



## International Legal Regulation Ensuring Information Security of Adolescents on Internet

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*Abstract*— In the article describe international legal regulation ensuring information security of adolescents on internet, definition of the role of virtual social networks in the life of youth, what kind of information resources young people mainly use, what kind of information is needed, some aspects of the use of the internet and their socio-psychological impact have been identified. Disclosure of the declared interests and needs of students in virtual social networks, the functional role of online interactions in the life of schoolchildren, motivation for participation in virtual social networks. And given recommendation to following measures be taken to timely resolve the issues of raising the information culture of consumption and the goals of using ICT to young people, children.

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### 1. Introduction

Kids are spending more time online now than ever before. And they are also starting to use the network earlier. Globally, every half a second some child enters the Internet for the first time.

The fact that children use the Internet in the process of growing up opens up limitless possibilities for them. With the help of computers, smartphones, game consoles and televisions, children learn, show imagination and expand their social circle. When used correctly and accessible to all, the Internet is able to expand horizons and stimulate creativity around the world.

Today, one of the main directions in the state policy of each state is to ensure the information security of the population. And of course, the main group that is exposed to harmful information are teenagers.

And to solve this problem, the main task is to create an appropriate legislative framework that could contribute to the effective protection of children from the negative impact of information.

In this article we will consider international regulations and legislation of foreign countries for the subsequent creation of appropriate legislative norms in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

First of all, the generally recognized principles and norms of international law on the permissibility of restricting the dissemination of information in the interests of security and public order, protection of health and morals, reputation and the rights of others should be attributed to the regulatory framework in this area. Such norms include the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Article 10) and the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights (paragraph 2 of Article 29). These international acts regulate the general direction, for a detailed study of the issues, we will consider special international acts.

Resolution 1386 (XIV) of the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1959, which enshrined the following principles:

- the child should be provided with special protection by law and other means and provided with opportunities and favorable conditions that would allow him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal way and in conditions of freedom and dignity;

- the child should be provided with a full opportunity for games and entertainment that would be aimed at the goals pursued by education; society and public authorities should make efforts to promote the exercise of this right;

- the child must be protected from all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation;

- the child should be protected from practices that may encourage racial, religious or any other form of discrimination, he should be brought up in the spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance, friendship between peoples, peace and universal brotherhood, as well as in full consciousness that his energy and abilities should be devoted to serving for the benefit of other people.

Despite the fact that none of the listed provisions contains a direct indication of measures to protect the child from this or that type of harmful information, but together these principles imply the development of national legislation in this area.

## 2. Methodology

In 1989, on November 20, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Uzbekistan joined in 1992 on December 9. Article 13 of the Convention proclaims the right of the child to express his or her opinion freely, namely the freedom to seek, receive and transmit information and ideas of any kind, regardless of borders, in oral, written or printed form, in the form of works of art or by other means of the child's choice. This right is subject only to those restrictions that are provided for by law and are necessary to respect the rights and reputation of other persons or to protect State security, or public order, or the health or morals of the population.

In article 17 of the Convention, the participating States recognized the important role of the media and undertook to ensure the child's access to information and materials from various national and international sources, especially to such types of them that are aimed at promoting social, spiritual and moral well-being, as well as healthy physical and mental development of the child.

Another act, on December 14, 1990, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) were adopted by General Assembly resolution 45/112. Paragraphs 40-44 of section IV "Processes of preparation for life in society" are devoted to the protection of children from harmful information.

The participating States have undertaken to encourage the mass media:

- 1) provide young people with access to information and materials from a wide variety of national and international sources;
- 2) reflect the positive role of youth in society;
- 3) disseminate data on the availability of appropriate services and opportunities for young people in society;
- 4) minimize the display of materials related to pornography, drugs and violence, and portray violence and exploitation negatively, and especially avoid showing children, women and personal relationships in a degrading form and promote the principles of equality (equally applies to television and cinematography).

The principles specified in this act proclaim that the mass media should be aware of their huge public role and responsibility, as well as the influence they sometimes exert by spreading information about the abuse of drugs and alcohol by young people.

In December 2009, at the 33rd plenary session of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States, a Model Law on the Protection of Children from Information Harmful to their Health and Development was adopted.

The peculiarity of the Model Law, which distinguishes it from the legislation of many foreign

countries, including the one considered in this study, is that its requirements apply to a very wide range of information objects called information products: media products; audiovisual works and phonograms (not only films); not only electronic, but also desktop games; computer programs; information distributed during entertainment events and in information and telecommunication networks (including the Internet and mobile radiotelephone networks).

Also, in 2021, the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted general comment No. 25 (2021) on the rights of children in connection with the digital environment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The purpose of which is to explain how States parties should implement the Convention in relation to the digital environment, and provides guidance on appropriate legislative, policy and other measures to ensure full compliance with their obligations under the Convention and its Optional Protocols in the light of opportunities, risks and challenges associated with the promotion, compliance, protection and the implementation of all children's rights in the digital environment.

Thus, the issues of protecting children from harmful information are reflected in the norms of international law. Based on the analysis, it can be noted that there are several recommendations for implementation into national legislation :

- 1) the state is obliged to create such conditions for the child, including informational ones, so that he can develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially;
- 2) the State is obliged to take measures to minimize the display of humiliating, obscene, degrading and discriminatory content to the child;
- 3) by its actions aimed at solving this task, the State should not create obstacles to access to information of adults and the free exchange of information on the Internet between adults.

Further in this paper, we will study the experience of legislative regulation of relations regarding the provision of information security of adolescents in foreign countries. One of the leading countries regulating the safety of minors in the information sphere is China. For example, in 1992, the People's Republic of China developed the concept of the "Great Chinese Firewall". These provisions were enshrined in the Law on the Protection of Minors. Article 11 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Minors of 1992, the task of parents/guardians is to prevent harmful practices among minors (under the age of 18), including Internet addiction. Article 33 of the same Law also places the responsibility on the State to ensure that young people do not develop addictions to the Internet. At the same time, the State undertakes to promote the development

of technologies/services that serve this purpose and "contribute to the healthy development of minors."

In coordination with the Government, the Chinese Center for Complaints about Illegal Materials on the Internet was established in June 2004. One of the stated goals of the Center is to "protect society, in particular minors, from the influence of illegal and harmful information." In particular, the Center "is mainly engaged in countering content harmful to the healthy development of minors, such as indecent and pornographic materials, games with elements of violence, terrorism, complicity in the commission of crimes, as well as content spreading racial hatred, defamatory and offensive materials, materials that violate the rights of others and intellectual property rights".

Since June 2021, amendments to the law "On the Protection of Minors" have come into force in China. According to them, Internet service providers should implement means to limit the time spent on the Network. According to the changes, children can do them from 20:00 to 21:00 on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and on holidays. At the same time, gaming platforms are required to check the user's real name and mobile phone number when registering.

The most illustrative example is the experience of Israel, which is a world leader in the field of cybersecurity. As A. Bukalerova notes in her article, Israel is a country with the largest investments in cybersecurity in the world, a record number of startup companies, an advanced cyber army and a progressive education system, which has become an international center of innovation and has taken a leading position in the field of protecting the cyber environment of the state.

In Israeli schools, children learn to read, write and code from the first grade. There are even kindergartens in the country where they teach computer work and robotics. Since the fourth grade, students have been actively studying programming, and gifted high school students are studying encryption technologies and methods to combat black hacking. How deep the knowledge of Israeli schoolchildren is can be judged by their entertainment. Children play games under the terms of which, for example, an imaginary computer network has been hacked, and the children have 45 minutes to find out an unknown computer code, regain control of the network and hack the attacker's system to establish his identity.

