



Research Report General Assembly 1

The Question of Child Pornography
through the Dark Web

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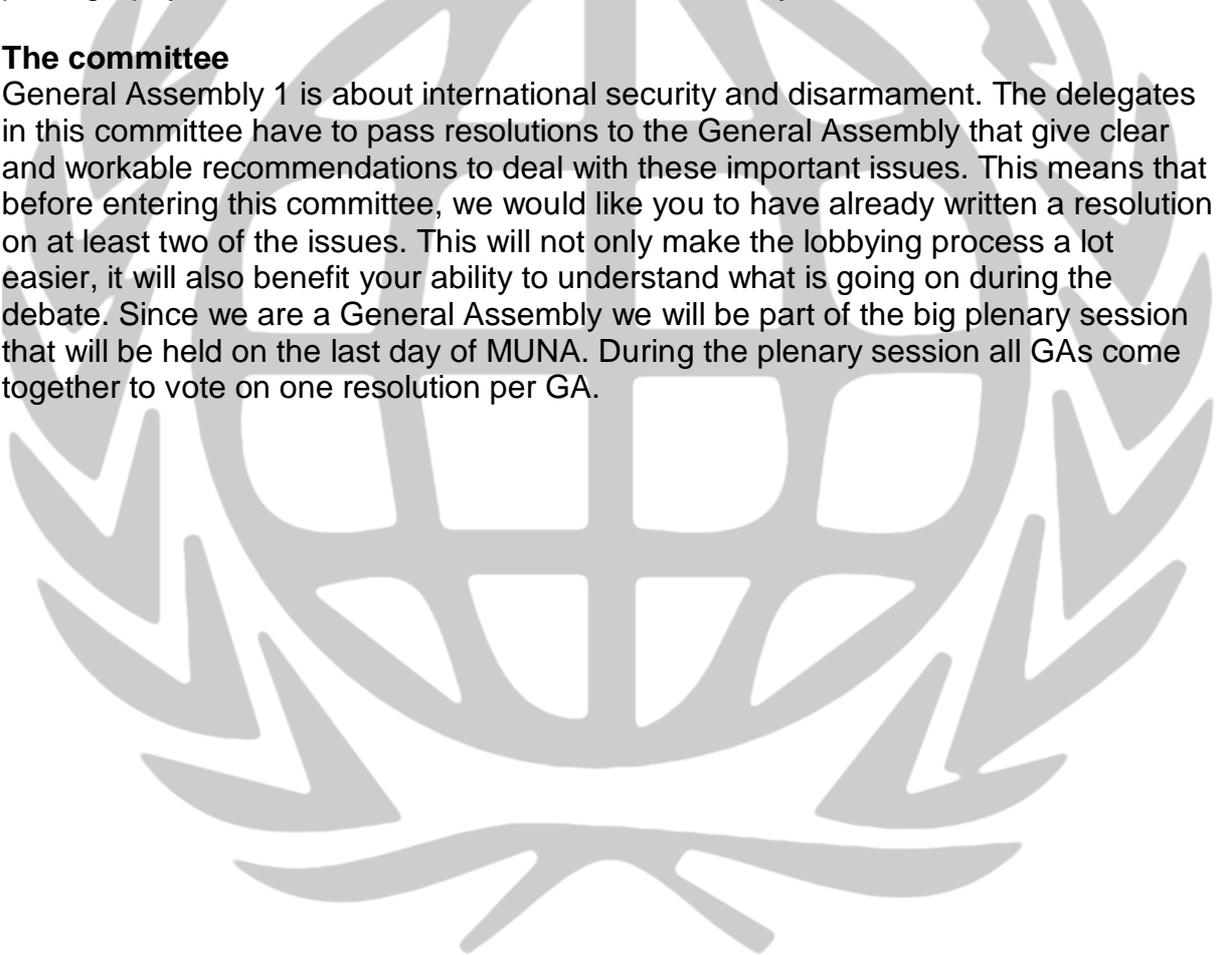
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Introduction

The dark web is part of the World Wide Web that cannot be accessed freely. During the last few years the number of users has grown immensely. Especially in the United States of America, Germany, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Ukraine, France, the United Kingdom, China, Iran, the Netherlands, Canada and Indonesia. All users have different reasons for accessing the dark web. Some simply use it because they prefer to stay anonymous whilst doing legal things on the Internet. But others use it to commit illegal crimes. Since accessing the dark web requires configurations and specific software or authorization before you can access it, they are a safe haven for cyber criminals. It is nearly impossible to trace the users of the dark web and therefore has led to it becoming an illicit marketplace. On the dark web, you can find people who sell illegal firearms, narcotics, counterfeit money, hitmen, child pornography and more. According to a study of Tor 'hidden services' by the University of Portsmouth, more than 80% of the dark web is used to view child pornography. For this issue, this is what we would like you to focus on.

