



Tanya Ironstone Locke, on behalf of:

Children First Society

Survivor Led Policy Initiatives

Research Advocacy Support

Dear Ethics Committee Members, regarding the "Protection of Privacy and Reputation on platforms such as Pornhub" Privacy and Ethics Committee Hearings:

We are writing today to weigh in on the issue of child and youth exploitation, due to an increased concern for children and youth who are at risk of having their trauma commodified by platforms such as Pornhub.

We have experienced an increase in requests for services, yet with lack of capacity and coordinated efforts to address the risk factors that marginalize particular groups of children, youth and adults, we are powerless to mitigate vulnerabilities.

Our demographic continues to be exploited and suffer irreparable reputational and psychological harms. This effect translates into chaos and added costs to society in general, intergenerational trauma and harms continue to persist.

We want to explore not only who and what is responsible for this continued exploitation through innumerable porn sites, networks of abusers and consumers of content and illegal child and youth prostitution. We feel there is a need to create an Inquiry into the prevalence and responses of sexual violence against minors.

There is no question that Incest, Rape and Molestation (ICM) of children and youth is not a new problem. What is new is an increase in awareness, however there is not a consistent concrete actionable plan that will keep Children safe from these harms.

The responses are fragmented at best, apathetic and violent at worst. There are countless individuals of all genders currently being exploited, and they have been reached and targeted based on a multitude of factors that include institutionalization,

low income and precarious housing, and a general ignorance around what our collective obligation should be towards our most vulnerable.

We are asking for standing to explore the options we all have at our disposal to support creating a standard, Human Rights based prevention and protection circle that includes families and supports them in real tangible ways.

We call for an Inquiry into the police and child welfare services that have excluded and fractured families and children who need empathy respect and safety.

We require a non-judgmental trauma informed response, that centres the expertise and knowledge of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) survivors from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

We request an opportunity to speak to these facts and solutions and explain in accessible language the mechanisms that lead to marginalized minors being exploited and commodified long after we have suffered the irreparable harms of CSA.

Thank you for your consideration and taking the time to read this briefing note, we are grateful this issue is being discussed, however much too late it is for those who have not survived the ongoing abuse and retraumatization of commodified instances of abuse, we remember them.

Our Simplified requests are as follows:

1. A comprehensive Inquiry into CSA, ICM and Child and Youth Exploitation in all forms, Including Criminal, Institutional, and Economic.
2. A commitment to seeking a Nationwide coordinated response standard that minimizes harms caused by Colonial and Oppressive systems responses such as Child Welfare and Policing.
3. An Action Plan with measurable outcomes directed by and for survivors, that centres expertise of victims.
4. A coordinated response to organizations and businesses that profit from commodifying the vulnerable, that includes redistribution of profits to victims to partially mitigate the damages caused by profiting from dealing in misery and violence.
5. Exploration of Core Federal funds to offset the constant deficits that SA centres find themselves in from lack of funding provincially and municipally, suffering from have or have not paradox which is location dependant.
6. Guardian Ad Litem, or Children's lawyer for any child involved in any court proceeding that involves them as a Human Right.

We are also requesting standing and an opportunity to speak to our knowledge and suggested solutions, and to stand up for our members who do not feel safe and/or supported in speaking out.



We hear you

We believe you

We want to help you



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Our ultimate goals are spreading awareness, advocacy, and policy change. We want others to know that you're not alone. We are listening and working hard toward meaningful change. We want to ensure that our children have rights and that those rights are upheld. As well as seek stronger sentences and proper rehabilitation of those charged for any form of child abuse.

We are real survivors who refuse to be silenced. When it comes to child sexual abuse, we speak from both experience and extensive research. Our passion to fight for the rights of our children stems from our own personal traumas, as well as the traumas of those close to us we have lived through abuse and want to protect our next generations of children to come. We have the sincere hope of leaving a safer world where rights for our children exist. Children are the future and must be kept safe; it takes a village.

As it stands, child victims can't request an advocate or demand their own representation. Nor can they obtain their own council to act specifically in their best interest. A judge can choose to hear their voice or ignore them completely. They say to "walk a mile in their shoes". I'm asking you to do just that for a moment.

Could you imagine telling the person you trust most in this world or your caregiver, about abuses that you're enduring and having that fall on deaf ears? Imagine having to live with your abuser because a judge determines there is not enough evidence to remove you from their care. All the while, you are telling them that you're not lying. Imagine being ignored by the very system that is meant to keep you safe. Imagine crying out for help and never receiving any.

For those with parents who absolutely care, and do everything in their power to protect their children, this is still a huge hurdle. Many cases are thrown out due to insufficient evidence. Those who are convicted, rarely face the maximum sentence and the minimum is nothing more than a slap on the wrist. In fact, just over 50% of offenders of child sexual assault receive conditional sentences or probation; that means they're right back on the street.

We need real solutions, let's act NOW.