Stop Trafficking!

Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter ● May 2022 ● Vol. 20 ● No. 5

FOCUS: This issue focuses on the National Center on Sexual Exploitation’s annual Dirty Dozen list.

What is the Dirty Dozen List? No corporation or organization should profit from or facilitate sexual exploitation. Yet, unfortunately, many well-established brands, companies, and organizations profit as significant contributors to sexual exploitation. The Dirty Dozen List is an annual campaign of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) calling out twelve mainstream entities for facilitating or profiting from sexual abuse and exploitation.

The Dirty Dozen List also includes online actions for those who want a voice in the culture, some of which may be found in the Action section of this newsletter. The Dirty Dozen List is a highly successful tool to this end, already changing the culture at Google, Netflix, TikTok, Hilton Worldwide, Verizon, Walmart, the US Department of Defense, and many more.

When a company makes a positive change to stop promoting sexual exploitation, it has a ripple effect that influences countless lives.

A 25-year-old man extorted a 12-year-old girl into sending him explicit photos of herself, and he then would threaten to publicly post the pictures or report her if she did not send more. Authorities found this Discord predator was talking to other children aged 7-to-15 using the app.

Discord fails to address the sexually graphic, violent, and exploitative content on its thousands of private and public channels.

In addition, Discord’s age verification procedures are contradictory, as users were not even asked for their date of birth upon signup until mid-2020.

These inadequate age verification and moderation procedures mean millions of children and teens are left with near-unmitigated exposure to child sexual abuse material, nonconsensual pornography trading, and predatory grooming.

Discord has grown exponentially since the COVID-19 pandemic, going from just 56 million active monthly users in 2019 to more than 150 million users in 2021. Beginning in 2015, Discord has been a home for gamers who wish to connect. In 2021, over 30% of users claimed they use Discord for activities other than gaming. Discord itself has capitalized on this expansion of its brand by advertising Discord as a way for teachers to reach their classrooms, virtual book clubs to discuss their latest read, and even positioning Discord as a viable workplace alternative to Slack or Microsoft Teams. The main feature of Discord is its servers, which are chat rooms based around a particular interest or activity. Users can join servers to connect with others over shared interests. The servers can be open to the public, though they are more commonly set to private by users, requiring invites and unique passwords to join.

Discord is among the top technological platforms enabling and enhancing predators’ access to minors. This is incredibly concerning as sexual harassment and assault continue to become more prevalent in society. Even more disturbing is the potential role Discord plays in facilitating child abuse and sex trafficking. With its lack of safety settings, moderation strategies, and better guides for parents and users about the real dangers on its platform, it is evident that Discord is still not willing to prioritize child safety.

Corporations like Discord are responsible for ensuring their technology is not used for sexual abuse or exploitation.
Etsy is an online platform that connects “sellers,” especially people who manufacture their products, to “buyers” interested in purchasing them.

Etsy has grown exponentially and attained global notoriety in the world of e-commerce. In 2020, Etsy boasted almost 82 million buyers, 4.4 million sellers, and annual revenue of $1.7 billion. Etsy profited tremendously during the pandemic and was named a “top stock pick” for 2022 by a Wall Street investment bank.

Etsy claims that its mission is to “keep human connection at the heart of commerce” and build “a place where creativity lives and thrives.” However, Etsy sells various products that normalize sexual exploitation and abuse. For example, some sex dolls sold resemble minors, normalizing child sexual abuse and encouraging pedophilia. Etsy further normalizes child sexual abuse by selling products used in “ageplay”—a fetish that involves the roleplaying of child sexual abuse.

Such products include sex dolls and misogynistic apparel, which promote objectifying and degrading views toward women. Pornography can also be found on Etsy, including “deepfake” pornography, where a person’s face is edited onto a nude body without their consent.

Customers complain about unwanted exposure to pornography and sexually explicit and suggestive content through recommendations, some likening this experience to “sexual harassment.” Unfortunately, Etsy’s mechanism for removing such content from search results is ineffective and often causes more content to surface. Therefore, Etsy must stop profiting from and normalizing child sex abuse and exploitation.

We are calling on Etsy to remove all products which normalize sexual abuse and exploitation from its platforms. Sex dolls should be banned, as they inherently objectify women and fuel sexual violence and exploitation. Allowing sex dolls inevitably results in childlike sex abuse dolls, which fuels child sexual abuse. Other content which normalizes child sexual abuse, such as “ageplay” products, should also be prohibited. Etsy should also prohibit misogynistic material that perpetuates rape culture through the objectification of women and the glamorization of sexual violence, which undermines women’s rights and safety.

