



For Immediate Release
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“WHAT’S HOT NEWS?”

Belize October 2019. In today's age, when global warming is right up there with natural disasters, celebrity gossip, the rise in country or community violence, is **Internet Safety hot news?** Certainly, **Get Safe Online** - a non-profit organization in the UK that succeeded in launching dedicated online safety websites to 12 Commonwealth Caribbean countries thinks so. The company aims to inspire a newfound awareness of online safety and cybersecurity within respective commonwealth countries.

They also hope that media houses, government ministries, universities, and other non-profit organizations will lend support to their online safety initiatives. **Get Safe Online** recognizes the elderly and children as most vulnerable online; their website offers a wealth of information on how these groups can be protected. **The dedicated website for Belize is www.getsafeonline.bz.**

The World Health Organization (WHO) **in safety and security on the internet: challenges and advances in Member States: based on the findings of the second global survey on eHealth. (Global Observatory for eHealth Series, v. 4)** stated, *"Adults are increasingly spending their discretionary time on the Internet, and children and adolescents "spend more time with media than they do in any other activity except for sleeping." However, because of the easy and often private access to children that the internet offers, it has provided a new medium through which child exploitation, child maltreatment, and sexual and emotional abuse can propagate. Broadly speaking, the internet gives child predators instant access to a large group of potential victims, as well as the opportunity to create their own 'communities' to exchange ideas and reinforce their prurient desires. Unsupervised access to children and teens When it comes to finding and luring potential victims, the internet provides numerous opportunities and advantages for predators. Chat rooms, role playing games (e.g., World of Warcraft), virtual worlds (e.g., Second Life), and social networking sites (e.g., Facebook), facilitate predators' agendas by allowing participants to remain anonymous or create false identities. By disguising their true identity and motives, predators are able to build long-term online relationships with their targeted victims prior to any attempt to promote physical contact."*

safe child online |



Imagine the internet as your neighbourhood, wouldn't you want to be protected where you live and where you spend your time, wouldn't you want to protect your children where they play? I am sure your answer is yes, which is why **Get Safe Online** continues to encourage every citizen to visit their country website to learn about how they can stay safe online by taking small safety steps. **Get Safe Online's** safety campaign "Get Smart, Get Safe" goes a long way in educating the general public on how to protect themselves against cyber-crimes. Mr. Peter Davies, Global Ambassador for **Get Safe Online**, doesn't want people to be scared away from internet use. According to Mr. Davies: *"most people already have a "digital life," and benefit from the information, opportunities, and personal empowerment it can bring. Creating and sustaining a digital economy also brings more wealth and opportunities to the region. We want*

people to realize those benefits confidently while knowing how to avoid pitfalls such as lottery scams, romance fraud, and phishing. We also want to encourage people - especially the younger generation - not to "overshare" personal images or information. That can come back to haunt them and put them at risk."

Internet Safety is "hot news," be sure to gain insight and share this information with others. Visit www.getsafeonline.bz/media-partners for additional information and resources.