# **Sex Trafficking and Prostitution On Twitter**

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.

Evidence collected by The National Center on Sexual Exploitation. For more information visit www.endsexualexploitation.org

# **Sex Trafficking and Prostitution on Twitter**

As our society has increasingly entered the digital age, so have sex traffickers and pimps.

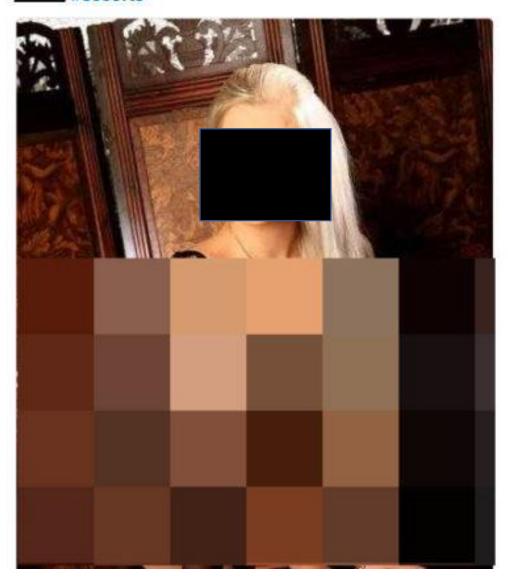
It is an accepted fact, supported by survivors of sex trafficking, that pornographic pictures and videos are used to advertise for both sex trafficking and prostitution victims (including minors.) Further, law enforcement is finding that many sex trafficking victims, [i] and child sexual abuse imagery (i.e. child pornography) victims, [ii] are coerced into creating livestream or webcam pornography as well.

Accounts posting and selling pornographic content, from images to videos to livestreams, and even requests for sugar baby/mommy dates, are undeniably flourishing on Twitter. The below screenshots were between 2017 and 2021. We did not include the more graphic posts of visually pornographic content, though these are easy for any user to stumble across.

Examples of Easily Identifiable Prostitution, & Likely Sex Trafficking, Advertisement Account



