

Alfred F Kelly Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Visa, Inc.
900 Metro Center Blvd
Foster City, California, 94404-2775

Dear Mr. Kelly:

We the undersigned 62 survivors and advocates from eleven countries are writing to request that Visa halt processing payments for all MindGeek-owned websites. We thank Visa for pausing payment processing for the website Pornhub given the widely recognized sexual crimes being monetized on the website. To this day, MindGeek has not resolved the issues that caused its sites to be infested with videos of real rape, trafficking and non-consensual content. As per the recent under oath testimony of Pornhub/MindGeek's COO to Canadian Parliament in February, Pornhub still only verifies the age and ID of those uploading content but not every individual featured in the videos. This enables pimps and traffickers to continue to exploit victims for profit with impunity. We call on Visa to take the appropriate step and permanently sever ties with MindGeek, the owner of Pornhub and numerous other hardcore pornography websites, which is enabling and profiting from child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, non-consensual content, and sexual exploitation. By processing payments for this entity your corporation is enabling this abuse to continue.

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 MindGeek websites—one survivor told the New York Times “Pornhub became my trafficker.”² Others have shared that Pornhub (and therefore MindGeek) profited from distributing recorded rape, non-consensually recorded and/or non-consensually uploaded intimate videos.³

In response, in addition to Visa, Mastercard, and Discover credit cards have also rightly cut ties with Pornhub.⁴ The recent New York Times investigative piece, titled “The Children of Pornhub,” outlined the rampant abuse on Pornhub, and an online petition has garnered over 2 million signatures to shut down Pornhub for aiding sex trafficking,⁵ and multiple class action and civil lawsuits have been filed.⁶ American Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif, Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb, Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-OR, Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio have spoken out with concerns about sex trafficking and non-consensual content on Pornhub, and some have called for a US Department of Justice investigation into Pornhub.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, Jacque 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.

Visa can now have no excuse of ignorance that they are processing payments for one of the world’s most prolific sexual exploiters. Visa must stop 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.

We call on your corporation to cut all ties with MindGeek. We also offer you an opportunity to meet with survivors and subject matter experts, such as ourselves, to understand these issues (email public@ncose.com.)

Sincerely,

Australia

Anna Kerr, Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.
Melinda, Tankard Reist, Collective Shout
Tim Ross, Lutheran Church of Australia

Burundi

Willy Nkurunziza, Association Pour la Promotion de la Santé Humaine (A.P.S.H-BURUNDI)

Canada

Casandra Diamond,
Survivor, BridgeNorth Women's' Mentorship & Advocacy Services
Jackie Reimer, Survivor, Next Step Ministries
Rachel Manichoose, Survivor
Kelly Tallon Franklin, Survivor, Courage for Freedom
Laurie Mackenzie, Survivor leader
Shona Stewart, Survivor Leader, StCFServices
Cheryl Perera, OneChild
Debbie Pond, U-R Home Awareness & Support Services
Evelyn vollet, Member of VCASE
Farida Mohamed, Canadian Council of Muslim Women Montreal
Glendyne Gerrard, Defend Dignity
Janes Watson, Canadian Federation of University Women Sherbrooke & District
Jeanne Sarson, Persons Against Non-State Torture
Jennifer Dunn, London Abused Women’s Centre
Jennifer Potter, 4:one
Julia Beazley, The Centre for Faith and Public Life
Katarina MacLeod, Rising Angels

Denmark

Heidi Als Ringheim, Mediesundhed for Børn & Unge (Mediahealth for Children and Youth)

Germany

Maria Decker, SOLWODI

Liberia

Alvin Winford, African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Liberia

South Africa

Dr. Marcel, Van der Watt, National Freedom Network

New Zealand

Bob McCoskrie, Family First New Zealand

Nigeria

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

United Kingdom

Ali Morris, Swansea Feminist Network
Anna Fisher, Nordic Model Now!
Teresa Little, Cross Party Group on Sexual Exploitation Scottish Parliament
Haley McNamara, International Centre on Sexual Exploitation (UK) & National Center on Sexual Exploitation (US)
Vanessa Morse, Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)

United States of America

Kelly Franklin, Business and Professional Women
Canada
Marissa Kokkoros, Aura Freedom International
Maureen Kling, University Women's Club of
Vancouver
Megan Walker, London Abused Women's Centre
Michael Roy, Overcoming Porn Initiative
Mike Fischhoff, Fight4Freedom
Naomi Holland, Redeemed With Purpose
Penny Rankin, Montreal Council of Women
Randene Hardy, Vancouver Collective Against
Sexual Exploitation (VCASE)
S.L Bondarchuk, Canadian Women's Declaration;
Edmonton Small Press Association
Shanza Khan, CCMW Niagara Halton
Sheila Howlett, Rising Angels Awareness and
Restorative Care

Jennisue Jessen, Survivor Leader and US Advisory
Council on Human Trafficking Member
Monica Mazzitelli, Incest Survivor
Nacole Svendgard, Parent of a Survivor
Ashlie Bryant, 3Strands Global Foundation
Dianne Post, Central Phoenix Inez Casiano NOW
Gail Dines, Culture Reframed
Suzanne Isaza, Incest AWARE
Teresa Ulloa, Coalition Against Trafficking in
Women and Girls in Latin American and the
Caribbean (CATW-LAC)
Terry Forliti, Breaking Free
Judi Ricco, Faithful Love, Inc
Mary Kehoe, Shine a Light Network
Laila Mickelwait, Traffickinghub
Lisa Varga, Agape International Missions
Liliana Forero Montoya, Iniciativa ProEquidad
Susan Ingram, Walk Her Home
Jason Frost, Wired Human
Daniel Eastman, The Avery Center for Research
and Services
Robin Reber, Star Guides Wilderness