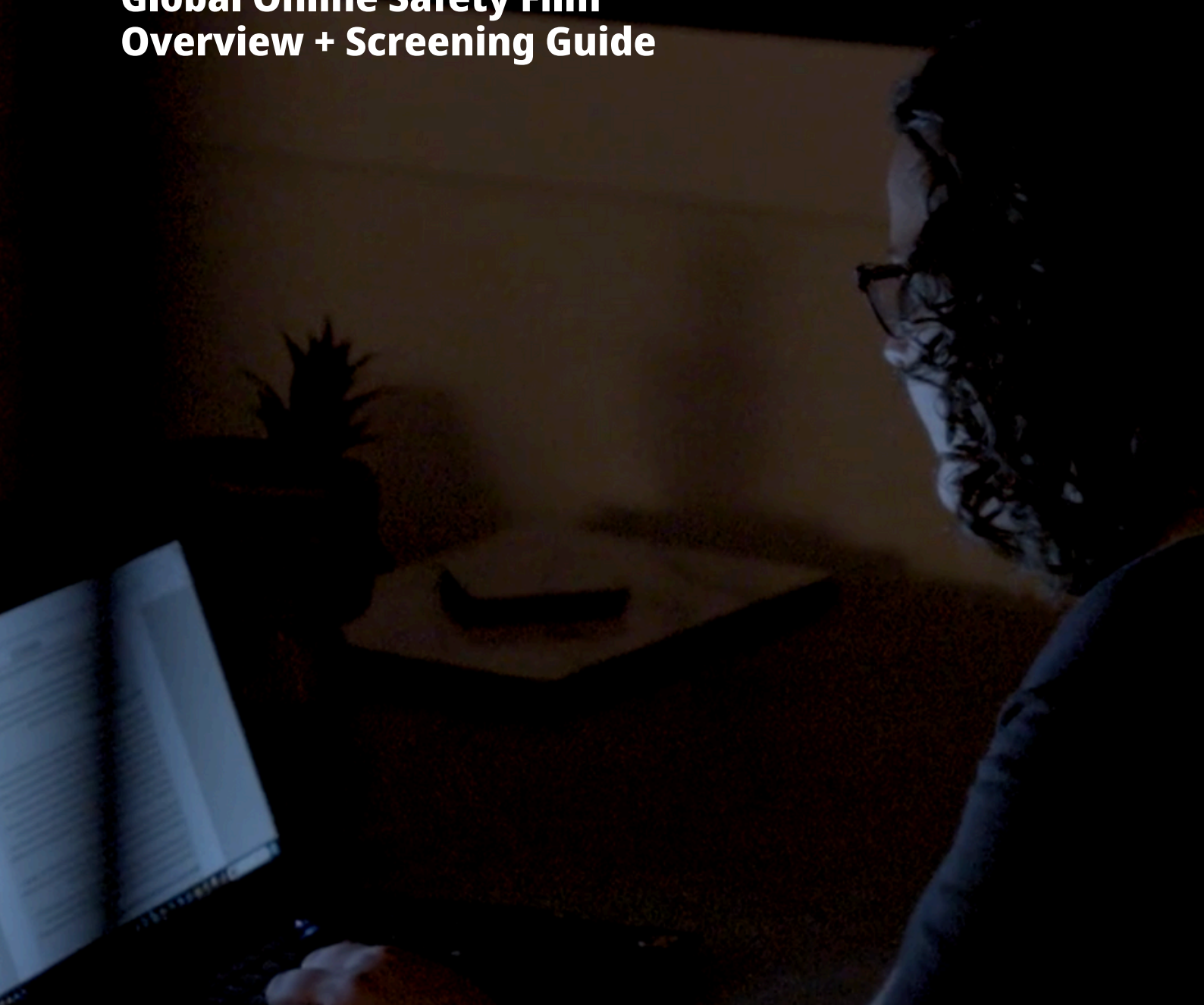


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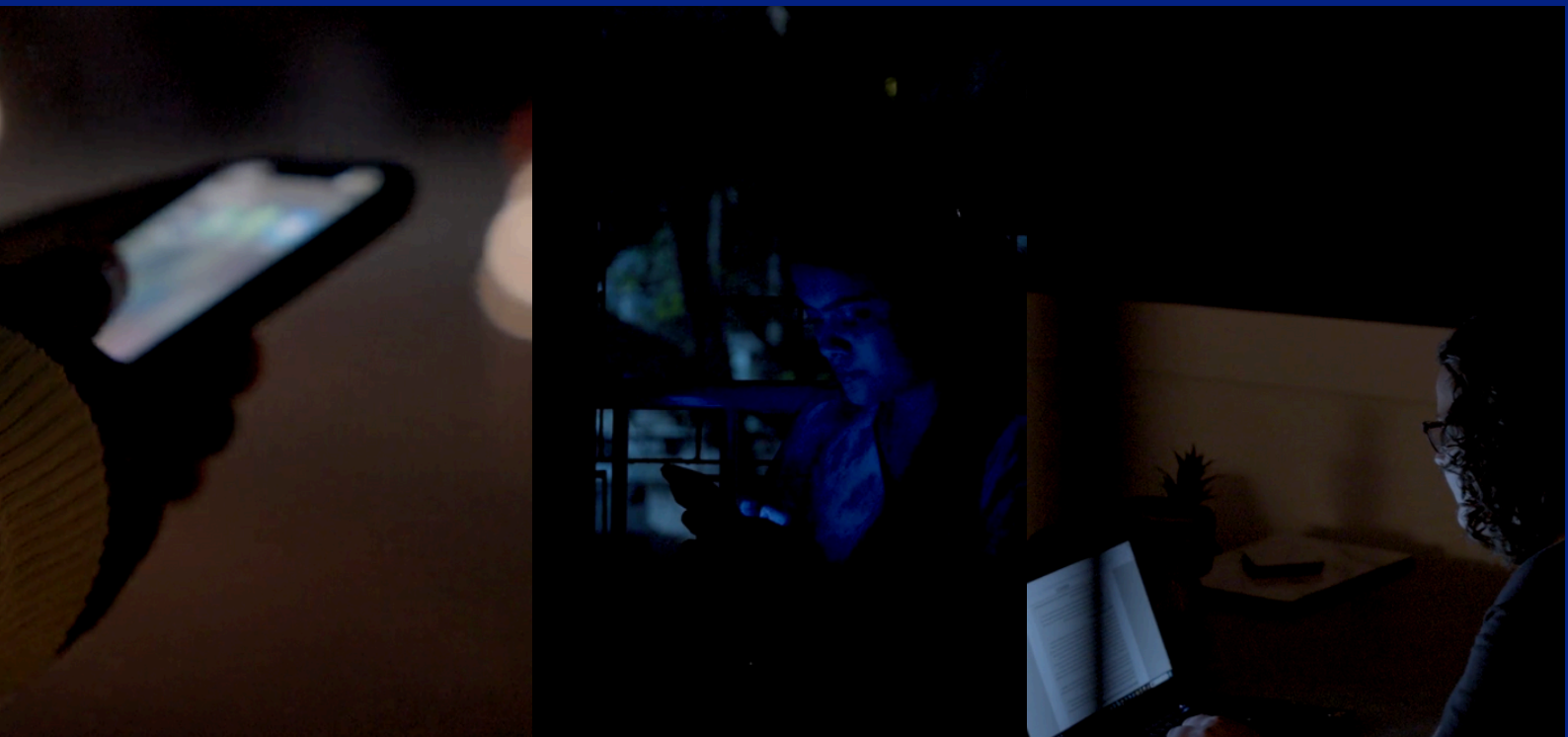
THE BRAVE MOVEMENT

The Brave Movement is a survivor-centered global movement fighting to end childhood sexual violence. In just over 2 years, the movement has expanded to 6 continents, engaged hundreds of survivors and thousands of allies in various campaigns, and organized 100+ in-person activations and marches echoing our call globally.

ABOUT THE FILM

'Beyond The Screen: Hidden Voices of Online Abuse' is a survivor-centered short film highlighting the prevalence of online sexual violence around the world. Four individuals share their experiences and demands for what urgently needs to be done to protect children online.

The film showcases the powerful truth that violence, which might start in an online sphere, negatively impacts children in the physical world, such as bullying in school or acts of sexual violence perpetrated at home. Join us in ending childhood sexual violence in all forms. Watch the film today, share it with your network, and sign the petition calling for urgent action from leaders!



