Supplemental Material

Table 1. Keywords Associated with Offense-Supportive Statements

Main keyword	Additional keywords	Examples of statements
Age	appearance, consent, sex interest, maturity	"Whether she is 14 or 28 years old, what matters is that she's willing."; "She seems more mature than other kids."
Availability	internet	"Some web sites are made to encourage you to do things you wouldn't do otherwise."; "The images came as pop-ups on my computer."
Curiosity	fake, aim to understand	"I was curious to see if it [child pornography] really exists."; "I was intrigued to see what it might look like."
Ease of access	internet, children, pornography	"With the internet, it's too easy to access any kind of content."; "It is easier to become friend with 12-13 years old than with someone my own age."
External factors	negative events	"I was under the influence of drugs."; "I just got fired from my job."
Friendship	-	"Friendship is more important than the sex."; "In friendship age does not matter."
Game	role playing, fake	"For me, chatting on the internet is more like a game."; "I knew she was 14 years old, but since it was an adult site, I thought it was role-playing."
I like children	-	"I liked her, but I am not a pedophile."; "I like children way too much."

I wouldn't have done it if	abuse, meet, images, webcam	"Knowing that she would want to meet me was my thrill, but that was all."; "I would never abuse a child."
I'm a good guy	not a pedophile, not violent	"I am not violent by nature."; "I am a good guy, I am not a pedophile or an abuser."
It's his/her fault	he/she was teasing / willing	"If she hadn't done it first, I wouldn't have gotten undressed on the webcam."; "she was teasing me."
Joke	fake	"What I wrote was just a joke."; "I sent her the video just for fun."
Just for a talk / watch	-	"I just wanted to talk to the child."; "I didn't see the harm. I was only watching, it didn't go any further than that."
Less severe / harmful than	virtual vs. contact, time spent, quantity, watch and delete	"I sometimes masturbate, but never for long."; "It's not like I beat her up."; "Alone behind your computer, it's not the same as having contacts with real children."
Mean persons	adults, children are good, women are scary, rejecting me	"On the Internet I could talk with people. Offline, people rejected me."; "Don't trust what my wife is telling you."; "I am scared of women."
No control	sexual urges	"I'd like to be in control."; "My sex drive is too strong."

No intention	-	"I had no intention of sharing my collection with other users."; "I had no intention to meet her offline."
Not excited / interested	fake, sexual	"In real life, I have no interest, but behind my computer, I was a bit interested."; "I was pretending to be excited."; "I had no interest in children."
Not just me	-	"I am not the only one watching child pornography."; "I was not the only one sex chatting. She did it too."; "Everybody downloads child porn."
Personation	fake	"It could be a 90-year-old grandmother who says she's 14."; "Behind a computer, you never know with who you're chatting."
Power	-	"I felt powerful."; "It gave me a feeling of power and control."
Professor	-	"I wanted teach her sexuality."
Protect children	-	"I would have kicked the shit out of the guy who touched the kid."; "My goal was to protect her."
Provocation	test	"I wanted to test whether she really was 12 years old"; "The sex talk was intended to provoke them."
Same level	-	"I'm on his level. We had things in common"; "I get along better with children."

Society	-	"Today's society is hypersexualized. 14 years old's girls aren't virgin anymore."; "We should blame the society for presenting child-sized mannequins."
Testing	police investigator, fake	"I wanted to find fake profiles."; "I was about to call the police to report the online child pornography."; "In order to catch a predator, you need to trade pictures."
Unconscious	accident, didn't know	"I didn't know I was giving access to my computer' content"; "I clicked to download by accident."
Victim	-	"People have always made fun of me."; "In the past, I was I was falsely accused of sexual assault. I pleaded guilty to get rid of it."; "Even if it wasn't me, you'd send me to jail."
Virtual	fake, sex interest	"For me, there is a clear difference between online child pornography and real life contacts with children."; "Files' titles are often fake names."; "My fantasies are limited to the virtual."