The NCOSE calls for Etsy to enforce policies it already has, such as its ban on pornography and merchandise that glorifies hatred or demeans others based on gender. In addition, it must explicitly ban image-based sexual abuse and deepfake pornography, where victims do not consent to the distribution of their image. Finally, Etsy should develop filtering devices that turn on by default and update their reporting system so that users can report offending products.

Google Search is a tool that provides access to global news and entertainment sources—and it’s unsurprising that as of February 2022, it held the leading market share (92%) of the worldwide search engine market.

Regrettably, Google allows access to real or depicted videos of sexual abuse, including sex trafficking and child sexual abuse. For example, NCOSE found videos representing survivors of the GirlsDoPorn sex trafficking ring within the first related Google Search result. Some of these videos included titles listing the survivors’ full names. Moreover, some pornography sites have been investigated recently by the government for hosting child sex abuse material and sex trafficking content. Nevertheless, Google continues to drive users to these sites – Pornhub, OnlyFans, XVideos, XHamster, and others – leading people to view criminal acts for their pleasure, furthering the exploitation of survivors. In addition, several websites are advertising and hosting real, not simulated, rape.

Google has yet to prioritize survivor-centered practices to remove nonconsensual sexual content from search results, thereby leaving many victims to relive their trauma.
Kik is a free mobile messaging app that can be used on both Android and iPhone devices, allowing over 300 million users to connect with people worldwide via access to data messaging or an Internet connection.

Kik also provides other ways to communicate through in-app integration with brands, other popular apps like YouTube, and social media platforms.

Kik has built its brand on appealing to the teenage demographic – 70% of all Kik users are 13-24 years old. Research has shown that an estimated 40% of all American teenagers have used Kik. The website is filled with language and imagery dedicated to connecting with young people.

The draw to Kik is their emphasis on privacy and anonymity – users only need an email, which remains hidden from public view, and a chosen username to sign up for an account. This allows adult predators to flock to Kik, knowing the app's features will protect their identities. Unfortunately, it also gives them access to the millions of vulnerable children using Kik every day.

Despite Kik's policies on paper that ban pornography and other inappropriate content, public and private chat groups are rife with sexually explicit material accessible in only a few clicks. Child exploitation happening on Kik has been reported for years. A 2020 lawsuit against Kik and its parent company, MediaLab AI, detailed how Kik allowed predators access to the plaintiff, only a minor when exploited on the platform.

Despite numerous media and law enforcement reports on sexual abuse, Kik has made little progress in shutting down predators and other behavior that goes directly against their guidelines. The app is still growing in popularity – Kik currently gets about 1 million new downloads a month.

Kik is among the top technological platforms enabling and enhancing predators' access to minors and is playing a potential role in child abuse and sex trafficking. Therefore, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation demands Kik make the following changes:

- Develop and implement better safety features such as filters, parental controls, and moderation strategies that actively catch and block predatory behavior and inappropriate content from remaining on the platform.
- Be transparent about the problems happening on Kik – many platforms provide regular transparency reports detailing the potential risks a user might face while using the service.
- Provide meaningful education to all users and parents on the potential harms and risks associated with exploitation and abuse on Kik.

Kanakuk Kamps: For decades, thousands of families have entrusted their children’s hearts, minds, and safety to Kanakuk Kamps

— one of the largest Christian sports camps. Sadly, many of these children were sexually abused at the camp. From April through June 2021, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation was contacted by three survivors of sexual abuse allegedly taking place at Kanakuk. One survivor we spoke with said that finally, at age 70, he was sharing what happened to him for the first time when he was a young counselor at the camp.

Unfortunately, despite the survivors who have come forward, at least a dozen lawsuits, testimony from former employees at the camp, and the news investigations that have uncovered practices that enabled the reported abuse. Millions of dollars in settlements have been paid to some victims. However, Kanakuk has continued to minimize the reality that they have allowed abuse to flourish. For this reason, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation has named Kanakuk Kamps to the 2022 Dirty Dozen List.

An open letter from survivors of sexual abuse at Kanakuk was delivered personally to Kanakuk President Joe White on February 11, 2022, and may be accessed here.
Awareness

Meta

In 2021, Mark Zuckerberg announced a corporate rebrand of Facebook, Inc. to the new Meta Platforms, Inc. Meta might be an updated name and vision for Facebook. Still, the corporation’s extensive harms to children and adults alike remain the same. Meta owns Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp: all of which are consistently under fire as primary places for grooming, sextortion, child sexual abuse materials, and sex trafficking.

The “metaverse” is a broad, generic term encompassing virtual reality. Examples include Snapchat lenses or Facebook Ray-Ban Stories glasses, a digital economy, buying and selling goods online or with digital currency. It integrates offline and virtual identities and a tighter merging of the tangible and digital world.