MEET THE SURVIVORS

Saanika | Mumbai, India



Saanika grew up in the rural area of Dahanu, about 3 hours away from Mumbai where she is currently studying psychology. She experienced technology-facilitated sexual abuse when she was 14 years old. As she lived far from school she was given a phone to travel but had no access to social media. Seniors were receiving screenshots of explicit texts from an anonymous Instagram account falsely describing sexual activity with Saanika in a very graphic way. Saanika did not tell anyone about it but a few weeks later the same thing happened to her best friend. Both Saanika and her friend's parents reported it to the police who tried in vain to trace the anonymous Instagram account. Saanika's parents also went to the school principal who called all the students together to talk about what was going on. She said it was a really scary time, especially with the police involved.

'I did nothing wrong. I don't know who this is, all I did was exist. It's so easy to hide behind a screen, what happened to me makes me feel that whatever you do you're not going to be safe.' She said it took a big toll on her mental health, and for weeks, it was difficult to get up in the morning. She felt very hopeless for a while. She couldn't talk to her friends/classmates because they didn't know what was happening. She is now in a really good place and is on an internal committee advocating and supporting her fellow college students around sexual harassment - her lived experience means she can support others. Saanika is keen to focus on pushing for more accountability for the tech companies - 'it's so easy to harass people online and then disappear' but it's very difficult to trace anonymous accounts.

MEET THE SURVIVORS

Olivia | Texas, USA



Olivia grew up as a 'state borderline kid' in Montana in a tiny town of 400 people that her Grandpa founded. At age 11, she was targeted on Facebook by a youth group leader in her church. This led to years of grooming, including physical & sexual and emotional abuse by someone who was active in the community. It ended in 2010 when she was 14 years old, when his oldest victim - another girl of 16 years, who was also being abused - spoke up and 'saved all our lives.' Until that moment, Olivia had been under the control of someone for 5 years and hadn't realised what had been going on - she had to learn what abuse was. Olivia didn't know how to navigate the criminal justice system and only after testifying was told it wouldn't count as it was in the wrong state (she lives 8 miles over a state border). She would have to testify all over again but in another state, however, she couldn't deal with that at the time so chose not to. The perpetrator went to prison and got a plea deal for all his crimes. He served 10 years.

Olivia joined the army 2 years later and never told her story again. After 10 years she discovered that her perpetrator was being extradited over to the state she grew up in, instead of being released, to face charges for his crime against her. He could be convicted again, or released on time served. Without her testimony her perpetrator would be free and this made Olivia realise how victim-reliant the justice system is. She spoke to some of his other victims - many of them had suffered trauma since and lived very difficult lives. Olivia decided to testify, and for 18 months straight every 30 days, she went to a hearing. He was technically convicted on the 1st April 2022. He waited one year to fight a clerical error and they were back in court in 2023. 'This is why people give up and criminals get out to re-offend.' Although it's been 3 years during which time he pled guilty, and failed a polygraph, it's still a battle and a fight to get him convicted and to get justice. His charge was dropped down to assault and a 3rd-degree felony, and he is due to be released at the end of 2024. Olivia says, 'the system is broken.' The perpetrator currently has five active FB accounts.

MEET THE SURVIVORS

Rhiannon | Blackpool, UK



When Rhiannon-Faye was 13, she was groomed online (on AOL Messenger and MSN Messenger) by someone who was pretending to be a girl of a similar age. She was manipulated into sending explicit pictures, and when she did, these were then used against her to blackmail her into sending more. This escalated into her being blackmailed into sharing her physical address. The next day, the perpetrator came to her home and abused her in person, and this was filmed and photographed. The perpetrator was convicted and went to prison for 7 years.

Rhiannon-Faye is now Head of Advocacy at the Marie Collins Foundation where she works to centre lived experiences in raising awareness and campaigning around Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse. She is passionate about increasing understanding of the impacts of Technology-Assisted Child Sexual Abuse and improving outcomes for victims and their families. She has done a lot of work campaigning for tech companies to take responsibility and do more, and in particular to raise awareness of the dangers of end-to-end encryption for children, victims and survivors. "I hope that this film will serve as a poignant reminder of what is at stake and prompt those with the power to create change, to do so urgently."

