



1. Project Title

Virtual Harm: Disability Associated Child Protection Risks and the Internet

2. Principle Investigator

Dr Susan Flynn, Asst Prof Social Work

3. Application Procedure

To apply for this funded PhD programme

please send a copy of your CV/resume and a short statement on why you want to undertake this PhD project under the supervision of Dr Susan Flynn. You should also include some information on your relevant experience (if any) of qualitative research methodologies, survey method and/or disability, internet and child protection expertise where relevant. Statement should be no more than two pages long.

Applicants should submit their application by email to: Dr. Susan Flynn: Sflynn7@tcd.ie

Application Deadline: May 1st 2021.

4. Contact Details

Sflynn7@tcd.ie

Short Description of Research Project

This study comprehensively investigates internet-based child protection risks associated with disability. There have been substantial increases in Irish internet usage over recent decades with one of the most comprehensive international comparison studies placing Irish children's internet usage above the European average (Livingstone et al., 2011). Central Statistics Office (CSO) evidenced in 2019 that 97% of students in the Republic of Ireland use the internet every-day, whilst in the 16 to 29 years age group, 96% of internet users accessed the internet daily (CSO, 2019), and 82% of 15 to 16 year olds have a social networking profile (Livingstone et al., 2011). In this context, disability is associated with unique vulnerabilities that relate to child abuse. The internet is also recognised as a key platform that mediates child abuse (Good and Fang, 2015; Haber, 2020; Powell, 2008). With a view to addressing this area, this study will seek to answer the question, how does the internet present child protection and welfare risk related to disability?