



Family
Online Safety
Institute

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Panel Summary: International Responses to Global Challenges

Moderator: Emma Morris, Family Online Safety Institute

Panelists: Carolyn Bunting, Internet Matters; Anna Payne, UK Department for Culture, Media & Sport; Martin Cocker, NetSafe; Simon Milner, Facebook; Clara Sommarin, UNICEF

Overview: This panel covered international discussions about online safety issues that affect the global community. It looked at certain companies and the countries where they work.

Clara was asked to talk about UNICEF research and their findings at a global and country specific level. She also tackled what the key elements of a global response would look like as they relate to UNICEF and ITU guidelines.

Martin Cocker talked about NetSafe's initiatives in New Zealand and the Harmful Digital Communications Bill that would make it easier for law enforcement to deal with cyberbullies.

Anna Payne, from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, provided the audience with an update on the priorities and actions of the UK Government. The establishment and work of the United Kingdom Council on Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) was held up as a good model for a multi-stakeholder approach to online safety.

Simon Milner made the point that from a policy standpoint, online safety is much bigger in the UK than it is the United States. He said that in the UK there is incredible enthusiasm for Facebook and the Internet.ORG initiative. Simon also mentioned Facebook's upcoming work in Africa with the first African Online Safety Protection Conference in Uganda, and that he is worried it will turn into a conversation focused solely on regulation and not on more positive online safety practices such as education, awareness, and conversation. Simon said that there are 100 million Facebook users in Africa. Later in the conversation, Simon stressed that importance of working with schools to reinforce online safety for kids.

When asked about some the global challenges Carolyn sees in her role at Internet Matters, she said that there is a gap in the understanding of information and communication technologies between parents and children. She then described what Internet Matters is doing to bridge this gap by working with four of the biggest Internet Service Providers in the UK, and other major industry brands as well. Internet Matters' objective is to help parents learn about e-safety, to give them information about setting and using network filters, and to encourage parents to talk to their children about Internet safety.