Organizer: Connect for Freedom

Age/Grade Level: Ages 13–14 (8th Grade)

Lesson Title: Dangers of the Internet & Online Predators

Instructional Time Required: One Session

Lesson Objectives: Youth should be able to:

- Understand the pros and cons of the internet.
- Understand the difference between online enticement and sextortion.
- Identify where predators are reaching their victims online.
- Explain what grooming is and identify grooming tactics.
- List steps they can take online to protect themselves from online predators.

Lesson Overview:

This lesson starts with listing some statistics to depict how common it is for teens to be online and be contacted by a predator. Participants will learn about the pros and cons of the internet, and we recommend that you open up a dialogue with youth, having them come up with some of their own examples. Participants will learn the difference between online enticement and sextortion as well as grooming and tactics predators use to groom youth. It is important for youth to understand what the signs of grooming are since it is often the first step for a predator to foster a relationship with a minor and build trust. Participants will learn about where online predators are reaching their victims, such as popular online platforms they may use every day. Participants will watch a video called "Teen Voices: Who You're Talking to Online" by Common Sense Education, which is a video with various teens describing their online interactions with people online and the risks that come with it. Participants will watch a video called "Real-Life Stories- 6 Degrees of Information" created by NetSmartz, where five teens find out how much information an internet researcher is able to find out about them online. Online safety recommendations are listed and participants will take know2protect's Pledge2Protect, vowing to stay safe online.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Social Media*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/socialmedia
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Online Enticement*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/onlineenticement
Alliance for Children. "*What is Grooming?*" AllianceforChildren.org. https://www.allianceforchildren.org/blog/2018/06/what-grooming
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*NetSmartz Home*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home

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Key Terms in Lesson:

Grooming- the process in which an offender sexually abuses a minor. This is often the first step in fostering a relationship with them and building trust.

Online enticement- involves an individual communicating with a minor on the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offense or abduction.

Sextortion- a form of child sexual exploitation where minors are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public a nude or sexual image of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity, or money from them.

Lesson Enrichment Activity: *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's* No Escape Room Interactive Sextortion Video

Lesson Handout: *NCMEC* So, You Need Some Help...

Youth Assessment Recommendations:

- Have you ever spoken to a stranger online?
- What is the difference between online enticement and sextortion?
- What are some steps you can take to stay safe online?
- Where are predators reaching their victims online?
- Do you think it is normal for an adult to want to talk to a child online? Why or why not?

Important Notice: Connect for Freedom has compiled information and materials from the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, Polaris Project, Thorn, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and other reputable organizations.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "*Social Media*." MissingKids.org. https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/socialmedia
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Alliance for Children. "*What is Grooming?*" AllianceforChildren.org. https://www.allianceforchildren.org/blog/2018/06/what-grooming
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