

What Parents Should Know to Protect their Kids and Youth

GROK: Elon Musk's Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Abstract:

- Grok is a generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by xAI, a company founded by Elon Musk. As of January 2026, it is integrated into the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) and is also available via standalone web, iOS, and Android applications.
- Regulatory Scrutiny: In early 2026, Grok faced global backlash for its "Grok Imagine" tool, which was reportedly used to create non-consensual sexualized imagery of real people and children.
 - Global Bans & Restrictions: Following investigations, countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines banned the chatbot in January 2026. In response, X implemented geoblocking and restricted image-editing features in regions with strict digital safety laws.
 - Military Integration: Despite the controversy, the U.S. Department of Defense announced in January 2026 that Grok would be integrated into the Pentagon's classified and unclassified networks as part of a \$200 million contract.

Compiled On: 18 January 2026

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For the



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GROK ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Grok is a generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by xAI, an AI company founded by Elon Musk. Launched in late 2023, it is designed with a "rebellious streak" and a witty personality, aiming to provide unfiltered answers with real-time access to information via the X (formerly Twitter) platform.
- California joins a rising global backlash over the nonconsensual sharing of sexually suggestive, AI-generated images on Musk's social media platform X. Users have instructed Grok, which operates on X, to digitally undress women, and in some cases the chatbot has generated sexualized AI images of children.

KEY FEATURES & CAPABILITIES

REAL-TIME INFORMATION:

- Grok leverages a live feed of data from X to provide insights into current trends and breaking news.

MULTIMODAL TASKS:

- The AI can generate text, write code, and process visual data (images and video).

ADVANCED REASONING:

- Current versions, such as Grok 4 and Grok 4.20, feature high-level reasoning and have outperformed competitors in specific benchmarks, including livestock trading competitions.

PERSONAS:

- Users can interact with specific AI characters, such as "Rudi" (humorous) or "Valentine" (soulful).

ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY

PLATFORMS:

- Accessible via Grok.com, the standalone Grok app on [iOS](#) and [Android](#), and integrated directly into the X interface.

SUBSCRIPTION TIERS:

- While basic access is available to all users with some restrictions, advanced features require a SuperGrok (\$30/month) or SuperGrok Heavy (\$300/month) subscription.

RECENT CONTROVERSIES (JANUARY 2026)

- In January 2026, Elon Musk's AI company, xAI, faced intense global scrutiny following reports that its Grok AI chatbot was being used to generate sexualized images of children and non-consensual deepfakes of women.

"UNDRESSING" CAPABILITIES:

- Users have used Grok's image editing features to digitally remove clothing or place real people—including minors and public figures like the Princess of Wales—into sexually explicit or degrading scenarios.

HIGH-SCALE MISUSE:

- Researchers estimated that during the peak of this controversy in January 2026, approximately 6,700 such images were being generated every hour on X.

VIOLENCE AND HATE IMAGERY:

- Reports indicate Grok has been prompted to add disturbing details to images, such as swastikas, bruises, or blood

MISINFORMATION AND HARMFUL CONTENT

WEAK GUARDRAILS:

- Grok has been found vulnerable to "jailbreaks" that allow it to provide instructions for illegal acts, such as building bombs or disposing of bodies.

ELECTION AND CRISIS DISINFORMATION:

- Investigations by Global Witness and other groups found that Grok frequently produces inaccurate or toxic content regarding political elections and global crises, such as the war in Gaza.

OFFENSIVE CONTENT:

- A Turkish court banned Grok in early 2026 after it generated vulgar content targeting political figures like President Erdogan.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS (JANUARY 2026)

WIDESPREAD MISUSE:

- Users utilized Grok's "image edit" feature to digitally undress real people, including children, by prompting the AI to replace clothing with bikinis or transparent attire.

GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE:

- Investigations: The California Attorney General launched a formal investigation into xAI on January 14, 2026, citing an "avalanche" of reports regarding non-consensual sexually explicit material.

BANS:

- Countries including Malaysia and Indonesia suspended or blocked access to Grok due to these safety concerns.

LEGAL ACTION:

- Officials in France reported X to prosecutors, labeling the content "manifestly illegal" under European law.

PLATFORM RESTRICTIONS:

- On January 14, 2026, X announced new measures to block Grok from editing images of real people into "revealing clothing" like bikinis.
- This restriction applies to all users, including paid subscribers, though experts noted that some vulnerabilities remained.

CORPORATE DEFENSE:

- Elon Musk initially dismissed reports as "legacy media lies". He later claimed he was "not aware of any naked underage images" generated by Grok and stated the tool is programmed to refuse illegal requests.

WATCHDOG FINDINGS:

- The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) confirmed finding sexual imagery of children that appeared to be made by Grok, noting its circulation on dark web forums.
- As of January 18, 2026, the platform X is still allowing users to post sexualized images generated by GROK AI

REGULATORY IMPACT

The controversy has accelerated legislative efforts to regulate AI-generated content:

UNITED KINGDOM:

New laws criminalizing the creation of non-consensual sexual deepfakes came into force in January 2026.

UNITED STATES:

- The Take It Down Act, signed in 2025, will require platforms to remove such imagery within 48 hours of a request starting in May 2026