The committee

General Assembly 1 is about international security and disarmament. The delegates in this committee have to pass resolutions to the General Assembly that give clear and workable recommendations to deal with these important issues. This means that before entering this committee, we would like you to have already written a resolution on at least two of the issues. This will not only make the lobbying process a lot easier, it will also benefit your ability to understand what is going on during the debate. Since we are a General Assembly we will be part of the big plenary session that will be held on the last day of MUNA. During the plenary session all GAs come together to vote on one resolution per GA.



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Keywords

- The dark web
Part of the deep web, which is part of the Web that cannot be indexed by web search engines
- Tor
Computer software that allows you to use the internet anonymously
- Child Pornography
Pornography that exploits children for sexual stimulation. Abuse of the child occurs during the sexual acts or lascivious exhibitions of the genitals or pubic areas, which are recorded in the production of child pornography.
- Playpen
Used to be world's biggest child pornography website to be found on the dark net.
- Child's play
Former large child pornography website that has been taken down
- Red Room
Website used for child pornography
- Hurt 2 core
Website where child pornography is published
- Interpol
The International Criminal Police Organisation

Overview

Most of us do not realise that the World Wide Web, the part of the Internet that we use daily, is only 10% of the actual Internet. The other 90% is part of the deep web and can only be accessed through TOR. This is what makes it so difficult to track the people behind all the illicit trade on the dark web. Child Pornography is a huge part of the dark web, since it is not allowed on the World Wide Web as we know it. It is illegal on there. The people who publish child pornography have therefore moved their content to the dark web. It is still illegal on there but because of the anonymity the dark web provides, it is much easier not to get caught. On the dark web you can find videos of adults raping kids as young as 7 months to 6-year-olds, which sometimes even escalates to the children being murdered on live video. The children used are often vulnerable and from poverty-stricken countries, and thereby fall easy victim to criminals. Child pornography tapes are not just something you can watch freely whilst on the dark web. Huge fees have to be paid in order to get access to them, making the owners able to expand their businesses.

There have been several attempts to catch these criminals:

- The FBI has used hacking methods in order to bring down the clients and owners of one of the largest child sexual exploitation sites on the dark web
- The FBI has identified many computer servers that ran Playpen.
- The FBI has shut down Playpen by hijacking the site and continuing to serve content for two weeks. During this time the FBI used a Network Investigative Technique to hack into the web browsers of the users of these sites. This led to over 900 users being arrested

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- All over the world, authorities are looking for such websites by letting policemen, disguised as child abusers hack the websites and thereby trying to unmask the hosts and users

Arguments

Child pornography has officially been addressed as illegal in 94 of the 187 Interpol member states. 58, of these 94 countries, have criminalized the possession of child pornography. Committers of crimes regarding child pornography often have to serve time in prison or are offered probation. Some countries like Canada and Australia have even banned cartoons, anime, manga or written child pornography. Other countries require Internet service providers to monitor Internet traffic in order to detect viewers of Child Pornography on the dark web.

Also, the United Nations Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child require states to forbid the production, distribution, dissemination, import, export, offering, selling or possession of child pornography.

The Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual and the EU Frame Work decision requires all member states to criminalize all aspects of child pornography

Article 34 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) requires those who have signed to take measures to prevent the exploitation of children in pornography.

Timeline of Events

Date	Event
1923	Creation of Interpol
1995	Set up of TOR
May 25 th 2000	United Nations Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the GA
November 23 rd 2001	The Council of Europe's Cybercrime Convention
February 12 th 2002	United Nations Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child came into force
October 25 th 2007	The Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
August 2014	Set up of Playpen
February 2015	FBI takes down Playpen
April 2016	Set up of Child's Play
September 2017	Child's Play was taken down

Resolution

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Please keep in mind that your resolution should voice your country's opinion. Even though you might not agree, you should set your own opinions aside. Try to really look into your country's policies. You should write your resolution based on these policies.

Links and sources

- <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/dec/31/dark-web-traffic-child-abuse-sites>
- <https://www.parhlo.com/child-pornography-dark-web/>
- <https://www.law.utah.edu/addressing-the-challenges-of-enforcing-the-law-on-the-dark-web/>
- <https://darkwebnews.com/anonymity-tools/tor/fbi-hacked-tor-and-taken-down-a-child-pornography-site/>
- https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/ywbmyb/meet-the-hacker-who-busts-child-pornographers-on-the-dark-net
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_pornography
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playpen_\(website\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playpen_(website))