Table 2. Number of Offense-Supportive Statements Expressed by Participants in each Cognitive Theme

	Interpersonal Relationships			Sexualisation of Children		Self		Internet
Participants	Dangerous World (i)	Child as Partner (i)	Entitlement (i)	Child as Sexual Being (i)	Nature of Harm (i)	Uncontrollability (i)	Virtual is Not Real	Internet is Uncontrollable
CSEM01*	0	0	1	6	11	3	2	0
CSEM02	0	3	0	0	5	3	6	1
CSEM03	1	0	2	5	9	2	5	0
CSEM04	1	3	0	0	8	15	6	11
CSEM05*	1	0	1	0	5	2	2	3
CSEM06	0	0	2	3	3	1	3	0
CSEM07	0	0	0	1	4	3	6	0
CSEM08	0	0	0	1	5	3	3	2
CSEM09	0	1	0	0	9	3	8	0
CSEM10	0	0	0	0	9	5	7	2
CSEM11	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
CSEM12	0	0	1	0	4	1	2	0
CSEM13	0	0	4	0	4	0	4	2
CSEM14	0	0	2	0	5	5	7	0
CSEM15*	0	1	2	0	9	2	2	0
CSEM16	0	0	4	0	1	3	3	0
CSEM17*	2	0	0	1	8	5	10	3
CSEM18*	0	0	0	0	10	4	0	0
CSEM19	0	2	1	0	9	2	5	1
CSEM20	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	0
Presence in CSEM (%)	20.00	25.00	55.00	30.00	100	95.00	90.00	40.00
CSS01	0	0	0	2	1	1	5	0
CSS02	2	1	2	9	7	1	11	1
CSS03	0	1	0	1	12	6	11	2
CSS04	0	0	1	1	4	0	20	0
CSS05	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0
CSS06	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0

CSS07	1	1	6	2	2	3	8	0
CSS08	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
CSS09	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	0
CSS10	3	1	2	5	15	2	12	1
CSS11	0	0	4	3	3	6	8	0
CSS12*	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	2
CSS13	0	0	0	4	3	4	13	1
CSS14	2	0	0	11	5	1	17	1
CSS15	0	0	1	4	4	3	19	3
Presence in CSS (%)	33.33	26.67	46.67	73.33	80.00	93.33	93.33	46.67
MO01	1	0	0	4	5	1	2	0
MO02	2	0	2	1	2	0	2	0
MO03	1	2	0	2	6	11	7	2
MO04*	3	0	2	0	4	0	2	0
MO05	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0
MO06	0	1	1	3	3	2	3	0
MO08	0	0	2	1	12	1	3	1
MO09	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
MO10	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
MO11*	0	0	2	0	1	1	6	0
MO12	0	1	2	10	5	5	19	1
MO14	0	0	0	1	3	1	11	0
MO15	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	1
MO16	4	0	0	1	8	6	15	6
MO17	0	0	0	1	6	1	8	0
MO18	8	1	3	1	8	1	2	0
MO19	0	0	3	2	8	1	9	1
MO20	3	0	0	0	15	6	8	3
Presence in MO (%)	44.44	22.22	44.44	66.67	94.44	77.78	100	38.89
Overall presence (%)	32.08	24.53	49.06	54.72	92.45	88.68	94.34	41.51

CSS = Child Sexual Solicitation only;

CSEM = Child Sexual Exploitation Material only;

MO = Mixed Online group;

i = i-version;

* = Participants with prior convictions for contact sexual offenses

Table 3. Offense-Supportive Themes and their Definition

Theme	Definition
Dangerous World (i-version)	Offense-supportive belief suggesting that the world is a dangerous place comprised of threatening, profiteer and liar individuals, especially adults. Online relationships are perceived as less problematic than offline ones. Relationships with adults are perceived as dangerous and those with children as safe and satisfying.
Child as Partner (i-version)	Idea suggesting that adults and children are equals on both the emotional and the cognitive levels, thus leading to the perception of egalitarian relationships between them.
Entitlement (i-version)	Cognitions supportive of the idea some people have rights to act as they please in accordance with their self-interests, thus placing themselves in privileged or superior positions. This includes the right to engage in online sexual activities with minors.
Child as Sexual Being (i-version)	Idea suggesting that children are capable of enjoying and seeking sexual activities with adults. Children are perceived to have a maturity equal to that of adults on sexual matters and are therefore capable of giving informed sexual consent.
Nature of Harm (i-version)	Offense-supportive belief suggesting that various degrees of harm can be caused to children and that some types of sexual offenses are less severe than others, including online sexual offenses.
Uncontrollability (i-version)	Cognitions supportive of the idea that online sexual offending is caused by uncontrollable internal or external factors. Thus, this

	perception assumes that one is unable to control their self within the sexual realm.
Virtual is not Real	Perception that internet is not reality and that its content is unreliable, as if everything was untrue, lie or joke. Online sexual offending against children is the result of the unreliability of what is announced on the internet.
Internet is uncontrollable	Offense-supportive belief suggesting that internet, in contrast to the offline world, provides unlimited accessibility to all kind of contents and internet users, thus leading participants to either uncontrollable or accidental sexual illegal behaviors against children.