



THE OUR VOICES UNIVERSITY NETWORK:
CHALLENGING SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Webinar

14th December 2022, 1-2pm GMT

Do legally established ages of consent to sexual activity protect or penalise children?

Join us for a lunchtime webinar focused on the contradictions and complexities about legally established minimum ages of consent to sexual activity as experienced by young people and those representing them .

Brief presentations will address:

- Is the legal age of consent to sexual activity created to protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation, or to restrain children's sexual autonomy?
- Are laws based on dominant moral codes or on informed evidence of child development and child welfare?
- Do laws help or hinder those implementing the law in accounting for young people's different developmental stages, and in balancing rights to protection and sexual autonomy?

Presentations will be delivered by:

Professor Jenny Pearce

Safer Young Lives Research Centre, Our Voices University Network

The current state of play: Good intentions but unexpected consequences

Dr Mark Kavenagh

Evident Consulting

Emerging evidence regarding online child sexual abuse in the developing world shows that avoiding this question is causing harm

Vidya Reddy

Tulir, Centre for Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse

India Case Study: POCSO, Mandatory Reporting and unintended impacts on young people

Oversimplified responses on this issue, and marked inconsistencies between countries around the world have led to harm.

The evidence is calling upon duty bearers and the child rights advocacy community to put aside concerns at the political sensitivities of these topics and make evidence based policy demands.

For more, read our recent blog on this topic [here](#)

Please join us for this webinar and be part of a growing initiative to enhance knowledge and focus on the complex issues involved.

To register, click [here](#)