SCREENING GUIDE

If you are interested in hosting your own screening of *Beyond The Screen: Hidden Voices of Online Abuse*, follow the steps outlined below.

Assemble Your Team

Start off your planning process by assembling a team of volunteers who will help you organize your screening. Your volunteer team can vary in size, but should include individuals who will be responsible for managing logistics for the event, outreach and communications to attendees, tech equipment on the day of the event, and managing the discussion with attendees following the film screening.

Find a Venue and Choose a Date

After you have assembled your team, determine a venue where you can host the film screening, and a date that it will be held. Consider partnering with community organizations, university societies, public libraries or community centres to host the screening as you choose your venue as well. When choosing your date, keep in mind who your audience will be and when they will most likely be available to join your screening.

Communications and Audience Outreach

Once your date and venue is finalized, begin reaching out to your audience by creating a digital invitation, and sharing it with potential audience members through personal outreach, social media posts, email campaigns, etc. To help keep track of who will be attending, create an RSVP link using the platform of your choice, such as Google Forms. Continue to follow up with invitees and send out invitations as you continue to get closer to your screening date. Ideally, aim to have at least 20% more attendees registered than your event capacity, to account for those who may not be able to make it at the last minute.

SCREENING GUIDE

Logistics Checklist

Prepare event logistics and create a checklist in advance which accounts for everything you need to ensure your event runs smoothly. Some elements in your checklist should be:

- **Tech/Screening the film:**
 - Do you have a strong enough internet connection to play it directly from the film website?
 - Who will be downloading the film to be able to play it without the internet (as a backup)?
 - Does the individual who is downloading the film have a USB to store the film and/or does their device connect to the projector at the venue?
 - Does the projector at the venue have adequate sound capacity?
 - Do you need to arrange for external speakers for the screening?
- **Attendee List:**
 - Will you have a sign-in process at the event?
 - Who will be responsible for signing people in?
- **Refreshments:**
 - Will there be refreshments available at the event?
 - How will you account for dietary restrictions
- **Discussion:**
 - Who will be responsible for running the discussion after the film?
 - Will the discussion be held in small groups or with all the attendees at once?
- **Set Up/Clean Up**
 - Who will support with set up/clean up before and after the event?

Call To Action

Before you end off your event, share about our Call to Action and petition with attendees and encourage them to share about the film on social media, as well as the link to our film's webpage. This will help us keep the conversation going after your event and ensure we are asking world leaders to implement policy decisions which will help us build a sexual violence-free internet.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Personal Takeaways and Reaction

- a. What was your biggest takeaway from the film?
- b. Were there any particular moments that resonated with you from the film and/or changed your perspective?
- c. What are the core emotions you are feeling right now?

2. Understanding Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- a. How does OCSEA differ from other forms of childhood sexual violence?
- b. What are some of the risks that children and adolescents face online?

3. Impact on Survivors

- a. How did the experiences shared by the survivors illustrate the different ways OCSEA affects victims?
- b. What are some of the short-term and long-term impacts of OCSEA on survivors' mental health, relationships, and overall well-being.

4. Technology and Privacy Concerns

- a. Examine how the rise of technology and social media has contributed to the increase in OCSEA cases.
- b. Discuss the role of privacy settings and online anonymity in enabling perpetrators.

5. Societal and Cultural Factors

- a. How can societal attitudes towards sex and consent contribute to the normalization of exploitative or dismissive behaviors?
- b. How can community awareness and education help in preventing OCSEA?

6. Role of Technology Companies

- a. What responsibilities do technology companies have in preventing and responding to OCSEA?
- b. What are simple measures that tech companies can implement to keep kids safe online?

7. Support Systems for Survivors

- a. What types of support services are essential for survivors of OCSEA? Do these differ for survivors of childhood sexual violence more broadly?
- b. How can communities and organizations better support survivors in their recovery journey?

8. Raising Awareness and Advocacy

- a. How can individuals and communities raise awareness about OCSEA and advocate for change?
- b. What is the role educational programs play in empowering children to protect themselves online?

9. Call to action

- a. What actions you can take personally to contribute to the fight against online child sexual exploitation and abuse?