

[email sent by Lina Nealon, Director of Corporate and Strategic Initiatives, September 19, 2022]

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Thank you for finally cutting ties with TrafficJunky, thereby further stemming the flow of profits to MindGeek and Pornhub through the ads being placed on a platform proven to be rife with sexual exploitation and abuse.

We now call on Visa to end its relationship with two other pornography platforms amassing a growing body of evidence of rampant child sex abuse material, sex trafficking, non-consensual pornography, and host of other crimes on their platforms: XVideos and XHamster. Together with Pornhub, they are the most visited pornography sites in the world. In fact, many of the unverified, user-uploaded videos that were removed from Pornhub in December 2020 were re-uploaded to these two sites.

We understand that both Visa and Mastercard cut ties with XVideos advertising arm, Traffic Factory – seemingly soon after the April 2021 New York Times piece by Nicolas Kristof. During one of our recent investigations, we noticed that Mastercard’s logo no longer appears on XVideos premium platform – XVideosRED. **When we tested using a Mastercard, it did not go through. When we called Vendo (the payment processor for XVideosRED) in late August and again last week, they confirmed that Mastercard could not be used and advised both times that we “use a Visa card instead.”**

Visa appears to be an option for purchasing tokens to use on XHamster’s premium site, Faphouse.

Both XVideos and XHamster have class action lawsuits filed against them, similar to those against MindGeek. Our Law Center is currently serving survivors whose sexual abuse was filmed and uploaded to XVideos platforms *within the last year*.

You can read more about the XHamster lawsuit [here](#), and the XVideos lawsuit [here](#).

As we have shared with your executive team and Visa employees several times since we first met with Visa in February 2020, “tube” sites consistently fail to prevent hosting actual (not just depicted) child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, non-consensually shared or recorded materials, and sexual assault. Such content is, even now, surfacing on XHamster and XVideo websites. Independent research published last year in [The British Journal of Criminology](#) analyzed Pornhub, XVideos, and XHamster and found significant indicators of likely unlawful content, stating:

“We have found that mainstream pornography websites are likely hosting material that is unlawful to distribute or download. It is not the case that criminal material is relegated to niche sites, hidden from all but a determined viewer, or only available on the dark web. It thus cannot be assumed either by regulators, individual users or policy-makers, that the mainstream websites are ‘safe’ sites, free from unlawful material...”

We’ve also shared with Visa that in addition to actual videos of sexual exploitation, such *themes* are also widely popular, together with incest-themed pornography and rampant racism promoted and eroticized on MindGeek and other pornography sites. A recent [content analysis](#) of 1,741 randomly sampled pornography scenes on Pornhub and XVideos found that 50.8% of black women were targets of physical aggression, whereas 36% of white women were. Black men were more likely to be aggressive toward women than white men (47.3% vs. 35.3%) and were also less likely to portray intimacy or affection to

their partners than white men (18% vs. 27.5%). **Continuing to support sites that not only eroticizes racism, but very likely further dangerous racist stereotypes is in direct contradiction to Visa's laudable [Black Lives Matter statement](#).**

Given the inherently high-risk nature of pornography companies and those sites that host pornography (like OnlyFans), we hope that Visa will reconsider processing payment for them all together, but certainly for those with mounting evidence of likely criminal activity such as XVideos and XHamster. We once again reiterate our invitation to connect you with survivors, law enforcement, and/or our legal counsel leading the lawsuits against these two sites to help aid you in any investigations you undertake.

We also hope that Visa considers establishing a robust policy and auditing system to require the age and consent verification for persons depicted in pornography.

While Visa was named to the 2022 Dirty Dozen List, we hope to see progress that would enable us to remove Visa and to praise your company for taking steps to protect human rights. We stand at the ready to collaborate with you, and to ensure your policies moving forward are survivor-centered and in line with social justice and anti-exploitation principles.

Best,

Lina Nealon

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