

## **Oral presentation: Is the dark web the wild west? And is it a place for Save the Children?**

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**Introduction:** Save the Children Denmark has for the past 20 years operated a national online hotline where people anonymously report online child sexual abuse material (CSAM). CSAM includes pictures and videos of children being sexually abused, and some links are connected to the dark web. The web monitoring tool Voyager shows that Danish nationalities make up 3.08% of all discussed nationalities in a number of relevant dark web forums. To discover more of that content, we have started to explore the dark web.

**Methods:** By using links that were reported through the hotline, we first separated open from dark web links. This provided us with a dataset of online sources that we used to navigate the dark web. We also reached out to already established partners and new partners in order to get a fuller understanding of the dark web. We then decided on monitoring several forums for a period in order to analyze and track relevant conversations and data.

**Results:** The analysis will focus on discovering 1) Danish adults who are involved in spreading, seeking or (through livestream) abusing children online; 2) Danish children who have been abused and exposed online; and 3) CSAM hosted in Denmark. We are also expecting that the CSAM we find on the dark web, will have a different character than content on the open web.

**Conclusions:** The dark web is a complicated matter which leads to difficult conversations, ethical and moral questions as well as practical challenges. We will especially discuss the issue of “fishing expeditions” and if NGOs should even be doing this type of “investigating” work and where and how we draw the lines. We will also explain the different legal issues that is related to the work in the hotline as well as our main partners.