

JUNE 2023

# THE RED CORD

ISAIAH 61:1



## WHO IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN?

YOU THINK YOU KNOW. BUT YOU DON'T KNOW.  
YOUR CHILD THINKS HE KNOWS. BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW EITHER.  
NO ONE KNOWS WHO OR WHAT DARKNESS IS LURKING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR DEVICE SCREEN.  
WATCH THIS: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/OL2I12JMLDQ](https://youtu.be/OL2I12JMLDQ)

CREEPY.

THIS IS HOW IT HAPPENS. YOUR CHILD IS INNOCENTLY PLAYING A GAME. SIMULTANEOUSLY, HE OR SHE IS CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN. THE OTHER PEOPLE SEEM SAFE. DISTANT. JUST A KID LIKE THEMSELVES. WHAT CAN EASILY HAPPEN IS PERSONAL INFORMATION CAN BE EXCHANGED. RELATIONSHIPS FORM. TRUST DEVELOPS. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, BLIND TRUST TURNS TO TAKING A LEAP OF FAITH AND A PERSONAL MEETING HAPPENS. DISASTER AWAITS.

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***"DATA SHOWS THAT IN  
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SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS  
ARE RECRUITED ONLINE."***



Most kids do not see the danger, and traffickers know this. Kids are more vulnerable when they are not educated about how a trafficker may approach them online. How the trafficker acts seems like they are a friend. The “stranger danger” alert is not activated. The greatest threat to most children is not being snatched from their parents in the supermarket parking lot, as the media commonly portrays. It’s in their own homes and bedrooms, on their phones and tablets. Social media apps and gaming are becoming online marketplaces for trafficking.

Most children’s first interaction with someone they don’t know online is now more likely to be in a video game like Roblox than anywhere else. In these games, players do not necessarily know who they are playing with. Online personas in the games may report to be other children but it is hard to validate if this is the case. Because of this, parents and caregivers need to understand the games their children are playing and how to set them up safely.

**"Data shows that in the United States approximately 40% of sex trafficking victims are recruited online."**

That is an alarming number. But what is more alarming is that this data reflects only the trafficking victims that are reported. This number could be higher. With more kids online than ever before for school, social media, entertainment and gaming the trafficker's “playground” for recruiting is large. Some kids are spending over eight hours a day on some kind of device online.

So what is a parent to do? You’ve done the first step – being aware of the potential problem.

Continue reading to learn how to be proactive in this dangerous situation and to protect your child from the evil that lurks on the other side of the screen. This month’s blog lists some helpful actions for you today.

<https://theredcord.org/blog/>

june 2023 Blog



## How a Parent can be Protective and not Paranoid

Ahsha Morin, The Red Cord President

Ahsha Morin

**THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP A PARENT CAN TAKE IS BEING EDUCATED ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE, AND THEN SHARING THE EDUCATION WITH THEIR KIDS.**



*The problem of protecting your child from online predators is scary and seems so big that you don't know where to start. Maybe you try everything all at once and act out of paranoia instead of implementing, intentional practical steps.*

*The most important step a parent can take is being educated about human trafficking in all areas of life, and then sharing the education with their kids. If parents are not ready to discuss online exploitation, grooming techniques, and being exposed to pornography, then it may not be in the child's best interest to allow them to play online with people. When it comes down to it, there is only so much you can do to keep your child away from internet predators. Eventually, most kids will get on social media and gaming sites, even if it's not until they leave home. That's why the single most important step to keeping your kids safe is to educate your child about sexting, pornography, sexual predators, and other dangers online. By educating them about the reality of what is out there, you equip your children to make wise decisions and protect themselves.*

*(cont.)*

## JUNE 2023 Blog (cont.)

### Take these actions:

1. **Check settings on your child's devices:** When you first purchase a video game console, ensure you set up the online interaction settings in its Parental Controls or Family Settings.
2. **Keep devices in shared family spaces:** Keep consoles and computers in shared family spaces so you can see the interactions for yourself.
3. **Play sound on speakers not a headset.** If your child uses a headset to play, ensure they play over the speakers occasionally so you can hear what is being said.
4. **Turn on notifications on your account.** Install the community applications for consoles like PlayStation and Xbox so you are notified of direct messages to your account.
5. **Set up children's accounts.** Set up separate accounts for children of different ages in your home to be able to tailor interactions.
6. **Play together.** Play the games together, using your child's account to see who they are talking to.
7. Use settings to create groups of real friends to play with: On consoles, you can create a lobby of your child's known friends before starting a game, and then mute other players to keep a safe but connection experience.
8. **Invite your child** to help create the rules about what they can do online, how often, and with whom. Approaching the conversation collaboratively will give kids a sense of ownership, and thus a stake in the outcome.
9. **Check out these helpful resources for parents:**  
<https://www.culturereframed.org/a-parents-guide-to-supporting-family-online-safety/>  
<https://www.culturereframed.org/a-parents-guide-to-supporting-family-online-safety/>
10. **Attend a free Red Cord Community Training.** The next one is: June 20, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Fort Sill Federal Credit Union, 1614 NW 67th St, Lawton.



**HERE IS HOW YOU CAN PREVENT SLAVERY TODAY:**

**1. ATTEND A FREE TRAINING EVENT. [HTTPS://THERECORD.ORG/UPCOMING/](https://theredcord.org/upcoming/)**

**2. BE INFORMED. READ INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE. [HTTPS://THERECORD.ORG/GET-THE-FACTS/](https://theredcord.org/get-the-facts/)**

**3. SHARE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED WITH SOMEONE IN YOUR CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN YOU IN THE FIGHT. REQUEST A TRAINING IN YOUR LOCATION. [HTTPS://THERECORD.ORG/TRAINING/](https://theredcord.org/training/)**

**4. PRAY. USE THE MONTHLY PRAYER CALENDAR. [HTTPS://THERECORD.ORG/PRAYER/](https://theredcord.org/prayer/) SIGN UP TO RECEIVE URGENT PRAYER TEXTS. [HTTPS://VERIFIED-BROADCAST-9201-5JCRMM.TWIL.IO/SUBSCRIBE.HTML](https://verified-broadcast-9201-5jcrmm.twil.io/subscribe.html)**

**5. SUPPORT THE RED CORD TO CONTINUE TO FUND TRAINING EVENTS AND OFFER RESOURCES TO OUR COMMUNITY. [HTTPS://SECURE.PROCESSDONATION.ORG/THERECORD/DONATION.ASPX?DONATIONREFID=F98CJ6689698E](https://secure.processdonation.org/theredcord/donation.aspx?donationrefid=F98CJ6689698E)**

**6. CONTACT THE RED CORD: [HTTPS://THERECORD.ORG/SAMPLE-PAGE/](https://theredcord.org/sample-page/)**



## **JUNE EVENTS**

**June 1 -- National Delete Snap Chat Day**

**June 20 -- Community Training, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Fort Sill Federal Credit Union, 1614 NW 67th St, Lawton.**