Israeli legislation in the field of information security is quite extensive. In addition, this topic is regulated by numerous by-laws, mainly the regulations of the Ministry of Justice and the Rules approved by the Government. A significant role is played by the Rules for the Provision of Internet services, which are adopted by non-governmental organizations, but which are responsible for implementing policies in this area.

The following circumstance is of fundamental importance for the purposes of this study: information resources on the Internet are classified by Israeli judicial practice as media sources, and they are subject to the same regulatory legal acts that regulate the relations of other media sources (newspapers, magazines, television, radio).

In the USA, since 2009, reforms have been aimed at teaching teenagers Internet literacy skills. The Online Safety 3.0 project appeared, which began to engage in research in this area. Currently, the Children's Internet Protection Act is in effect in the United States, which obliges schools and libraries receiving state funding to use filters and other technical means to protect children from inappropriate content.

In the USA, there is a voluntary system of informing parents in order to help them determine the suitability of individual films for children to watch.

The US Federal Law "On the Protection of Children's Privacy on the Internet" of 1998 requires sites to state their privacy policy and obtain verified parental consent before collecting or using personal data (address, phone number or social security number). Its purpose is to protect the child from dangerous online behavior. According to the norm, schools or libraries must filter or prevent access to harmful or threatening materials for children. This entitles them to receive discounts on telecommunications services and access to the Network through the universal Services program for schools and libraries, also known as E-rate.

Also, the Law "On the Protection of Children on the Internet" provides legal definitions of such concepts as "protection technologies" and "harmful to minors". In addition, in accordance with this law, public schools and libraries must have technical means to protect children from malicious information and information on the Internet. If schools and libraries do not have the technical means to protect children from malicious information on the Internet, they will not receive state funding for the new academic year.

In the UK, Internet service providers present separate traffic with the "Clean Line" service. This service operates with data from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to identify pages containing obscene photos of children.

In the UK, special legislation has long been adopted regulating the relationship in question. Among them, the most interesting from the point of view of this study are :

The Protection of Children Act 1978 prohibits the production, distribution, display or possession of indecent photographs depicting persons under the age of 18, including cases where adult persons depicting children are photographed in the photographs.

### 3. Realization of the concept

Obscene Publications Laws (The Obscene Publications Acts 1959 and 1964). They forbid the publication of work characterized as obscene, namely, work that in itself as a whole and in its influence on the viewer inclines him to debauchery and depravity (from the point of view of morality). Such publications are considered legitimate only if their preparation is conditioned by scientific, educational and other goals that are good for society.

Also, in the UK, from 2021, new rules for the protection of children began to take effect, which will affect social networks, streaming services and gaming platforms. Last year, such platforms as YouTube, Instagram and TikTok announced changes related to children, the newspaper recalls. YouTube has decided to disable automatic video playback and targeted advertising for users under the age of 18, as well as to introduce reminders for them to "take a break" and go to bed. Instagram, in turn, banned adults from writing to users under 18 who are not subscribed to them. TikTok has stated that it will no longer send alerts to users 13-15 years old after 21:00. People aged 16-17 will not receive notifications after 22:00.

The rules proposed by the British Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) are aimed at restricting companies from tracking the location of children and using personalized content and advertising aimed at them, or behavioral incentive methods such as automatic video playback.

In Finland, teaching information security is mandatory in schools, and parents, teachers and social workers are provided with methodological materials for teaching children, including online security. Telecom operators and the State Communications Administration are mainly responsible for information security. The cooperation of these parties has led to results that have been appreciated all over the world.

The Law on Child Protection No. 417 of 2007 (lastensuojelulaki) defines that every child living in Finland has the right to care and a safe environment. Every child has the right to a safe and secure childhood. Child protection functions fall within the competence of communes, whose social workers provide assistance to children and parents in problematic situations. The State tries to intervene in problematic situations at an early stage, before they reach serious proportions, although the involvement of the child protection service (Lastensuojelu) is always a last resort. Therefore, such an appeal is preceded by state support, for example, at school or in a consultation.

