



Social media ban fails to tackle root causes of dangerous online misogyny

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Keir Starmer looking at a phone against a dark background

Today the UK government has confirmed it will implement a long-anticipated ban on social media use for under-16s in the UK. As [Maddison Wheeldon wrote for the Canary](#) this move does little for young people while letting big tech companies off the hook.

And girls's rights charity [Plan International UK](#) has added that the ban won't keep girls safe. Because it fails to tackle the underlying causes of [misogyny online](#)

Morgan Griffith-David is senior influencing lead for UK Girls's Rights at Plan International UK. Reacting to the confirmation of the ban on under-16s using social media in the UK, he said:

Banning children does nothing to tackle the dangerous misogyny and sexism that has become so rampant across social media.

Harmful gender norms are being constantly reinforced by social media algorithms and addictive features driven by profit, not safety and blocking access for children lets tech companies off the hook by not forcing them to address these issues.

We all want children to be safe online, but under this ban, one day a young person will have no access to social media, and the next they turn 16 and find themselves in online spaces with no experience, preparation, or safeguards.

The ban also risks pushing children towards dangerous and unregulated corners of the web, potentially exposing them to far more harmful content.

Instead of removing access for young people, the government should focus on ensuring social media companies are properly regulated and held responsible for creating safe spaces for children online. Girls deserve to feel joyful and safe online, not shut out of the spaces that help them learn, connect and belong.

We await the details but proper regulation, not an outright ban, of social media with the safety of children at the forefront of any decision making is the most appropriate way to keep young people safe online.

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By [The Canary](#)

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