

Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer
Google, Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, California 94043

Dear Mr. Pichai:

We the undersigned 104 survivors and advocates from 13 countries are writing to request that Google improve its search engine policies to no longer promote access to sexual violence, incest, racist or other abusive pornography.

As documented by the New York Times, Google currently directs searchers to rape pornography and more, although Google responsibly intervenes on other harmful searches. For example, “[If you search] ‘How do I poison my husband,’ ...the results were literary or humorous, not how-to instructions. The top responses to ‘How do I commit suicide’ were for a suicide hotline. So, Google, why not demonstrate the same responsibility when it comes to searches for rape videos?”¹

We also ask Google to decrease the surfacing of MindGeek owned platforms in searches, including Pornhub, given the proven fact the company has profited and distributed child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, non-consensual content, and sexual violence. We’re grateful that Google searches for “child pornography” no longer lead to Pornhub (which it did as recently as December 2020). But multiple searches, including “teen porn,” still direct the user to Pornhub and other MindGeek-owned hardcore pornography sites.

MindGeek has been publicly confronted by numerous survivors, who have come forward about their sex trafficking or child sexual abuse being filmed and then uploaded and shared countless times on Pornhub and their other websites.² Others have shared that Pornhub profited from distributing recorded rape, non-consensually recorded and/or non-consensually uploaded intimate videos.³

In response, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover credit cards rightly cut ties with Pornhub.⁴ Kraft Heinz and Unilever have stopped advertising on Pornhub.⁵ The New York Times article, titled “The Children of Pornhub,” has outlined the rampant abuse on Pornhub, and an online petition has garnered over 2 million signatures to shut down Pornhub for aiding sex trafficking,⁶ and multiple class action and civil lawsuits have been filed. American Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif,

¹ Nicholas Kristof, “Why Do We Let Corporations Profit From Rape?” New York Times, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/16/opinion/sunday/companies-online-rape-videos.html>

² Nicholas Kristof, “The Children of Pornhub” New York Times, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/04/opinion/sunday/pornhub-rape-trafficking.html>

³ Megha Mohan, “I was raped at 14, and the video ended up on a porn site” BBC, 2020, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-51391981>

⁴ Jasmin Goodwin, “Mastercard, Visa and Discover cut ties with Pornhub following allegations of child abuse” CNN, 2020 <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/12/14/business/mastercard-visa-discover-pornhub/index.html>

⁵ “Unilever and Heinz pay for ads on Pornhub, the world’s biggest porn site” The Sunday Times November 03 2019, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/unilever-and-heinz-pay-for-ads-on-pornhub-the-worlds-biggest-porn-site-knjzlmwzv>

⁶ <https://traffickinghubpetition.com/>

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb, Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-OR, also called for investigations into Pornhub regarding these issues.⁷

Further, a Canadian parliamentary committee questioned MindGeek executives as part of their investigation about their harmful practices. During one of these investigative hearings, it was revealed that Pornhub lied about having a partnership with the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). It was also revealed that Pornhub did not report child sexual abuse materials (CSAM, i.e. child pornography) to US or Canadian child protection agencies from 2008-2020.⁸ This is particularly egregious because Canada passed a law in 2011 requiring all companies in Canada to report CSAM. This means Pornhub, and the corporation MindGeek, failed to abuse by the law in Canada, despite the fact that they publicly falsely claimed to have a strong partnership with the NCMEC.

It is clear that Pornhub/MindGeek cannot be trusted to self-regulate, and that even studio produced pornography (for example: Girls Do Porn, Czech Casting, Jacquie and Michel, and more) is rife with examples of sexual trafficking, sexual violence and coercion.

Further there is rampant racism promoted and eroticized on MindGeek platforms. Pornography “channels” MindGeek has facilitated, for example, include: Exploited Black Teens, Exploited African Immigrants, Black on Black Crime, African Sex Slaves, Black Ambush, and more.

Google remains one of the only major corporate entities continuing to support the infrastructure of MindGeek – a decision that not only legitimizes a racist, criminally violent, and degrading company, but also leaves your corporation open to liability as well.

Google can now have no excuse of ignorance that they are facilitating access to exploitive content by surfacing pornographic content in response to searches for sexual violence, incest, racism, and by surfacing MindGeek platforms.

We offer you an opportunity to meet with survivors and subject matter experts, such as ourselves, to understand these issues.

Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Australia

Anna Kerr, Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.
Nikki Capp, Advocate
Melinda Tankard Reist, Collective Shout
Sarah O'Neill, Survivor Leader
Tim Ross, Lutheran Church of Australia

New Zealand

Bob McCoskrie, Family First New Zealand

Nigeria

Chinyere Eyoh, Survivor Leader & Sexual Offences Awareness & Response Initiative

Canada

Amy Wing, Survivor of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Singapore

Jonathan Lee, Advocate

⁷ Dorman, Sam, “Pornhub faces bipartisan scrutiny, calls for investigation amid trafficking concerns” Fox News, March 2020, <https://www.foxnews.com/media/pornhub-doj-investigation-bipartisan-scrutiny>

⁸ “Meeting No. 21 ETHI - Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics” February 22, 2021. <https://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20210222/-/1/34824?Language=English&Stream=Video>

Casandra Diamond, Survivor, BridgeNorth,
Women's' Mentorship & Advocacy Services
Katarina MacLeod, Survivor, Rising Angels
Awareness and Restorative Care
Kaleigh Mahony, Survivor, Tell Your Friends
Society
Kelly Tallon Franklin, Survivor, Courage for
Freedom
Laurie Mackenzie, Survivor Leader
Rachel Manichoose, Survivor
Rose Sullivan, Survivor
Shona Stewart, Survivor Leader, StCFServices
Brian Krammer, The Overcoming Porn Initiative
Cheryl Perera, OneChild
Debbie Pond, U-R Home Awareness & Support
Services
Denise March, Beacon Bags
Dolina Smith, Parents Aware
Farida Mohamed, Canadian Council of Muslim
Women Montreal
Gladys Mok, Fight4Freedom
Glendyne Gerrard, Defend Dignity
Hennes Doltze, Forward House
Jacob Pothaar, Highland Crossroads Inc
Janet Watson, Canadian Federation of University
Women Sherbrooke & District
Jeanne Sarson, Persons Against Non-State Torture
Jennifer Potter, 4:one
John Cassells, Lifeworthy - SIM Canada
Julia Beazley, The Centre for Faith and Public
Life
Linda MacDonald, Persons Against Non-State
Torture
Louise Froese, The Journey
Marissa Kokkoros, Aura Freedom
Maureen Kling, University Women's Club of
Vancouver
Megan Walker, London Abused Women's Centre
Michele Hines, Correctional and Justice Services
Naomi Holland, Redeemed With Purpose
Penny Rankin, Montreal Council of Women
Rafaela D, Arrêter Exploitationhub
Randene Hardy, Vancouver Collective Against
Sexual Exploitation (VCASE)
Ruby Langan, AWAN
Sandra Harrison, Vancouver Collective Against
Sexual Exploitation
Sara Foss, Aboriginal Women's Action Network
Shanza Khan, CCMW Niagara Halton
S.L. Bondarchuk, Edmonton Women & Allies
Against the Sex Industry (EWAASI)

South Africa

Anita Bron, Social Scientist
Nicholas Le Mesurier, Advocate
Marcel Van der Watt, National Freedom Network

Sweden

Monica Mazzitelli, Film Directress

United Kingdom

Anna Fisher, Nordic Model Now!
Haley McNamara, International Centre on Sexual
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Vanessa Morse, Centre to End All Sexual
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United States of America

Bonnie Hackett, Survivor
Deborah Lovern, Survivor
Jacqueline Skaggs, Survivor Leader
Jennisue Jessen, Member, US Advisory Council
on Human Trafficking
Kim Rogers, Survivor
Lisa Watts, Survivor
Melissa Pulsipher, Survivor
Nacole Svendgard, Parent of Survivor
Nancy Mills, Survivor, Therapist
Selina Deveau, Survivor Leader, Capture
Humanity
Ashley Hardick, TGTHR
Ashlie Bryant, 3Strands Global Foundation
Bethanee Syversen, ExPOSE
Charleen Ray, Lydia's House Of Zion,LLC
Dawn Hawkins, National Center on Sexual
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Dianne Post, Central Phoenix Inez Casiano NOW
Erica Billick, Living in Liberty
Erin Walker, End Exploitation Montana
Felecia George, Set Free Monterey Bay
Gail Dines, Culture Reframed
Jamie Smith, Home of Hope
Jasmyne Cummings, The Samaritan Women
Jason Front, Wired Human
Judi Riccio, Faithful Love, Inc
Kit Deu, NH Traffick Free
Laila Mickelwait, Traffickinghub
Lisa Rhodes, North Alabama Human Trafficking
Task Force
Lisa Varga, Agape International Missions
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Marcia Stocks, Oneida Crisis Center

Costa Rica

Susan Bissett, Face of Justice

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Samuel Gehl, Syngenta

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Liberia

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Mary Kehoe, Shine a Light Network

Megan Lundstrom, The Avery Center for
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Patrice Perrone, The Project Foundation

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Ruth Ann Larson, Citizens Against Sex
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Sandra Coombs, Aglow International

Shandra Woworuntu, Mentari

Susan Ingram, Walk Her Home

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Teresa Ulloa, CATWLAC

Terri Forliti, Breaking Free

Terri Marshall-Schrader, Alamos Colleges