The Finnish Information Security Strategy (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy) was developed in 2008. It is based on the understanding of cybersecurity as an economic problem directly related to the formation of the Finnish information society. Here, special

attention is paid to the need to ensure the security of personal data for ordinary Internet users.

In connection with the introduction of free Internet in schools, universities, libraries, the French government has approved a law on the creation of special government websites informing users about safe access and acting as hotlines. The website "Protection of children on the Internet" ("Protection de mineurs sur Internet") was created so that users could signal to law enforcement agencies about illegal content on Internet sites or other online services (e-mail, chats, forums) having a pornographic or pedophile nature.

The single supervisory body is the French National Commission for Data Processing (Informatics) and Civil Liberties – Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés (hereinafter – CNIL). CNIL monitors the correct implementation of the laws, gives an opinion on the legality of data processing (authorization requests), sends appeals in case of violation of the law and controls the entire process related to the observance of personal information of French citizens.

### Discussion of results

The fundamental norms ensuring the safe use of the Internet by minors are enshrined in the Spanish Constitution of 1978. Thus, paragraph 4 of Article 39 states that "children enjoy the protection provided for in international agreements concluded to protect their rights." In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 20 of the Spanish Constitution, it provides for the possibility of restricting the rights and freedoms of citizens "with the right to honor, privacy, one's own name and the protection of youth and children."

The normative legal act specifying and regulating relations in the field of information security of children in Spain is the Organic Law 1/1996 of January 15, 1996 "On the Legal protection of minors" (hereinafter Law 1/1996). With regard to the Internet, paragraph 2 of Article 5 of Law 1/1996 establishes that parents, educators and public authorities must ensure that the information received by minors complies with constitutional principles. Paragraph 3 of art . 5 of Law 1/1996 obliges the competent authorities of the country to ensure that information published in the media intended for a minor audience does not harm children, in particular does not contain scenes of violence, humiliation of human dignity, discrimination, etc.

Spain is a party to a number of international agreements concerning the protection of the rights of minors, among which the most significant are: the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of November 20, 1989; the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography of September 6, 2000; the Council of Europe Convention on Computer Crimes of November 21, 2001 (all these The documents have

been ratified by Spain), etc. At the same time, the relevant EU norms have been incorporated into national legislation.

Also in Spain there are non-governmental organizations engaged in the development of software for filtering, tracking and subsequent blocking of malicious information.

The European Union is now updating the old digital rules. In 2018, the EU revised the directive on audiovisual media services – measures were introduced to protect children from video content that "may harm their physical, mental or moral development."

The draft resolution of the European Parliament and the Council on the single market of digital services (the Law on Digital Services) provides for the obligations of online platforms to eliminate risks for minors. "The law is aimed at adoption by companies (international Internet corporations. – Approx. RSpectr.) measures to protect consumers and the use of effective mechanisms to identify unwanted content," the experts explain. But so far, it is difficult for the EU member states to agree on which information is malicious, but legitimate, because of the historical and cultural differences of the countries.

When studying the experience of Georgia, it is possible to note some norms of legislation, especially the norms specified in the Code on the Rights of the Child. One of the important points is the fact that the legislation on the regulation of the rights of the child is systematized into a separate Code. According to: According to article 53, a child has the right to protection from physical and mental violence, harassment, coercion, trauma, neglect, torture, exploitation, trafficking in minors (trafficking in persons) and any other forms of violence in any family, school and other places, including the Internet space. And also, there are some restrictions in this law, for example, the prohibition of children from 22:00 to 8:00 in an Internet salon or cafe unaccompanied by a parent or legal representative, as well as if the Internet salon or cafe does not provide restrictions on children's access to pornographic or other information that has harmful the access of children to these institutions is completely prohibited (article 66).

