

## **Criminal Protection of Children from Digital Exploitation: A Legal Approach to Promoting Social Peace in Light of Saudi Vision 2030**

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### **Abstract**

This paper examines the legal protection of children against digital exploitation through social media, particularly when parents use their children to gain popularity or financial profit. Such acts, under a broad legal interpretation, may fall within the scope of human trafficking, as they involve exploiting minors for material benefit. The purpose of this study is to analyze the current Saudi legal and regulatory framework, with a focus on the September 2025 decision by the Saudi Minister of Media prohibiting the appearance of children in social media content. The research adopts a descriptive and analytical methodology, reviewing existing regulations and comparing them with international standards for child protection. The study finds that while recent regulations demonstrate strong preventive intent, the absence of explicit criminal sanctions limits their deterrent effect. Accordingly, the paper recommends establishing clear criminal provisions within Saudi law to ensure accountability and align with Saudi Vision 2030 objectives for justice, family stability, and social cohesion.

The findings highlight that enforcing criminal accountability for child exploitation supports peace and conflict resolution, as it protects family integrity, prevents social tensions, and promotes sustainable peace within communities.

### **Keywords**

Child exploitation, human trafficking, Saudi Vision 2030, peacebuilding, social stability, media regulation.