

**Sri Lanka: AIC Media Statement on the gazettal of the Online Safety Bill  
28 September 2023**

*To be attributed to Jeff Paine, Managing Director, Asia Internet Coalition*

**- start -**

The Asia Internet Coalition is concerned that the Sri Lanka Government is moving the Online Safety Bill without undertaking any stakeholder consultation. The Bill provides for a draconian system to stifle dissent and Sri Lankans' rights to expression. While our member companies take seriously the online safety of those who use their services, legislation should not dampen innovation by restricting public debate and the exchange of ideas that can consequently impact the digital economy. We strongly urge the Government to work closely with industry stakeholders to develop regulations that are proportionate, reasonable, consistent with international best practices, and most importantly, support the growth of Sri Lanka's nascent digital economy.

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***About the Asia Internet Coalition***

The Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) is an industry association comprising leading Internet and technology companies. The AIC seeks to promote the understanding and resolution of Internet policy issues in the Asia Pacific region. Visit [www.aicasia.org](http://www.aicasia.org) for more information.

***Our Members***

The Amazon logo, featuring the word "amazon" in a black sans-serif font with a curved orange arrow underneath.The Booking.com logo, with "Booking.com" in a blue sans-serif font.The Google logo, with the word "Google" in its multi-colored sans-serif font.The Goto logo, with the word "goto" in a green sans-serif font.The Grab logo, with the word "Grab" in a green sans-serif font.The LINE logo, with the word "LINE" in a green sans-serif font.The LinkedIn logo, with the word "LinkedIn" in a blue sans-serif font.The Meta logo, featuring an infinity symbol followed by the word "Meta" in a blue sans-serif font.The Rakuten logo, with the word "Rakuten" in a red sans-serif font.The Shopify logo, featuring a green shopping bag icon followed by the word "shopify" in a black sans-serif font.The Snap Inc. logo, with the text "Snap Inc." in a black sans-serif font.The Spotify logo, featuring a green circle with three white curved lines followed by the word "Spotify" in a green sans-serif font.The Yahoo! logo, with the word "yahoo!" in a purple sans-serif font.