

## March 2021 – Jan 2022 Articles re: Reddit

### ***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](mailto: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.*

**[Inside Reddit's Nude Traders Club: Dark forum where men swap wives' nudes WITHOUT consent](#) (Meaww, January 2022)**

Reportedly, 'Wife Pic Trading' is one of the many such online forums found on Reddit. This particular group, which was created in mid-2015, has more than 270K members and the description reads, "DO NOT MAKE ANY POSTS WITHOUT POSTING A PIC!!!!!! Please read our Pinned Posts. for candaulists, couples, husbands, wives, gf's, etc. to connect and trade pics, videos, and whatever else. who knows, you might even meet after a casual conversation. Hey everyone. Over the past year this sub has grown a tremendous amount. While seeing so many new members contribute is wonderful, unfortunately means more issues that pop up."

**['Peeping Tom' took photos of naked women through their windows](#) (Gazette Live, January 2022)**

[The peeping tom] also posted revenge porn on the website Reddit....The court heard that someone who knew the victim came across the naked photos on Reddit and sent a message asking if they belonged to her. The woman created an account in order to report the photos so they were taken down. In a statement she said: "I feel violated and haven't been able to sleep properly. I also feel a sense of embarrassment and isolation. I'm worried people are still able to access the photos. I had a job interview this week and couldn't concentrate at all with all this on my mind".

**[Mother raises alarm on explicit Reddit posts featuring underage Sask. girls](#) (LeaderPost, December 2021)**

She recently found out her 16-year-old daughter's name was attached to an explicit photo that was posted on the website...The woman said she'd been fighting an uphill battle trying to get the subreddit taken down by the company. She called the experience "horrificing."

"It's incredibly vulnerable. And not only that, but the fact that there doesn't appear to be any means of ending it is almost unfathomable," she said.... The woman said she visited the subreddit and saw pictures of "several dozen" young girls, many of them Indigenous. Not only that, but the girls were identified by name and location...There are men who were actually going on there and specifically requesting girls and then others are providing naked pictures of the girls that are being requested," said the woman... "I can say with a lot of confidence that these are underage girls."

**[Maryland Mayor Andrew Bradshaw charged with allegedly posting revenge porn on Reddit \(Independent \(UK\), November 2021\)](#)**

The 32-year-old mayor of Cambridge is charged with 50 counts of distributing revenge porn, which he allegedly posted under various Reddit accounts that he had created between April and May.

**[A Powerful New Deepfake Tool Has Digitally Undressed Thousands of Women \(HuffingtonPost, September 2021\)](#)**

[A deepfake pornography tool that artificially allowed users to remove clothing from images of women was shared widely on Reddit.]

“Hundreds of Reddit threads have been created expressly for people to share and click on each other’s links. “Help me and I’ll help you,” one poster recently begged. “Want to see your friend naked?” another offered. “You’re welcome boys,” a third wrote.... A spokesperson for Reddit said the platform’s “site-wide policies prohibit involuntary pornography across all types of content, including deepfakes,” and that “we will continue to remove content that violates our policies and action users that engage in such content.” ... But links and photos from the website can still be found on [Reddit, at the time of the article publication], and nothing is stopping users from posting more.”

**[San Antonio man who used Skype \[and Reddit\] to share child porn gets prison term \(San Antonio Express-News , September 2021\)](#)**

A San Antonio man arrested last year has been sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of possession of child pornography, the Bexar County District Attorney’s Office said Tuesday...Authorities said Villarreal used an alias while online, and confessed to downloading and sharing the material with users he met through Reddit, a website where registered members share and discuss content on numerous forums.

**[Reddit faces lawsuit for failing to remove child sexual abuse material \(The Verge, April 2021\)](#)**

A woman has sued Reddit for allowing an ex-boyfriend to repeatedly post pornographic images of her as a 16-year-old... The woman, identified under the pseudonym Jane Doe, argues that “Reddit knowingly benefits from lax enforcement of its content polices, including for child pornography.” She claims that in 2019, an abusive ex-boyfriend posted sexual photos and videos that he’d taken without her knowledge or consent. But when she alerted Reddit moderators, they could wait “several days” before removing the content, while Reddit administrators allowed the man to keep posting and create a new account when his old account was banned.

[Reddit's CEO says the company will continue hosting porn](#) (Business Insider.com, March 2021)

Reddit CEO Steve Huffman on Sunday was asked whether the company plans to change its policy allowing porn. Reddit doesn't plan to ban pornography, he said.

## Feb 2020 – Feb 2021 Articles

[Reddit Hosts Girls Do Porn Videos and Doxing Despite Highly Documented Abuse](#) (Vice: Dec 8, 2020)

“After a civil court judge ruled that the owners of Girls Do Porn were guilty of coercing 22 women into having sex on camera, Reddit still hosted communities that doxed the real names of women in the videos and reposted non-consensual imagery from Girls Do Porn.”

“In October 2019, a week after federal investigators charged Girls Do Porn with federal counts of sex trafficking, Reddit banned the biggest Girls Do Porn subreddit. But since then, more subreddits and user accounts have surfaced to repost videos and links to content.”

“Many of the women who were lied to by Girls Do Porn are still trying to regain control of their images and their lives, years later.”

[Inside MollyBabes, the Shady Porn Site That Exploited Women on Ecstasy](#) (The Daily Beast: May 24, 2020)

“MollyBabes, a community on the vast online forum hub Reddit dedicated to sharing images and videos of women having sex while high on MDMA (NCOSE edit: Molly) launched in 2016.”

In February 2018, Reddit banned r/MollyBabes. Issued statement, “We are clear in our site-wide policies that involuntary pornography is prohibited.”

“In September 2018, MaryJaneandMolly rebuilt the community on a new, monetized website, which they posted about and linked to on a number of Reddit channels.” They stressed, “I really liked Molly porn and (the site) was easy to make.”

Anastasia Powell, author of *Sex, Power and Consent*, said, “Some of the images on MollyBabes are of women who appear unaware that they are being recorded, or so drug-affected that they appear incapable of consent.”

[The Children of Pornhub](#) (The New York Times: Dec 4, 2020)

Nick Kristof states, “The problem goes far beyond one company. Indeed, a rival of Pornhub, XVideos, which arguably has even fewer scruples, may attract more visitors. Depictions of child abuse also appear on mainstream sites like Twitter, Reddit and Facebook. And Google supports the business models of companies that thrive on child molestation.”

### [The art of the porn GIF \(Mashable: Aug 13, 2020\)](#)

“The legacy of the porn GIF continues today, primarily through dozens of subreddits.”

“The death of Tumblr inevitably led to Reddit becoming the predominant home for porn GIF communities.”

“Porn stars are actually starting to post their own homemade GIFs as well.” said Reddit user 88Remmer.

User Sparklyren said, “If a social media site allows porn and allows GIFs, you’ll certainly find a huge porn GIF community on that platform.”

### [Crypto Subreddit Mods Remove Post That Connects Kik to Child Porn \(Rolling Stone: Sep 24, 2020\)](#)

“TikTok videos frequently end up on platforms like Pornhub and Reddit.”

“A number of these videos have been cross-posted to subreddits devoted to cataloguing attractive women on the platform.”

“The popularity of the trend among underage creators has sparked concern with members of the TikTok community, who are worried about minors being exploited on other platforms.”

“It is not uncommon for underage TikTokers’ images to appear on other platforms like Reddit without their consent. “This happens all the time, sadly,” @bloodbathbey0nd tells *Rolling Stone*, pointing out that underage TikTokers don’t often reveal their real ages on the platform, further complicating matters.”