

Child Sexual Abuse Material on Reddit

Cover Page: National Center on Sexual Exploitation's Policy on Sharing Proof

WARNING: *The material in this document may contain graphic text, blurred images, and survivor quotes that may trigger the viewer.*

Why do we post proof in the first place?

NCOSE researchers have collected this proof as evidence of the material that is made, contained, and/or distributed by the corporations and institutions NCOSE is confronting.

Proof is shared with corporate executives, shareholders, and/or board members, as well as with policymakers, law enforcement, journalists, and the general public to **give witness to the sexual exploitation and abuse that is often rampant, yet sometimes hidden, on these platforms.**

Why do you blur out images, including faces, if they're publicly available?

While we believe it is important to provide ample evidence of wrong-doing to support our claims and inspire change, **we also strongly believe that no one – neither adult, nor child – should be exposed to the type of material our researchers collect:** either for their own well-being, or out of respect for those being exploited. It is for this reason we pixelate/blur/block not only nudity or sexually graphic content, but also the faces of those being exploited.

We also want to limit access to this material (unfortunately, a luxury not afforded to children and adults using many of the platforms and products made by these companies). Therefore, we add several layers before someone can access the proof, and also don't include all the proof that we have obtained. If someone feels they need to see more evidence to understand the extent of the problem or the type of exploitation that is happening, they may request it of NCOSE by writing to public@ncose.com.

Did you receive people's permission to post?

Any personal testimony shared to NCOSE directly is posted only with the affected parties approval.

For material that is publicly available, we do not seek permission to post. However, we redact names and usernames of survivors from articles, social media, etc. even when publicly available. To read more about our commitment to ethical engagement with survivors, please go [here](#). We do not redact names or usernames of exploiters who have posted publicly.

Disclaimer: while we do collect information on those who request access to more proofs, that information will only be used for our own, internal analysis. It will not be distributed, shared, or posted publicly or with outside parties.

There is no meaningful age or consent verification metric in place for pornographic materials shared on Reddit, which means the platform is likely infested with non-consensually recorded/shared materials, including child sexual abuse materials. Further, many users share links (some encrypted) to collections of this material, thereby using Reddit as an “advertisement” strategy for the abusive content.

News reports, like those below, exemplify numerous cases of child sexual abuse materials being shared on Reddit.

[Mother raises alarm on explicit Reddit posts featuring underage Sask. girls](#) (LeaderPost, December 2021)

She recently found out her 16-year-old daughter’s name was attached to an explicit photo that was posted on the website...The woman said she’d been fighting an uphill battle trying to get the subreddit taken down by the company. She called the experience “horrificing.”

“It’s incredibly vulnerable. And not only that, but the fact that there doesn’t appear to be any means of ending it is almost unfathomable,” she said.... The woman said she visited the subreddit and saw pictures of “several dozen” young girls, many of them Indigenous. Not only that, but the girls were identified by name and location...There are men who were actually going on there and specifically requesting girls and then others are providing naked pictures of the girls that are being requested,” said the woman... “I can say with a lot of confidence that these are underage girls.”

[San Antonio man who used Skype \[and Reddit\] to share child porn gets prison term](#) (San Antonio Express-News , September 2021)

A San Antonio man arrested last year has been sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of possession of child pornography, the Bexar County District Attorney’s Office said Tuesday...Authorities said Villarreal used an alias while online, and confessed to downloading and sharing the material with users he met through Reddit, a website where registered members share and discuss content on numerous forums.

[Reddit faces lawsuit for failing to remove child sexual abuse material](#) (The Verge, April 2021)

A woman has sued Reddit for allowing an ex-boyfriend to repeatedly post pornographic images of her as a 16-year-old... The woman, identified under the pseudonym Jane Doe, argues that “Reddit knowingly benefits from lax enforcement of its content policies, including for child pornography.” She claims that in 2019, an abusive ex-boyfriend posted sexual photos and videos that he’d taken without her knowledge or consent. But when she alerted Reddit moderators, they could wait “several days” before removing the content, while Reddit

administrators allowed the man to keep posting and create a new account when his old account was banned.

[The Children of Pornhub \(The New York Times: Dec 4, 2020\)](#)

Nick Kristof states, “The problem goes far beyond one company. Indeed, a rival of Pornhub, XVideos, which arguably has even fewer scruples, may attract more visitors. Depictions of child abuse also appear on mainstream sites like Twitter, Reddit and Facebook. And Google supports the business models of companies that thrive on child molestation.”

[This Teenager Rose To TikTok Fame. Then Her Old Underage Nudes Started To Circulate.](#)

"No-one deserves to have their private photos leak and to be shown to the world and to be constantly reminded about it," she told BuzzFeed News.

Megan Guthrie is an 18-year-old student from Miami, Florida, and like many people her age, she's obsessed with TikTok. In August last year she began making videos on the platform after being grounded by her parents.

Her TikTok videos — which show her making jokes, dancing or jumping on the latest trend — took off. Her account...has more than 1.7 million followers, and her videos have been viewed hundreds of millions of times.

In early April nudes Guthrie had taken when she was 17 and sent to one other person began circulating on the internet.

The images first leaked onto Discord, she said, before making their way onto other social media platforms and websites. They went viral. A (now-defunct) subreddit created to share the images was [the fastest growing subreddit on April 3.](#)

Her TikTok username was a trending search on Pornhub, which hosted video slideshows of the images. One person even recreated the images in Minecraft.