

**Oral presentation proposal for the 12th Nordic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
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Children in a digital world: Opportunities and challenges**

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Biography:

Dr Sally Longworth is Lecturer in international law at Stockholm University. She defended her doctoral thesis freedom of expression in armed conflict in October 2022. Prior to this, Sally worked as a Lecturer in international law at the Swedish Defence University specialising in the law applicable in military operations. She has published in leading academic journals, chapters in books and training manuals on international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law. Sally holds an LL.M in international human rights law from Lund University, an LLB from the University of Sheffield and was called to the Bar of England and Wales.

Abstract:

The use of open source information as evidence of crimes against and crimes affecting children in the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia

The armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia is the latest iteration in developing investigatory standards on the use of open source information in detecting and prosecution international crimes. When it comes to crimes against and crimes effecting children the possibility of such information being identified is impacted by their restricted access to digital platforms and the gendered biases behind the use of social media by adults. Adults remain the primary gateway by which these crimes are thereby identified and understood. This impacts not only on the initial identification of any such crimes, but also the value of open source information pertaining to these crimes. The value of open source information in investigating violations of human rights potentially amounting to international crimes has, however, been recognised by the International Criminal Court and in the recent decision on admissibility by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in *Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia*, Application nos. 8019/16, 43800/14 and 28525/20, 25 January 2023. This presentation will evaluate the challenges in these issues against the rights of children to freedom of expression and relevant protections under international humanitarian law and international criminal law.