Sexual Grooming of Minors on Discord

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.

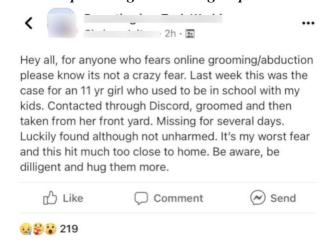
Disclaimer: while we do collect information on those who request access to more proofs, that information will only be used for our own, internal analysis. It will not be distributed, shared, or posted publicly or with outside parties.

Compiled by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation: www.endsexualexploitation.org.

Discord facilitates a space for sexual grooming by abusers or sex traffickers, leaving it anything but a safe and friendly place for minors. These abusers or traffickers know minors are on Discord and utilize the platform to engage with minor users through mutual servers and direct messaging.

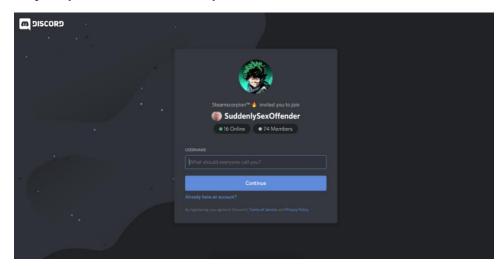
Here are just a few examples of children being groomed and abused through Discord in the news:

- A <u>12 year old girl</u> was groomed for over two months and manipulated into leaving her California home in the middle of the night by a 40 year old predator.
- Two teenage boys were <u>found in a sex trafficking ring</u> where the traffickers used Discord to contact the victims.
- A 22 year old man was arrested when a 12 year old girl he had been talking to on Discord disappeared with him in a car.
- Several predators groomed a 12 year old boy by sending him explicit messages and even calling him over a period of six weeks, before his mother found out and deleted Discord.
- A 25 year old man <u>extorted a 12 year old girl</u> into sending him explicit photos of herself, where he then would threaten to publicly post the photos or report her if she did not send more. Authorities found this Discord predator was talking to other children on the app aged 7-15.
- Posing as a teenager on Discord, one man blackmailed girls as young as 12 across the country into sending him explicit material of themselves.
- In Australia, a 20 year old man <u>solicited intimate images from a 12 year old girl</u> after grooming her through Discord, with police saying the messages expressed a desire to engage in "violent and abhorrent behaviour".
- A 31 year old man "enticed, encouraged, and instructed the victims to produce child pornography and child sexual abuse material in the form of sexually explicit images and video recordings of themselves to send to Locher over the internet, including through the use of Discord," and used those images to further exploit and cause harm.
- A 36 year old man from Canada <u>flew to a 14 year old girl's</u> Australian hometown after spending months grooming and sexually exploiting her on Discord
- From a parenting Facebook group:



Discord's platform creates several ways for adults to contact children.

A "parody" server called SuddenlySexOffender:





An example of adults calling 15 year old children "super hot":

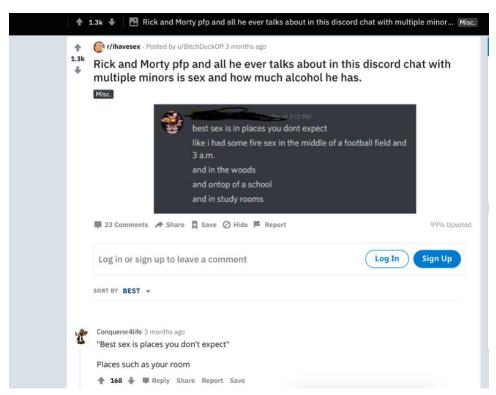


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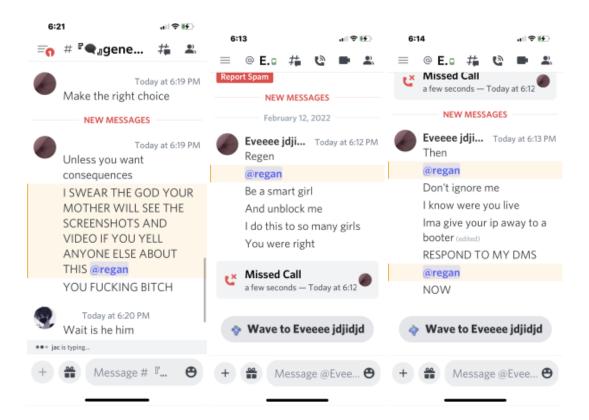
A user in a server used to discuss a TV show asking specifically for ages in the public chat:



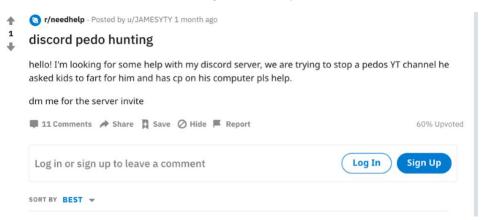
A user in a server with multiple minors talking about sex in public, including school and study rooms.

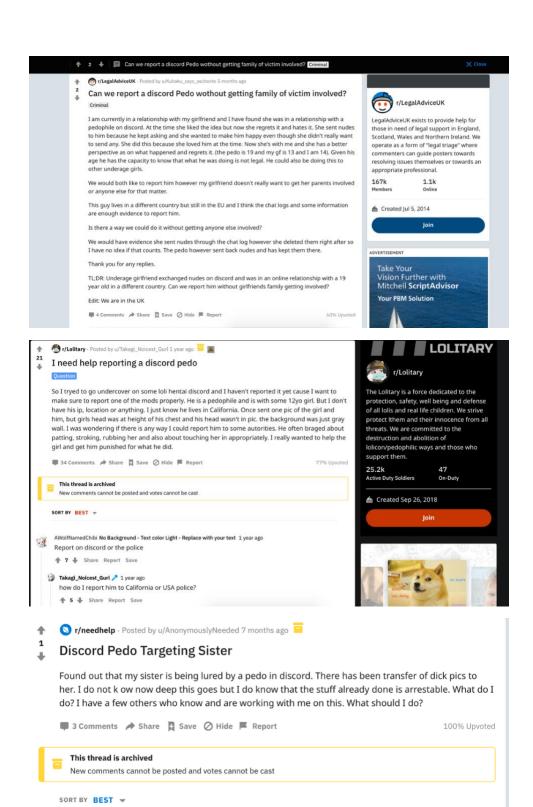


Another egregious example found on Reddit shows an adult man attempting to extort and intimidate a minor girl into further contact....



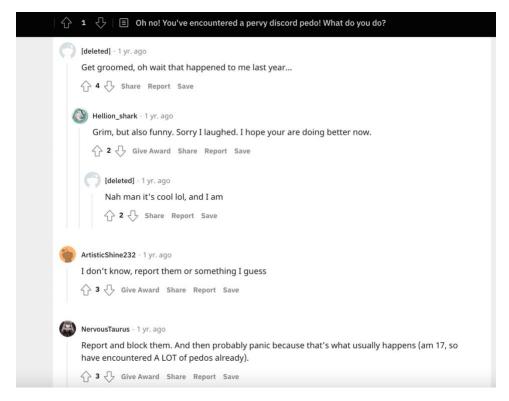
In online communities like Reddit, Discord's problem with adult predators is well-known enough that some regular citizens attempt to catch the predators themselves, commonly referred to as "pedo hunting". [NCOSE does not advise or encourage this activity.]







One user asked what they should do when encountering predators on Discord. Two commenters indicated it had already happened to them multiple times.



<u>Discord is clearly not doing enough to monitor and actively catch grooming and predator targeting using their current moderation and filtering strategies.</u>