

**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA**

SOCIAL MEDIA MINIMUM AGE

**A
BILL**

**An Act to Restrict Children's Access to Social Media Platforms; to
Prevent the Exposure of Children to Harmful Online Content and
Activities; and to Provide for Matters Connected Therewith or
Incidental Thereto."**

*Presented by the by Hon. Faiszer Musthapha, PC, M.P on
.....2026*

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Ordered by Parliament to be printed

AN ACT TO RESTRICT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS; TO PREVENT THE EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO HARMFUL ONLINE CONTENT AND ACTIVITIES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

"BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

1. This Act may be cited as the SOCIAL MEDIA MINIMUM AGE ACT, No... OF 2026

Short title

2. The provisions of this Act shall apply to; - The social media service providers, as may be specified by the regulations under this act, offering services to persons within Sri Lanka and come in to operation

Application

3. This Act shall come into operation on such date as may be appointed by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette.

Power to make regulations requiring internet service providers to restrict access by children to certain internet services

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4. The subject minister may by regulations make provision requiring service providers of specified internet services and social media platforms —

(a) To prevent access by children of or under the age of 16 to specified internet services which they provide, or to specified features or functionalities of such services;

(b) To restrict access by Age-restricted user to specify internet services which they provide, or to specified features or functionalities of such services.

The subject minister may Make regulations.

(c) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (1)(b) includes provision requiring a provider to limit—

a) The amount of time per day, or over the course of a specified period, for which children may access the service or a specified feature or functionality of the service;

(b) The times of day at which children may access the service or a specified feature or functionality of the service.

- (d) To enable the Authorized Commissioner to receive Complaints, objections and issue directions, require the production of information or documents, conduct investigations inquiries or inspections, and take such other measures as may be necessary for the effective administration and enforcement of this Act.
- (e) To make provision by reference to standards, guidelines, arrangements, specifications or technical requirements as published from time to time;
- (f) To confer functions on a person, including functions involving the exercise of a discretion, and make provision in connection with the procedure for exercising the functions;

5. The functions of the Authorized Commissioner

The Minister shall appoint an authorized Commissioner under the National Child protection Authority.

(a) The Authorized Commissioner shall supervise and monitor the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to the restriction of access to, and use of, online platforms and internet services by Age-restricted users.

(2) The Authorized Commissioner may receive Complaints, objections and issue directions, require the production of information or documents, conduct investigations inquiries or inspections, and take such other measures as may be necessary for the effective administration and enforcement of this Act.

6. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

7. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires –

interpretation

"Child" means a person under sixteen years of age;

"Subject Minister" means the Minister of Child affairs

"Service provider" means a person or entity operating an Online service;

"Social media service" means:

(a) An electronic service that satisfies the following conditions:

(i) The sole or primary purpose of the service is to enable online social interaction between 2 or more end-users

(ii) The service allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users;

For the purposes of this Act, "age-restricted social media platform" means:

(a) An electronic service that satisfies the following conditions:

(i) The sole purpose, or a significant purpose, of the service is to enable online social interaction between 2 or more

End-users;

(ii) The service allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users;

(iii) The service allows end-users to post material on the service;

For the purposes of this Act, "Age-restricted user" means a Sri Lankan child who has not reached 16 years