



NEWS RELEASE

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Children's Charities Call On Internet Industry To Clean Up Its Act



Today the coalition of children's charities for Internet safety is calling for the industry to take immediate action to dean up its act. The Wonderland Club's UK members could have accessed any of the ten thousand **images** that they needed to join via widely available Internet Newsgroups.



The coalition demands that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) block all Newsgroups that regularly contain child pornography. All members of the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) should be required to implement this decision.



The IWF's own statistics say that of the 30,000 Newsgroups currently in existence, 28 of them regularly contain child pornography. 77% of all illegal material reported to the IWF comes from these newsgroups. Therefore a block on these Newsgroups would make a significant contribution to reducing this illegal activity.

Today the children's charities' coalition says: **"The Internet industry must clean up its act now. All of the UK's Internet Service Providers (ISPs) should do everything they can to make it as hard as possible for child pornographers to find or distribute this kind of material. Most ISPs do, but some still don't. This is a disgrace which must end now."**

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For further information or to arrange an interview with a coalition spokesperson, please contact Helen Crow or Olivia Belle at NCH's Media & PR Office on 020 7704 7106/7107. (Out of hours number 07802 808679)

Notes to editors:

The Children's Charities' Coalition for Internet Safety (CHIS) consists of the following organizations: Barnardo's, ChildLine, NCB (National Children's Bureau), NCH, NCVCCO (National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organizations) and the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To children) and The Children's Society.

Newsgroups are a form of public bulletin board.