This Code regulates all issues of children's interaction with the Internet. For example, it has been established that children can use the Internet in educational institutions, libraries or specialized children's institutions if these institutions are equipped with appropriate technical means (filters) to restrict (block) information that poses a danger to children. And also, it is the responsibility of the Internet provider to develop mechanisms to block the child's access to dangerous information at the request of the user (Part 9 of Article 66).

In particular, this law states that the posting of information dangerous to children on the Internet is

regulated by a legal document issued by the National Communications Commission of Georgia.

Another experience of foreign countries is the experience of Rwanda. Rwanda has a young population. Children, defined as persons under the age of eighteen, make up almost half of the population. Rwanda is actively seeking to improve access to the Internet and digital technologies, to use smart technologies on a city scale, as well as to transfer government, banking and commercial operations and the provision of other services to digital platforms. At the time of policy development, 52.8% of the Rwandan population is online, which is 25% more than in previous years. The Online Child Protection Policy anticipates the time when all children in Rwanda will be connected to the Internet and embodies the need to ensure their empowerment, protection and promotion of their rights in the digital environment in all sectors.

Institutionalization in the field of child protection in the online environment is, for example, the presence of a special body responsible for children (the National Commission for Children), National Child Protection Instruments, such as the National Child Protection Policy, the Comprehensive Child Rights Policy, the Early Childhood Development Policy of Rwanda, the National Policy on Child Labor. Other initiatives related to Rwanda's own capabilities include the existence of a National Cybersecurity Incident Response Team, a digital Forensics laboratory, a free call to the police, laws facilitating the prosecution of cybercrimes, including advertising of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), awareness campaigns and programs, a community policing program, International cooperation initiatives (e.g. with Interpol and other law enforcement agencies; signing of coordinated global actions to establish partnerships with industry to combat sexual abuse on the Internet).

One of the main documents that establishes the basic principles of work in this area is the Policy for the Protection of Children in the Online Environment (ZDO) of Rwanda. The document sets out policy areas and measures for each of them. The policy is aimed at regulating institutional capabilities, improving and reforming legislation, the response system, technical control, education and public awareness, research and development in this area and also international cooperation.

The Health Policy establishes separate measures for each of these areas to achieve the protection of children in the online environment.

For example, in the field of reforming legislation:

- implement data protection rules that ensure proper protection of children's data, their collection only when necessary with a high level of security and care;

- strengthening criminal investigations, prosecution and sentencing for child sexual abuse on the Internet;

- To define and ratify international treaties and protocols related to health.

Or in the field of education and public awareness:

- creation of health leaders and clubs in schools;  
- contribute to the development of edutainment (education + entertainment);

Promote the development of digital content that is entertaining, but at the same time educational. This will focus mainly on supporting content creation, including peer-to-peer programs designed to teach through entertainment such as games and puzzles that help children develop digital skills and empower children.

- conducting trainings on health;  
- develop a public awareness program.

Awareness-raising strategies will allow the preparation of materials explaining the principles of PLJ and actions that can be taken to reduce harm, report offenses and receive compensation. This information will be presented in a simplified form on the web page of the Ministry of ICT and Innovation. Targeted messages and materials will take into account the special needs of parents and children, paying special attention to the youngest and most vulnerable children, including children with learning disabilities. Peer-to-peer learning is a valuable strategy for children of all ages, allowing them to learn their rights and responsibilities online. This public messaging program can help children and adults understand issues and make wise choices about their online interactions, but is not a substitute for formal education, professional training, security design, or corporate responsibility.

In the field of institutionalization:

- Publish a guide on definitions and languages: The Ministry of ICT and Innovation will publish a complete list of definitions and formulations reflecting the definitions used in international agreements;

- Establish a national advisory committee of practicing communities;

- To create a network of supporters of ZDO in all areas, including civil society organizations, Internet service providers, academia and religious organizations.

In general, this policy covers all areas of assistance for the protection of children in the online environment, which makes it possible for states to apply this policy to reform their country's policy in this direction.

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