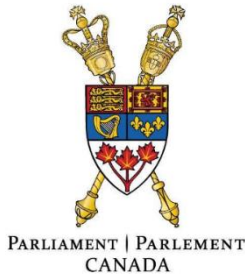


April 24, 2023

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Dear Prime Minister,

Today in Ontario there is a young woman who was a victim of child sexual abuse at 12 years old. Her abuse was recorded and shared online. In January 2020, she was made aware that the video of her child abuse was posted on Pornhub, a subsidiary of Montréal-based MindGeek. The video was behind a pay screen, however still images from the video were available to anyone. MindGeek was profiting off her abuse and providing access to its daily 130 million users.

In May 2020, another Canadian young woman had sexual content of herself uploaded to Pornhub. A third Canadian young woman discovered intimate videos of herself on Pornhub in August of 2020 that had been there for over three years. Despite some initial success in getting the content removed, search results for her video continues to turn up over 1900 results – all sourced to Pornhub.

Each of these stories represents a person who has been deeply harmed by the failure of government and industry to protect people from exploitation. Their abuse can never be erased from the Internet and is representative of countless other victims who have been exploited through MindGeek's subsidiaries.

Three years ago, on March 9, 2020, we wrote to you asking for your help to protect women and youth from online exploitation as well as those who had already been victims of child sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and sexual assault. At the time, MindGeek had already been exposed for publishing content that contained the real exploitation of women and minors.

In our letter, we documented actual cases of child sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and sexual assault that were published on Pornhub – similar to the examples above. Many of these videos had hundreds of thousands of views – with every view revictimizing an exploited child or adult. Many videos had also been monetized to create revenue for Pornhub through advertising.

We regret that this letter, signed by nine Senators and MPs representing the three largest parties, has not received a response to date.

On November 25, 2020 – the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, twenty Senators and MPs representing four parties wrote to the Minister of Justice to ask if Canada's existing laws that address forms of online exploitation were sufficient. We noted that not a single charge had been laid at that time, despite the evidence available. The Minister of Justice replied that Canada's laws were 'robust'.

On December 4, 2020, the New York Times published an expose on MindGeek entitled “*The children of Pornhub: Why does Canada allow this company to profit off videos of exploitation and assault?*” In response, Mastercard and Visa cut their ties to MindGeek. You expressed your concern and the then Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Hon. Steven Guilbeault, promised legislation within ‘three weeks.’

On March 15, 2021, over 70 Senators and MPs from every party & group wrote to the RCMP Commissioner to express support for the voices of over 100 survivors of sexual exploitation who were calling for a full criminal investigation into MindGeek and its subsidiaries. The RCMP Commissioner replied that the “call for a criminal investigation into MindGeek or Pornhub is with the RCMP for review and any further required action.”

Finally, between February and June 2021, the Standing Committee on Ethics investigated MindGeek, heard from victims, and tabled a rare unanimous report to your government with 14 recommendations to prevent online exploitation. During this study, it was revealed that MindGeek had not been following Canadian child sexual abuse material reporting laws.

Despite all of this, there has been:

- No government legislation tabled
- No known investigations
- No charges laid
- No response to the Ethics Committee study.

Further, MindGeek continues to operate with impunity and earn millions in revenue and profit. As a result, victims and survivors of online exploitation have had no justice. They should not have to fight these battles by themselves.

It has been over 800 days since you promised that the federal government was “actively working on new regulations” that would require online platforms to remove all illegal content. The recent federal government announcement of meaningful age verification to protect kids from pornography in forthcoming legislation is welcomed, however there is much more to be done.

Today we are calling on the Government of Canada to take immediate action in the following ways:

- Provide assistance to survivors to remove content featuring their exploitation
- Implement the 14 recommendations from the Standing Committee on Ethics
- Support Bills S-210 and C-270 or introduce similar government legislation
- Table standalone legislation combatting online child sexual abuse material and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

We note regarding the final call to action that while there was much disagreement between the experts on your government’s online harms advisory group over broader approaches, they did agree that ‘particularly egregious content like child sexual exploitation content would require its own solution.’

We are confident that legislation targeting these two online crimes through a combination of legislative and regulatory measures as well as a duty of care approach would find near unanimous support in Parliament and swift passage.