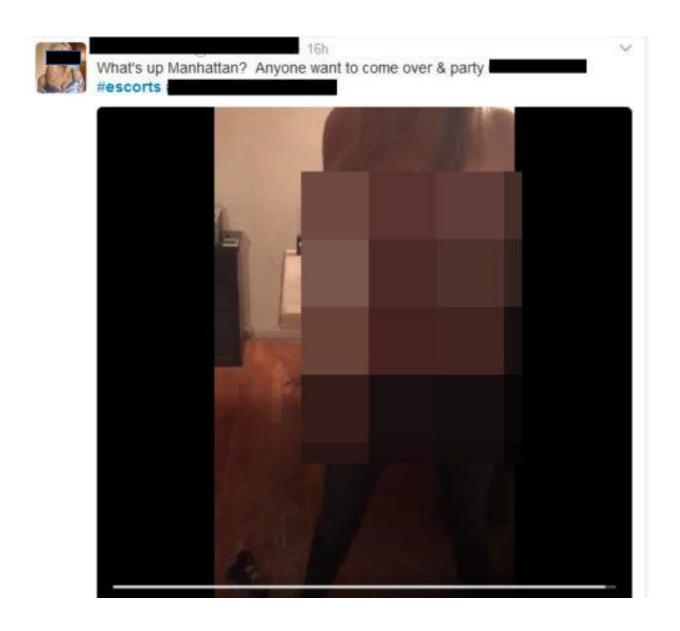




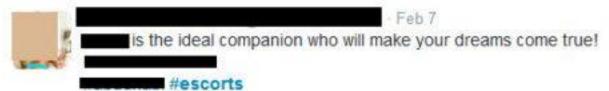


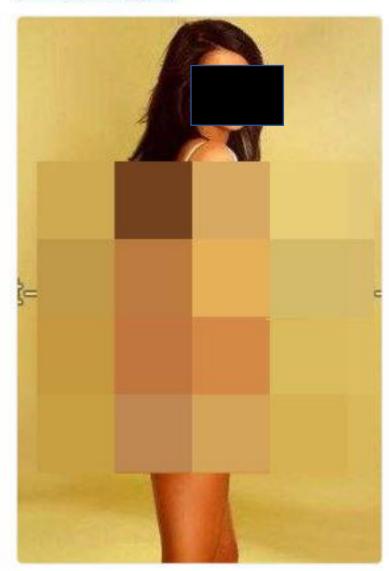


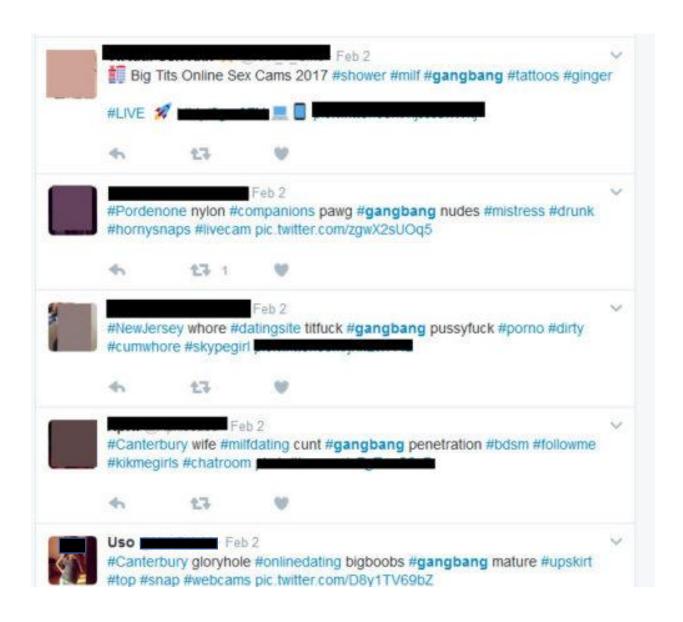










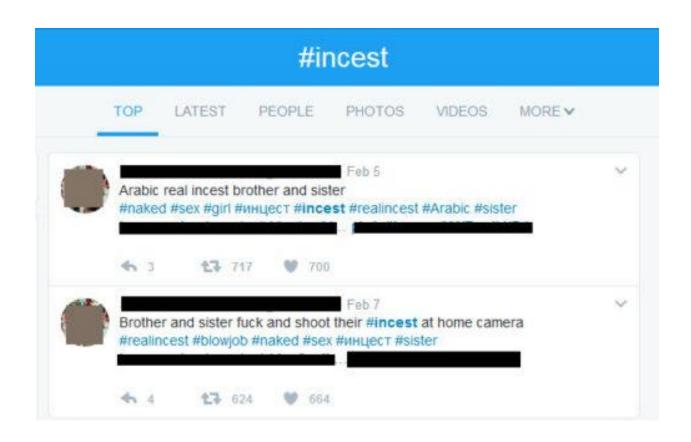


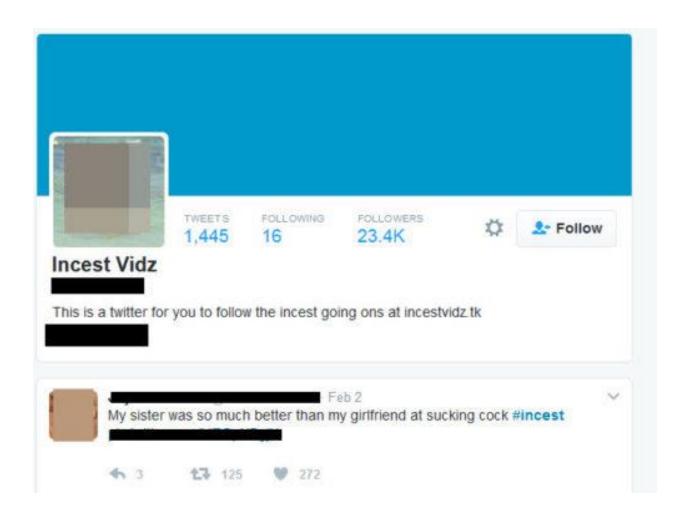














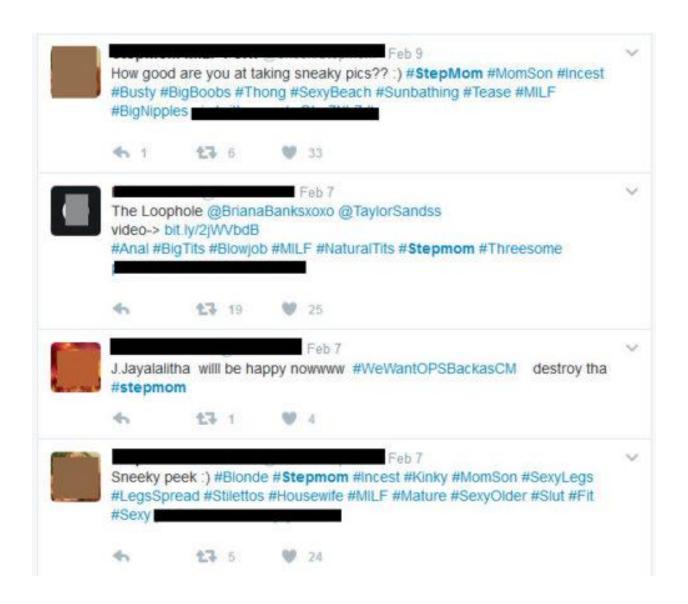


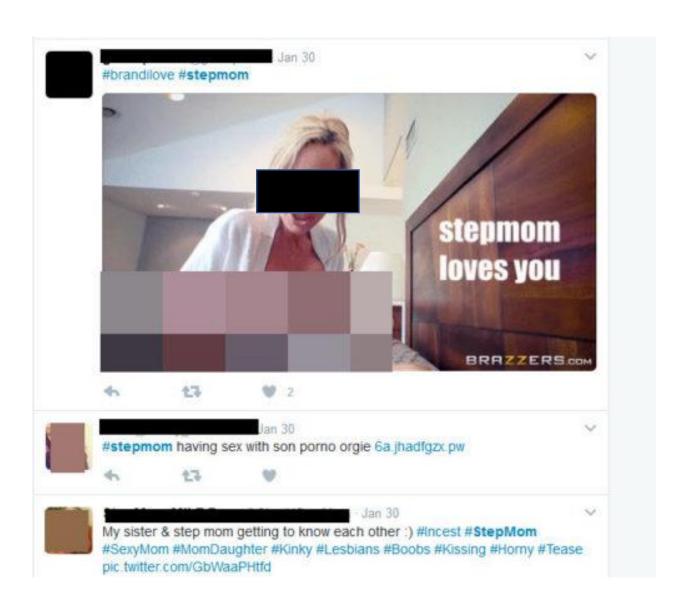




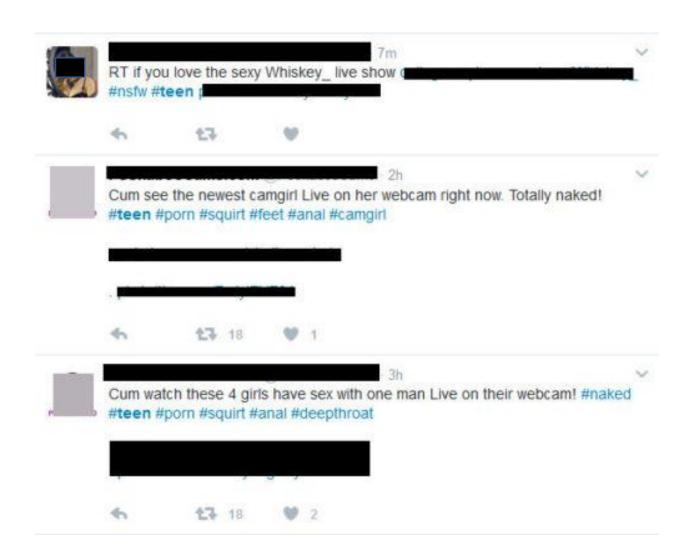
















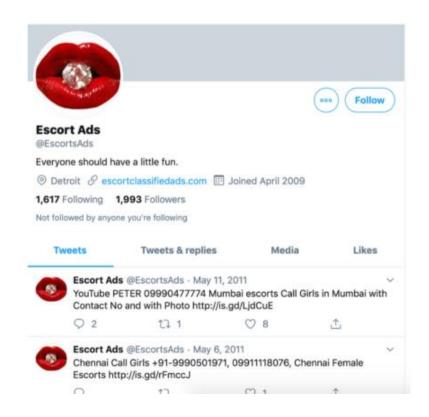




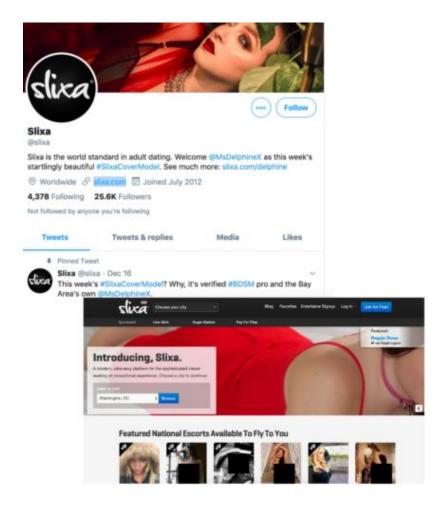
Evidence collected by The National Center on Sexual Exploitation. For more information visit <a href="https://www.endsexualexploitation.org">www.endsexualexploitation.org</a>











Examples of Tweets Advertising Prostitution & Likely Sex Trafficking

# 2019







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### 2018

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As long as Twitter continues to allow pornography, and fails to remove ads for sex acts (whether recorded, live streamed, or in person) it is impossible to distinguish between those that are allegedly willingly distributing pornographic content and those whose pages are being managed by a sex trafficker or pimp.

It has been documented by law enforcement that pimps and sex traffickers often either coerce trafficking or child sexual abuse victims into making such advertising posts, or create the posts themselves in their victim's name. This is what was found to happen on Backpage.com—the notorious classifieds ads website that was recently shut down by the Department of Justice for knowingly facilitating sex trafficking.

[i] Sunshine de Leon, "Cyber-sex trafficking: A 21st century" 2013. scourgehttps://www.cnn.com/2013/07/17/world/asia/philippines-cybersex-trafficking/index.html

[ii] Martha Mendoza and Jim Gomez, "AP Exclusive: Big child webcam sex bust reveals rising abuse" 2017. https://www.apnews.com/74b81f79e9024124a1cfe43a0ce9eec2