

Statement on the Outcome of Negotiations on the Temporary Framework for Detecting Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) Online

23 March 2026

The recent discussions between the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on the extension of the temporary framework allowing the voluntary detection of child sexual abuse material online concluded without an agreement. While dialogue between the institutions remains ongoing, the absence of a compromise at this stage is deeply concerning given that the current framework is set to expire on 3rd of April 2026.

As a migrant-women-led and feminist organisation committed to combating all forms of violence against women and girls, we are particularly concerned about the potential consequences of a lapse in these measures. Across Europe, children continue to face serious risks of sexual exploitation and abuse in digital spaces. Recent investigations and criminal cases in several EU Member States, have once again demonstrated the scale and persistence of this problem. Girls, in particular, remain disproportionately affected by sexual exploitation and abuse.

In this context, the possibility that mechanisms enabling the detection and reporting of such material may no longer be available raises urgent questions about how victims will be identified and protected. The safety and dignity of children must remain a central priority in the European Union's response to online abuse.

We recognise that the debate surrounding detection measures also raises legitimate concerns regarding privacy and the protection of secure communications. Safeguarding fundamental rights is essential in a democratic society; however, when digital spaces are used to perpetrate abuse against children, the balance between privacy and protection cannot overlook the rights and safety of victims, particularly children, with girls disproportionately affected by online sexual exploitation and abuse.

As negotiations continue between the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on both the extension of the temporary framework and the broader legislative proposal to combat child sexual abuse online, we call on policymakers to work towards an effective solution. The European Union must ensure that efforts to safeguard privacy do not come at the expense of protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse.