

# User Safety の実現に向けた VRChat.inc とのパートナーシップ



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## Overview

User Safety has become a core governance challenge in Social VR. As immersive platforms expand into global socio-technical infrastructures, preventing harm, strengthening trust, and ensuring inclusive participation require coordination between platform operators, civil society, and international governance bodies. To address this, Virtual Rights and VRChat Inc. signed a **Policy Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in 2025, establishing a formal collaborative framework to promote safe, inclusive, and creative digital spaces.

### Why Partnership Is Needed

Social VR presents safety challenges that no single actor can address alone. Highly cross-border interactions, user-generated 3D assets, cultural diversity, and rapid community dynamics create governance gaps between platform operations, national regulators, and international policy bodies. **Addressing these gaps requires a coordinated model that links platform expertise with civil-society legitimacy and global policy access.**

## Virtual Rights: An Institution Positioned for Global Policy Engagement

Virtual Rights has spent nearly five years defending VR cultural practices and user rights from misinformed or overly restrictive policy interventions. The organization operates at the intersection of technology, law, and human rights, providing a civic perspective often missing in platform-centered policy debates.

### WIPO Observer Status (2024)

Policy Access in Global IP and Cultural Rights Governance: Being designated as an Observer by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) enables Virtual Rights to:

- Attend WIPO Standing Committee meetings and technical sessions.
- Submit written statements and participate in discussions relevant to digital creativity, UGC markets, avatar-based economies, and cultural rights.
- Influence soft-law outcomes in areas increasingly intertwined with User Safety, such as misuse of digital assets, rights over avatars, and cultural expression in virtual spaces.



This status positions Virtual Rights as a stakeholder capable of representing user-generated creative communities in international policy venues.

World Intellectual Property Organization. (n.d.). WIPO observers. Retrieved November 24, 2025, from <https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/observers/>

### UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (2025)

Direct Access to UN Policy-Making Spaces: Receiving Special Consultative Status from the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) grants Virtual Rights:

- The right to attend UN conferences, expert meetings, and policy forums related to digital governance, child safety, online harms, privacy, and human rights.
- The ability to submit official written statements circulated to all member states.
- Opportunities to participate in dialogues shaping global norms on online safety, platform accountability, and protection of vulnerable groups.
- Institutional legitimacy to conduct structured lobbying toward UN agencies.



This status transforms Virtual Rights from a domestic NGO into an actor capable of influencing global governance architectures.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (n.d.). Introduction to ECOSOC consultative status. Retrieved November 24, 2025, from <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/ngo/consultative-status>

### Bridging Governance Gaps

Virtual Rights' access to WIPO and UN policy arenas enables a function that platform companies alone cannot perform. It can translate on-the-ground user safety issues into globally relevant policy language and bring civic-society perspectives into discussions traditionally dominated by governments and industry. This bridging role forms a core foundation of the partnership with VRChat.

## Why These Accreditations Matter for User Safety

User Safety in Social VR is not purely a technical or community-management issue. It increasingly intersects with:

- International child protection regimes
- Cross-border harmful content governance
- Data protection and privacy law
- Digital rights frameworks
- Consumer protection and platform accountability

Virtual Rights' presence in WIPO and the UN system creates a conduit for VRChat's on-the-ground safety issues to be translated into international policy debates—a capability most civil-society groups and platform companies lack individually.

## VRChat's Safety Commitments: The Platform Foundation of the Partnership

### Vision:

Create a universe full of endless possibilities by building a safe, trusted, and risk-aware environment.

### Trust & Safety Investment:

- In 2025, our Trust & Safety (T&S) budget increased 100% and our staffing has grown by more than 50%.
- We partnered with a professional content moderation company, to expand coverage and ensure additional support across time zones.
- We updated Community Guidelines and introduced a new integrity framework to reinforce accountability and user protection.

### Safety by Design

- Enhanced Reporting Tools: Simplified and transparent reporting to empower users and clarify rule enforcement.
- Detection Tools: Investing in advanced systems that identify harmful content early while maintaining user privacy and freedom of expression.

- + • INHOPE Summit: VRChat participated in this global event bringing together organizations, governments, and tech companies to fight online child sexual abuse. This marks VRChat's first major industry partnership effort and an important milestone in our global safety collaboration.
- UNICEF Korea: UNICEF strives to uphold the rights of every child, protecting them from harm and all forms of discrimination, so that they can grow up healthy and educated to reach their full potential.

## Core Domains of the VRChat x Virtual Rights Policy Partnership

- International Policy Engagement
- Engagement with Domestic Policy Authorities
- Civic Society and Safety Trends
- Promotion of Inclusive Digital Spaces

## Conclusion

The Policy Partnership between Virtual Rights and VRChat Inc. represents a new institutional model for advancing User Safety in immersive digital ecosystems.

By combining:

- Platform operational capabilities
- Civil-society legitimacy
- International policy access

it creates a hybrid governance mechanism capable of influencing global norms while supporting day-to-day user experience.

Virtual Rights will continue to expand this collaborative model to ensure that Social VR evolves into a safe, inclusive, and creatively vibrant space for all.

## Future Works

Future work will build on this collaborative foundation as we explore more structured and scalable approaches to user protection. Platform-level safety insights will inform broader governance discussions, while civic-sector expertise helps translate emerging risks into policy-relevant directions. By aligning these perspectives, the partnership will examine mechanisms that enable clearer safety expectations, cross-border coherence, and more participatory models of trust and protection in immersive environments.

本報告にあたって、VRChat.inc から現在の取り組みに係る情報提供を頂いた。ここに適正に開示し、感謝を申し上げます。