

Testimonies and Reviews about Dangers 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 proof, that information will only be used for our own, internal analysis. It will not be distributed, shared, or posted publicly or with outside parties.

The dangers of Discord are well documented through news articles and some of the proof gathered here.

Many parents have reached out with reviews and testimony regarding just how dangerous Discord can be for children on the platform:

Adult
Written by [unitedkingdomdad](#)
June 24, 2019

age 18+ ★★★★★

Seriously poor protection for children

Firstly lets dispel the myth that your child on here is safe as they can block people and only be found by people they choose to link with. They meet these 'people' on games who befriend them there and from there send them to discord groups and invites therefore bypassing the invite system. My child has gotten involved with a group who are far beyond the realms of any decency and the conversations people were having with my 14 year old have made me sick. I am just glad I have found out in time to try and prevent any further psychological problems. He has been slowly groomed and I guess it could have been only a matter of time before something dangerous happened. I would seriously not recommend this to any child or parent until it gets some sort of filters and security in place to stop people creating and running these sort of perverted and deviant groups.

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This review...

Helped me decide (2)

Had useful details (1)

Read my mind

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Adult
Written by [KeepOurChildrenSafe](#)
October 10, 2019

age 18+ ★★★★★

Not safe for young teens AT ALL

Just reviewed the messages on my 13-year old daughters computer. Yes, I gave her permission with the caveat that she could only talk to her female friends from school. She had over 200 requests from men online wanting to talk to her. She befriended about 20 of them who she played online games with (that I didn't know about). From the history of the dialogue, they started "friendly" and then quickly escalated to sending inappropriate anime pics, disgusting, vulgar texts, videos, you name it, sending messages wee into the night, constantly prying for more information. THIS IS NOT appropriate for young teens at all. If you're 18 and above and off to college, I guess c'est la vie but this should NOT be allowed for younger teens that that. ABSOLUTELY inappropriate. 100%. No and if or buts about it.

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Adult
Written by Mmartin92
October 29, 2019

age 18+ ★★★★★

Pedophiles everywhere!!

My daughter was groomed by 2 men over the course of a month and eventually our worst nightmare happened. Grown men sending naked photos to kids! Kids being groomed into sending explicit photos to pedophiles. There's lots of talk about suicide and kids telling each other to lull themselves. It's a nasty horrible app that a child has no business being on.

We had no clue she was able to access this app. She has multiple parental blocks on her phone and she was informed of a work around and got on the site.

Please please please do not let your children on this app!! Ever!!

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- 🚫 Drinking, Drugs & Smoking
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This review...

Helped me decide (1)

Had useful details

Read my mind (2)

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Adult
Written by Danni87
February 10, 2020

age 18+ ★★★★★

Dangerous, scary app for kids!

So my 13 year old and I thankfully have an incredible relationship that we talk freely and have a great trust. Over the last few months he's become really secretive with his phone, to the point he even changed his Apple ID! He's become withdrawn and basically I had to stage an intervention.. which is hard for me I'm

Not a regular Mum, I'm

A cool Mum.. what transpired is two gamers who professed to be 'friends' invited

My Son into a chat. The chat had progressed over several months and they had gained the trust of my son. They had begun discussing rape, sexuality and even suicide. Thankfully my Son didn't actually reply to these chats only the ones about games but I'm mortified at the context he's been exposed to. I had no idea about this app because they had told him to get a secret app that hides these sorts of apps! I was so shocked! You read this stuff but don't experience it! Thankfully I've managed to mutually agree with him he will not use this or any similar until he's older, but other kids may not feel able to talk or even be this lucky. If this sounds dramatic, it's because it is! Do not let your kid use this app!

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Adult
Written by MomOfAPrince42
January 11, 2020

age 18+ ★★★★★

This app is not for kids PERIOD!

My son downloaded this app as a way to connect with other gamers. I was horrified to find chat rooms full of racist and sexual content and private chats with people asking for pictures to which thank goodness, he did not send. I deleted this app immediately!! I also restricted him from ever downloading it again while under me. This app should NOT be accessible to anyone under 18 and even that's to you in my opinion.

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Adult
Written by Concerned_mum
September 24, 2019

age 18+ ★★★★★

A stepping stone for pedophiles to groom young children

My daughter has been using this app. Just discovered it. And I am shocked at the level of absurd and sexually graphic content she has been subjected to. She is a 12 year old, this app if added without knowledge of a parent, like my daughter has done, can be detrimental to ones mental health from content I've read in the chat groups she is part of. I strongly urge further monitoring or barriers in place where a 12 year old can't so easily pass as older and be groomed by who knows on these sites. What I read sounds very much like grooming to me. And I have forwarded these messages plus others of concern onto police to investigate. I strongly advise parents to closely monitor any activity, as compared to other other apps and social media, specific games appear to be role played out with explosive sexual content.

I am so shocked to have found what I did and am glad I have been able to put a stop to it for my child but it makes me wonder how often this is occurring for other young girls and boys.

Needs to be strictly monitored if used.

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Adult
Written by AceBright
July 3, 2019

age 18+ ★★★★★

It does not make any easy to report

The last time a girl that is still at school was receiving inappropriate messages from an obvious pedophile and there was not easy way to report the user.

Also is difficult to read compared to other chat apps, you can't easily tell which are your messages, also groups are not supervised at all. Again, not easy way to report inappropriate content of any type.

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Adult
Written by TomWood66
February 3, 2019

age 16+ ★★★★★

Discord is not safe at all!

To parents wondering if your children are safe on discord please read this first.

So the first problem with discord is the NSFW & dating servers. They allow servers that provide underage users with porn & nudes. Recently i joined a server that had no age system and was full of 14 year olds etc. They also allowed people to post nudes of their ex which is called revenge porn which is against the law, I reported this and discord didn't do anything at all.

Another thing that came out recently is paedophiles on discord. So it came to light recently that a 30 year old man was talking to children on discord (in a server full of thousands of people because he owns a bot discord) And discord account banned him but are refusing to ban his 4 new accounts. If any parents join a NSFW server you'll see for yourself the amount of paedophiles and creeps that are in there wanting to talk to kids but discord does nothing.

Any parent with young children (I'd say under 16) should not allow them to use discord or if you do then monitor what servers they are in because trust me you can't rely on discord to keep your kids safe.

I do have positive things to say about discord but to me safety is more important than fancy voice servers and stuff.

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This review...

Protect Young Eyes, a parenting and tech resource, provides a [comprehensive review of Discord](#). They said:



SPEAKING ▾ OUR APP BLOG PARENTAL

Users intentionally create servers/groups in order to be private and at times, inappropriate with each other. Discord is now starting to moderate and review servers, but read this App Store quote from a parent:

"Our son was exposed to explicit sexual content, including videos, pictures, chats and video chats. There are also groups that are not gaming related and may have negative impacts on your children. Again, access to adult orientated topics. Many of the messages were from people seeking help, talking about suicide, doing drugs, cutting etc. I have no idea how old any of the other discord users are since I cannot view much detail in their profiles...I do not recommend this app for anyone who is not an adult."

Discord is a mature environment. Please proceed with caution. If your child sees horrible content on Discord or anywhere else, we have specific steps that might help: [My Kid is Caught Up in Porn or Sexting. Now What?](#)

GIFS, emojis, and images are easy to share. The interaction with images that could be sexual in nature would stem from the user and the user's connections, which are able to be limited.

Parents and caregivers are clearly concerned over Discord's apparent dangers to their children and need Discord to support them by providing better safety tools (such as parental controls!) and concentrated moderation efforts.