

February 13, 2020

Tabitha Wright

Montreal, Quebec

SUBMISSION TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

Honorable Members of the Ethics Committee,

My name is Tabitha Wright and I am a young mother as well as an activist for the non-profit called ArreterExploitationHub. As a Canadian citizen I am deeply grieved by the illegal content that has been hosted on pornographic sites like PornHub. I am more gravely bereaved to know that this company was birthed in Montreal and that it has been allowed to be stationed in the heart of one of the busiest cities in Canada. The fact that it has been on the main street of Decarie Boulevard for years without experiencing any pushback for its illegal content gravely concerns me as a tax paying Canadian citizen. It is for this reason that I am forever grateful to each one of you for taking this matter so seriously.

My attention was brought to the issue of child pornography as I prepared for motherhood. My heart broke when I learned that children as young as three years old were being molested and that Pornhub has allowed such content to be on their site for years! Years I tell you. The truth is that child sexual exploitation is on the rise. It was the biggest growing criminal industry in 2020. And companies like MindGeek, who are pimping off children on their websites, are part of this growing criminal industry.

It is not enough for MindGeek to simply apologize for their actions. It is not enough for Pornhub to remove 80% of their content. It is not enough. This company needs to be held accountable for the criminal acts it has facilitated for years. MindGeek and its CEO's need to be held accountable for the rape, sexual abuse and pedophilia that it has allowed to be staged rampantly on its site with little to no control.

There needs to be laws set in place to protect the most vulnerable: our children. Laws that will not allow ANY pornographic company wanting to reach Canadian viewers to have ANY CSAM on its websites. Pornographic websites should be the ones working closest with child protection agencies and the police.

While the CEO's and managers of Pornhub lie under oath about not having allowed any CSAM on their website Pornhub, they start finding new ways of spreading illegal content. They do this by creating a presence on the Dark Web where their users have full anonymity by having their IP addresses blocked. So while MindGeek says that they work with law enforcement to completely eradicate CSAM they are lying to your faces and cooing in your backs.

I can't stress how important the work that you are doing is. Please do not let this Canadian company get away with the crimes they have already committed. Please, for the sake of our children and our children's children, do something. We need laws changed. Now, I am not a law maker. I am simply a Mom with a part time job. However, here are some of the laws I would love to see put in place as well as my recommendations:

1. Have Canadian Laws that hold companies, groups or individuals legally accountable for content that is pedophilic/sexually abusive towards children, minors, women and men.
2. Amend and/or enforce human trafficking legislation to include the viewing of pedophilic content within Canadian borders.
3. Complete transparency between Porn sites wanting to reach a Canadian audience and Federal Law Enforcement.

I'm not an expert. However what I am is a Mom, a Canadian citizen, and a young woman who knows that we can do better. As a country, we need to say that this is enough. I would rather see stricter rules and less children hurt than lax rules to promote 'freedom' that in the end is hurting the most vulnerable: our children.

I graciously thank you for hearing me out and thank you for taking on the great task of creating laws that will shape our future. A future that, I am hoping, is bright for our children.

Sincerely,

Tabitha Wright