Once again, we are committed to working with all parties to secure justice for victims and survivors of online exploitation and protect youth and exploited adults from further exploitation online.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**Hon. Julie Miville-Dechêne, Senator**  
Québec

**Hon. John McKay, MP**  
Scarborough – Guildwood

**Hon. Scott Tannas, Senator**  
Alberta (Alberta)

**Hon. Salma Atallahjan, Senator**  
Ontario (Toronto)

**Hon. Judy A. Sgro, MP**  
Humber River – Black Creek

**Glen Motz, MP**  
Medicine Hat – Cardston – Warner

**Shannon Stubbs, MP**  
Lakeland

**Hon. Don Plett, Senator**  
Manitoba (Landmark)

**Garnett Genuis, MP**  
Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan

**Philip Lawrence, MP**  
Northumberland – Peterborough South

**Dan Muys, MP**  
Flamborough – Glanbrook

**Kelly McCauley, MP**  
Edmonton West

**Rosemarie Falk, MP**  
Battlefords – Lloydminster

**Kelly Block, MP**  
Carlton Trail—Eagle Creek

**Michael Barrett, MP**  
Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes

**Rachael Thomas, MP**  
Lethbridge

**Dave Epp, MP**  
Chatham-Kent – Leamington

**Arnold Viersen, MP**  
Peace River – Westlock

**Andréanne Larouche, MP**  
Shefford

**Elizabeth May, MP**  
Saanich – Gulf Islands

**Pierre Paul-Hus, MP**  
Charlesbourg – Haute-Saint-Charles

**Tako van Popta, MP**  
Langley – Aldergrove

**Damien C. Kurek, MP**  
Battle River – Crowfoot

**Brad Redekopp, MP**  
Saskatoon West

**Michael Kram, MP**  
Regina – Wascana

**Ted Falk, MP**  
Provencher

**Cathay Wagantall, MP**  
Yorkton – Melville

**Marc Dalton, MP**  
Pitt Meadows- Maple Ridge

**Tom Kmiec, MP**  
Calgary – Shepard

**Hon. Éric Forest, Senator**  
(Québec - Golfe)

**Mel Arnold, MP**  
North Okanagan – Shuswap

**Karen Vecchio, MP**  
Elgin—Middlesex—London

**Michael Cooper, MP**  
St. Albert – Edmonton

**Marilyn Gladu, MP**  
Sarnia—Lambton

**Jeremy Patzer, MP**  
Cypress Hills – Grasslands

**Gary Vidal, MP**  
Desnethé—Missinippi—Churchill River

**Gerald Soroka, MP**  
Yellowhead

**Greg McLean, MP**  
Calgary Centre

**Laila Goodridge, MP**  
Fort McMurray – Cold Lake

**Dr. Leslyn Lewis, MP**  
Haldimand-Norfolk

**Martin Shields, MP**  
Bow River

**Bob Zimmer, MP**  
Prince George—Peace River

**Martin Champoux, MP**  
Drummond

**Monique Pauzé, MP**  
Repentigny

**Yves Perron, MP**  
Berthier-Maskinongé

**Luc Désilet, MP**  
Rivière-des-Mille-Îles

**Louise Chabot, MP**  
Thérèse-De Blainville

**Christine Normandin, MP**  
Saint-Jean

**Sylvie Bérubé, MP**  
Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou

**Maxime Blanchette-Joncas, MP**  
Rimouski-Neigette—Témiscouata—Les Basques

**Caroline Desbiens, MP**  
Beauport—Côte-de-Beaupré—Île d'Orléans—Charlevoix

**Rhéal Fortin, MP**  
Rivière-du-Nord

**Louis Plamondon, MP**  
Bécancour – Nicolet – Saurel

**Kristina Michaud, MP**  
Avignon—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia

**Nathalie Sinclair Desgagné, MP**  
Terrebonne

**Julie Vignola, MP**  
Beauport—Limoilou

**Alexis Brunelle-Duceppe, MP**  
Lac-Saint-Jean

**Ryan Williams, MP**  
Bay of Quinte

**John Brassard, MP**  
Barrie—Innisfil

**Larry Brock, MP**  
Brantford—Brant

**Luc Berthold, MP**  
Mégantic—L'Érable

**Hon. Frances Lankin, Senator**  
Ontario (Ontario)

**Hon. Yonah Martin, Senator**  
British Columbia (British Columbia)

**Hon. Marilou McPhedran, Senator**  
Manitoba (Manitoba)

**Hon. Leo Housakos, Senator**  
Quebec (Wellington)

**Hon. Claude Carignan, Senator**  
Quebec (Mille Isles)

**Hon. Kim Pate, Senator**  
Ontario (Ontario)

**Hon. Ratna Omidvar, Senator**  
Ontario (Ontario)

**Hon. Amina Gerba, Senator**  
Quebec (Rigaud)

**Hon. Rosemary Moodie, Senator**  
Ontario (Ontario)

Cc: The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice  
The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety  
The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage

Encl: March 9, 2020 – Open Letter to the Prime Minister  
November 25, 2020 – Open Letter to the Minister of Justice  
February 22, 2021 – Open Letter to Ethics Committee from Survivors  
March 15, 2021 – Open Letter to the RCMP Commissioner