

# Survivors’ experiences of online-facilitated child sexual abuse



By “online facilitated” we include any of the following, and this list is always evolving:

* the internet,
* via using wifi or data
* image-based abuse
* gaming
* social media platforms, including WhatsApp and i-messenger
* the distribution of images taken offline and circulated on-line
* Artificial Intelligence related abuse

**To be Eligible**

Participants need to be over 18 and to have previously spoken to someone about the sexual abuse.

The abuse occurred before you were 18 and might include:

* any form of sexual abuse that had an online element
* sexual abuse online
* meeting someone online and sexually abused offline/in-person
* taking images/having images taken that were uploaded online
* receiving unsolicited abusive or traumatising sexual images

**The Study**

We would like to chat with you to understand your experiences. We are seeking 30 people to interview.

We will gather your words together with other survivors’ interviews and use the data to inform mental health services, policy makers and other professionals. This research aims to make things better for all survivors and prevent online harms.

You will also be invited to attend a workshop in-person in Bristol in August, but you can do the interview without coming to the workshop.

We are seeking adults who experienced sexual abuse before the age of 18 either online or with a technological element (see below for further details).

If this describes you, would you be willing to be interviewed as part of a research study?

Your identity will be anonymised, your real name will never be revealed, and any experiences shared will be held safely and securely. We welcome people of all ethnicities, genders, and ages.

**Empowering Survivors**

This project places survivor voices at the center of research and outputs. The two researchers have been working with five other survivors of online CSA to shape the project to make it safe and supportive for everyone involved, and the outputs relevant and accurate.

This research will lead to a greater understanding of the particular challenges and experiences relating to online facilitated sexual abuse. They will contribute to understanding what might improve prevention and opportunities for future support for survivors of this type of abuse.

**The Interview**

This is less ‘interview’ and more chat or discussion. We can meet you on zoom, the telephone, or in person if you are able to come to Bristol, Norwich or Colchester.

There is no requirement to speak about the actual abuse and you have total choice and control over what you share. You can see a topic guide of the issues we could discuss [here](https://challengingsilences.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/files/2024/05/Participant-Topic-Guide-5225c620be7105d0.pdf). *(this will open a Pdf of the topic guide)*

You can choose which researcher, Susanna or William, you speak to.

We can provide Bio’s before we meet if that helps choose.

A person smiling at camera

Description automatically generatedA person in a pink shirt

Description automatically generated

Susanna William

**Safety and Support**

Peer support workers will be available prior, during, and after the interviews and/or workshop. You can meet them on zoom or by telephone. They will help you prepare or debrief if you wish and if further support is needed can signpost you to other services.

If you require any assistance to make participation accessible, please let us know.

If reading this document has caused distress, please access the confidential NAPAC helpline (National Association for People Abused in Childhood) 08088010331 napac.org.uk/contact/

**To Join**

If you would be interested in taking part or would like to know more, please email:

[ofcsa-study2024@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ofcsa-study2024@bristol.ac.uk)

We will send you the recruitment pack.

If you like, we can have a no obligation chat before the interview to talk through the consent forms and orientate you to the study.

***and* Thank you**

Participants will receive a £50 voucher towards their participation.

