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What is Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM)?

CSEM – also known as **Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)** – refers to **material that depicts and/or that documents acts that are sexually abusive and/or exploitative to a child. This includes all photos and videos of a child who is engaged in sexual activity.**

The **COPINE scale** – a rating system created in Ireland and used in the United Kingdom to categorise the **severity of images** of child sex abuse – identifies ten-level typology of materials, from non-erotic and non-sexualised pictures to sadistic materials.

Viewing CSEM is illegal.

**The children depicted
in this material are
always victims of child
sexual abuse and/or
exploitation. Viewing
this material creates
demand and results in
more children being
abused to produce this
material.**



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**When someone uses
CSEM they are
participating in the
production of more child
abuse material, and thus
more victims.**

Legislation differs between countries regarding images where a child is posing in a sexually explicit way. Legislation also differs depending on the age at which an individual is considered a child or whether artificially created images constitute CSEM.