



GHANA INTERNET  
SAFETY FOUNDATION



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

A SAFER INTERNET IS A BETTER INTERNET

[www.gisfoundation.com](http://www.gisfoundation.com)



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2022 witnessed challenging times for Ghana, so far as safe use of internet is concerned, specially by school children (Child Online Protection) and youth. It, however, gives a great sense of satisfaction that GISF responded well to all those emerging challenges posed by the ill-impacts of unsupervised usage of internet by these target groups.

The widely reported news of eight(8) Senior High School students who were dismissed from school for openly insulting the President of Ghana which directly contradict the rules and regulations of student conduct in the Ghana Educational System. The increase in pornography addiction, online gambling and online sexual grooming among school children and youth was also well circulated in the local Ghanaian media.

Despite these and many more worrisome incidents, we were able to make positive gains in our advocacy and awareness programs and also provide some interventional programs in Child Online Protection cases.

The Annual Report 2022 covers in detail - all our programs and activities that were successfully undertaken during the year under report, I am delighted to briefly mention a few of them, as a quick reference for you and our readers.

As in past years, GISF in collaboration with Meta (Facebook) celebrated the Safer Internet Day on 8th February 2022. GISF engaged some selected schools in Ashanti Region, numbering about 600 students and their teachers who significantly benefited from basic digital literacy by utilizing our online safety educational materials.

We are extremely grateful to the Microsoft Corporation that they supported us by providing necessary support via their Employee Giving Program to conduct two very important programs in this year, viz. viz. Stakeholders' Conference on Child Online Protection 2022 (held during March 2022) and Cybersafety Ambassadors Program (held during May 2022).

These events were held for several schools in Ghana with a view to create awareness about Child Online Protection, cyber-bullying, sextortion and interventional measures on how to stop this menace.

The next important collaborative initiative of GISF was the 1st ever National Digital Parenting Conference, which was supported by the Digital Aid International, and its specific theme was 'Protecting Your Family Online: 10 Things Every Parent Should Know'. The event encouraged parents and guardians to have close connection with their children and urged them to initiate conversations with their children about their online activities.

I also wish to mention a few of the major challenges that we have been facing during the period of our program execution. Unavailability or inadequate funds has been the major challenge for us, in that it limits the impact scope of our programs and activities. Most Governments in Africa have traditionally not valued the socioeconomic impact of cybersecurity on the growth of their economies and thus have applied limited resources to addressing its negative impact. Including Ghana, approximately 15% of the countries in Africa have a clear legal framework in place, which criminalise online behaviours that facilitate offline crimes. GISF also intends to seek international cooperations and partnerships as well, to promote safer online activities in Africa. The Foundation looks forward to apply and seek support and grants in order to conduct all these initiatives and activities in an efficient manner.

On behalf of GISF and myself, we are sincerely grateful to all our collaborative partners who helped us with their financial, counsel and other resources to conduct all the programs and activities of the Foundation smoothly. I also extend profound thanks to all our board & team members, officials & staff, volunteers and other stakeholders, who worked for GISF and contributed to all the Foundation's activities.



## OUR BACKGROUND

Founded in 2014, the Ghana Internet Safety Foundation (acronym GISF; briefly Foundation) is a grassroots oriented non-profit organization duly registered by the Government of Ghana. GISF's flagship program is its Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative and National Digital Parenting Conference.

GISF has been instrumental in conducting workshops and educational presentations, with a view to teaching social media skills, advocating on Child Online Protection, critical thinking and internet safety. The Foundation is an organization of repute, disseminating updated research-based materials and usable resources through the Foundation's website, articles, blog-posts and similar other social media contents. The Foundation has reached-out to over 250,000 students and numerous religious leaders, educators, parents and professionals. Numerous like-minded individuals and organizations engaged in online activities and committed to keep youths safe, have also shared the Foundation's initiatives appropriately. GISF has become an impactful public media voice on online security and child sexual abuse of children by disseminating relevant information and contents on social media. GISF presents pro-social, restorative and respectful approaches to address these issues.

