



## Press Release

### Safer Internet Day celebrated in Nepal for the first time

Kathmandu, 6 February 2019.

The Safer Internet Day has been celebrated for the first time in Nepal. On 5 February 2019, ChildSafeNet, a specialized organization working to protect children and young people online, organized an event to mark the day at Labim Mall, Lalitpur, with a slogan, "Together for a Better Internet". The entertaining and informative event was organised to promote safer use of the internet and to raise awareness on cyber safety among children and young people.

Red Circle Creative Solutions organized an unplugged music programme where young artistes performed catchy songs. Singer/composer Parit Shrestha and emerging singer Sushant Ghimire entertained the young crowd, backed by guitarists Kalind Sapkota and Ritik Shrestha.

CWIN, one of the leading child rights organization of Nepal, participated in the event by setting up stall to promote toll-free Child Helpline (1098). Likewise, Digital Broadcast Initiative – Equal Access Nepal recorded the event and interviewed participants for its flagship radio programme, "Sathi Sanga Manka Kura", a very popular radio programme among adolescents. Besides, young people shared their thoughts on safer use of the digital technology. They also participated in debates on the burning issues, such as, the recently imposed ban on porn sites by the Government of Nepal. Likewise, during the event, ChildSafeNet conducted a paperless survey on use of social media.

The Safer Internet Day, celebrated in over a hundred countries in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people and to inspire a national conversation, sees hundreds of organizations get involved.

It is celebrated every year to raise awareness on online risks for children and young people, promoting safer use of the internet and to develop synergy among organizations and institutions working with and for children, and to build capacities of duty-bearers in protecting children and young people online.

"The day offers the opportunity to highlight positive use of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It calls upon young people, parents, care-takers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, agencies, policymakers and other duty-bearers & public to contribute in creating a better internet", Mr. Anil Raghuvanshi, the President of ChildSafeNet, stated.

"In this digital age, information and communication technology is advancing tremendously. Along with the fast progress, this revolution brings with it numerous adversities and dangers. Children and young people are heavy users of the technology and are at high risks of cybercrimes and screen addiction", he added. In Nepal, 56.41 per cent people use broadband internet, according to Nepal Telecommunications Authority. Likewise, there is a good number of people who use Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok and Snapchat. More than 9.8 million Nepalese use Facebook in Nepal and among them, over 52% are children and young people below the age of 25 years.

"Unsafe use of the digital technology exposes them to serious harms, such as, online sexual abuse & exploitation, cyber bullying, phishing and sextortion. Such harms affect children's mental and cognitive development, humiliate and lower their self-esteem. Children, young people, parents, teachers and governments need to take cyber safety seriously and fulfill their responsibilities in making the internet safer place."



ChildSafeNet, together with collaborating organizations, Voice of Children, CWIN, Internet Society of Nepal, Digital Broadcast Initiative - Equal Access Nepal and Red Circle Creative Solutions will conduct cyber safety awareness activities in Nepal, which includes production of awareness videos, TV and radio programmes, digital posters and child-friendly multi-media information, education and communication materials in February and March 2019. ChildSafeNet participated in Computer Association of Nepal (CAN) Info-tech (Kathmandu, 29 January – 3 February 2019), the biggest IT expo of Nepal and has reached directly over 50,000 people with messages on online safety for children and young people. Moreover, ChildSafeNet conducted a paperless survey on social media use in Nepal at CAN Info-tech. Two thousand people took the survey over a period of six days. Besides this, training sessions on cyber safety are conducted for children, young people, parents and teachers to promote better and safer internet.

The Safer Internet Day provides the government, police and law practitioners opportunity to reinforce implementation of the cyber safety policy and enhance legal protection.

Mr. Raghuvanshi appealed to children, young people, parents, schools, colleges, government, police, law practitioners, private sector, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), international/national organizations, media, celebrities as well as other duty-bearers to get involved in celebration of the Safer Internet Day to make the internet a safe place for children and young people.

## Contact Us

For more information on the Safer Internet Day 2019 and how you can get involved, please contact

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## About ChildSafeNet

ChildSafeNet is a non-governmental organization, working to make the digital technology safer for children and young people. We work to raise awareness on safer use of the internet and digital devices to protect children and young people from Internet addiction, online sexual abuse and exploitation, cyber-bullying, phishing, gaming addiction and to promote digital literacy. Our team is composed of child protection specialists with extensive national and international experience and expertise on cyber safety as well as highly energetic tech-savvy youth. The organization works in partnership with children's and young people's groups, parents, schools, government, media, private sector and organizations.

For more information on ChildSafeNet, please visit <https://www.childsafenet.org>.

For more information on Safer Internet Day, please visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019>.