January 8, 2015

Mr. Jim Larkin
Backpage, LLC
1201 E Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Dear Mr. Larkin:

We are writing to express our great concern regarding the sexual exploitation of women and children by Backpage LLC. Sex trafficking and prostitution are grave ills that all should combat but you enrich yourself from both on your “Adult” services section. We are also greatly concerned that Backpage welcomes pornography, including potentially child pornography, to promote these services.

We ask you to eliminate the “Adult” section and to stop seeking profits from sexual exploitation.

Backpage.com has become a top place to buy and sell sex trafficked women and children, using pornographic images of their abuse as advertising. You actively oppose laws that make it a felony to advertise sexual services of children.

Shortly, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCSE) and Morality in Media (MIM) will publicly announce the annual “Dirty Dozen List,” which contains the top promoters of sexual exploitation in America. After careful consideration, we have decided to add Backpage.com to that list.

All children, women, and men have a natural human dignity and thus a right to live in a decent society. Sex trafficking, prostitution, and pornography are inherently degrading, dehumanizing, and exploitive, and violate this right.
We would welcome the opportunity to meet with your representatives to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Trueman
President & CEO

Dawn Hawkins
Executive Director