GISF strives to work in partnership with similar stakeholders through collaborations, wherein they cooperate and jointly work together to achieve success in all endeavours. The Foundation's partners include schools, businesses, foundations, government agencies, Civil Society Organisations and individuals who care about safety of their communities and loved ones. GISF is committed to working with all partners to identify and use innovative resources to create a generation of responsible, ethical and resilient digital citizens.



### Some Of The Foundation's Generous Partners Are:

- ✓ Microsoft Corporation's Employee Giving Program
- ✓ Women In Cybersecurity-West Africa
- ✓ National Youth Authority
- ✓ Ghana Education Service
- ✓ YMCA
- ✓ World Friends IT Volunteers, A South Korean Government Initiative
- ✓ Insafe /International Association of Internet Hotlines
- ✓ United Kingdom Safer Internet Center
- ✓ Meta(Facebook Inc)
- ✓ Cybersecurity Authority, Ghana
- ✓ Christian Council Ghana





OUR VISION STATEMENT



Our vision is to positively influence this and future generations to be informed and responsible users of digital technology.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



Our mission is to promote the safe and responsible use of all forms of digital communications and social media through education that is research-based and pro-technology.



GABRIEL OFORI APPIAH Director Of Operations



OUR MAJOR PROGRAMMES



Cybersafety Ambassadors Program



Internet Safety Advocacy Campaigns



Child Online Protection Initiative



ePolice Academy



iLearn2Teach Series



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GISF

The organizational structure of GISF includes the following



## Composition of the Advisory Board

- Micheal Offei**  
Board Chair
- Miss Betty Ewurafua**  
Board Secretary
- Emmanuel Adinkra**  
Member
- Dr. Edward Adinkra**  
Member
- Mary Appiah**  
Member

## GISF Volunteers

- Dr. Kwabena Peprah**  
Senior Medical Consultant  
HQ, Accra-Ghana
- Miss Betty Ewurafua**  
Office Manager  
HQ, Accra-Ghana
- Mrs. Cecilia Archer**  
Child/Crisis Counsellor  
HQ, Accra-Ghana

## Composition of the Management Team

- Emmanuel Edem Adinkrah**  
President
- Gabriel Ofori Appiah**  
Director of Operations
- Mr. Emmanuel Ohene-Kyei**  
Director of Finance
- Mr. Kwaku Oppong Boateng**  
Director of Campaigns and Initiatives
- Mr. Kwaku Nyarkoh Mensah**  
Director of Policy Research & Legal Advocacy
- Mr. Andrews Nyantakyi**  
Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships
- Mr. William Beeko**  
Director of Media & Communications





## EDUCATION

## RESEARCH & MARKETING

According to Statista.com, Ghana has approximately 17 million Internet Users Of Which:



89.9%  
Use WhatsApp



45.2%  
Use Twitter



74%  
Use Facebook



27.3%  
Use TikTok



61.9%  
Use Instagram



12.5%  
Use LinkedIn



45.2%  
Use Snapchat



According to a UNICEF report (Children’s Online Practices in Ghana, 2017), about 8 in 10 children visit Facebook, 5 in 10 visits WhatsApp and 2 in 10 visit YouTube. For the top three visited social networking sites/platforms, more boys and urban residents visit the sites most. 3 in 10 children have experienced something that bothered them online. 4 in 10 children will accept all requests made to them online. 2 in 10 children have met someone in person who they first got to know online. Only 1 in 10 children sends a photo or video of themselves to someone they have not met face to face, and 2 in 10 children have been treated in a harmful way or in a way they did not like while online. The report also states that about 2 in 10 parents/guardians never check what their children are doing on the internet.

**GHANA  
INTERNET  
SAFETY  
FOUNDATION**

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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