Side Event of the Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children

Protecting Children in the Digital Information Environment: Evidence and Policy Action on Social Media and Technology-Facilitated Harm

17 November 2026

14:30-15:30 | VIP Boardroom West, Manila Marriott Hotel

Organised by	Childlight - Global Child Safety Institute
Main contact	Prof Deborah Fry, Chair of the IPIE Scientific Panel on Social Media and Child Protection; Debi.Fry@ed.ac.uk
Moderator	Sabrina Page, Consulting Scientist, IPIE Scientific Panel on Social Media and Child Protection; sabrina.page@ipie.info
Venue	VIP Boardroom West, Manila Marriott Hotel, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
In partnership with	International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE)

Please note: Speakers and session details are subject to change. Please visit Childlight Website for the latest information.

01 Overview

The International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE) is an independent global scientific organisation providing policymakers with rigorous scientific assessments of threats to the world's information environment. This open-to-all, 90-minute event will showcase emerging work from IPIE's Scientific Panel on Child Protection and Social Media, convened to assess the evidence on technology-facilitated risks and harms to children and young people.

The session will present findings from the Panel's initial systematic review of evidence on detecting, deterring, investigating and prosecuting technology-facilitated child sexual exploittation and abuse. It will also provide an early look at the Panel's ongoing scientific assessment of how social media platform design features and monetisation pathways may contribute to risks for children and young people, alongside evidence-based options for mitigation. The discussion will connect this evidence to a fast-moving policy landscape and consider how independent scientific evidence can inform policy and regulatory action.

02 Session Objectives

- Translate the latest evidence on detecting, deterring, investigating and prosecuting technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse into clear priorities for policymakers and practitioners.
- Explore how the IPIE Scientific Panel is examining the role of social media platform design features and monetisation pathways in creating or amplifying risks for children and young people, and the potential for mitigation.
- Connect the scientific assessments to the evolving policy and regulatory landscape, exploring promising practice and considering where independent evidence can inform current and future action.

03 Speakers

- IPIE Scientific Panel on Child Protection and Social Media speakers (https://www.ipie.info/panels/scientific-panel-on-child-protection-and-social-media)