Meta can lead the tech industry in creating and implementing online safety standards. But instead, Meta is prioritizing new projects and products while pursuing increased, sweeping encryption without sufficient provisions for online child safety, which will aid predators in escaping detection and accountability. And without a commitment to put safety before profit across all its platforms, the so-called “metaverse”—where social media and virtual reality meet—will likely unleash new manifestations of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Meta is on the Dirty Dozen List for failing to prioritize its users’ online safety and well-being. It has not made significant enough improvements given the gravity and extent of the harms on its platforms. Moreover, in the latter part of 2021, Whistleblower revelations and the United States Senate Congressional hearings with Facebook and Instagram executives unveiled that despite knowing the significant harm its products cause, especially to young girls, the company consistently chooses profits over people.

Netflix

Netflix, a subscription-based service that streams and produces films and TV shows, has over 200 million subscribers worldwide and in 2021 generated annual revenue of almost 30 billion US dollars. It is the number one most popular video streaming service in the world.

Netflix claims that it wants to “entertain the world.” Unfortunately, the company promotes sexual violence, incest, prostitution, and child sex trafficking, in the name of entertainment. Netflix regularly ignores advocates’ concerns to remove films depicting sexual objectification and glamorization of abuse, demonstrating their lack of corporate social responsibility and willingness to profit from this offensive content.

After being named to the Dirty Dozen list in previous years, Netflix has made significant improvements.

It has updated and strengthened parental controls and increased the app store age rating to 12+. Modifying the rating on app stores gives much more power to adults about what content is appropriate for the youth in their life to consume.

However, while improved parental controls and modified app ratings have made the platform safer for children and families, much content hosted and produced by Netflix normalizes sexual violence and the commercial sexual exploitation industry.

Netflix should be more responsive to public outcry. Unfortunately, Netflix did nothing in the face of hundreds of thousands of people petitioning to remove certain films. NCOSE asks that movies that sexualize children, normalize prostitution, or disrespect victims and survivors are removed.

OnlyFans

OnlyFans is a subscription-based website where anyone can market their content to “fans” who will pay to see it. “Fans,” or subscribers, pay a monthly membership fee to “unlock” images, videos, and livestreams made by the creator. OnlyFans takes a 20% cut of all creators’ income. Although OnlyFans brands itself as a social media platform that can sell any content, the truth is that the site is primarily used and known for pornographic and sexually explicit content. OnlyFans exploded in profit during COVID-19, as the subscription-based platform known for pornography preyed on widespread financial insecurities and capitalized on youth spending more time online. OnlyFans’ revenue grew 553% within less than a year of pandemic lockdown. As of September 2021, the site had over 170 million registered users and over 1.5 million creators. This number has continued to grow at an astounding rate, with 500,000 people joining OnlyFans every day.

OnlyFans’ owner, Leonid Radvinsky, is also the owner of other large pornography webcamming websites. As a result, OnlyFans has faced increased scrutiny by police, policymakers, and the press for growing evidence of child sex abuse material, sex trafficking, harassment, cyberstalking, image-based sexual abuse, and other crimes.

Beginning in May 2021, the BBC published a series of investigative pieces that exposed many of these issues. In August 2021, 101 members of Congress sent a letter to the United States Department of Justice demanding an investigation into OnlyFans for child sex abuse material and sex trafficking reports. In June 2021, the FBI opened an investigation into the financial activity and other potential crimes of the multi-billion dollar company and its owners.
Reddit

In 2020, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation assisted a survivor who was a minor at the time of her sexual abuse and had scores of abuse images uploaded and disseminated on the Internet. One of the websites the CSAM was uploaded to was Reddit. There were at least 28 unique URLs depicting this minor survivor’s abuse on Reddit. On December 18, 2020, NCOSE’s Law Center sent a takedown request on behalf of the survivor to Reddit’s CEO, Reddit’s Legal Department, and Reddit’s information, contact, and help desk email addresses. Unfortunately, fourteen months after the initial takedown request, we still do not have confirmation that the content has successfully been removed.

Reddit, the “front page of the Internet,” hosts more than two million user-created ‘communities’ covering nearly as many topics. Unfortunately, these include countless sexually explicit images and videos posted without consent, child sexual abuse material, hardcore pornography, prostitution, and the likely facilitation of sex trafficking.

Reddit turns a blind eye to illegal and harmful content on its site. Moreover, survivor requests to remove images of their abuse go unanswered. Instead of prioritizing people’s safety and well-being, Reddit is focused more on profits. Despite having an estimated net worth of $2 billion, Reddit refuses to spend the necessary resources on a sufficient number of moderators and readily available technology solutions to prevent sexual exploitation, including refusing survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking who ask for non-consensual materials to be removed.

Survivor John Doe #1 was only 16 when he discovered exploitative child sexual abuse materials of himself and his friend, John Doe #2, created several years before being posted on Twitter. The video accrued over 167,000 views in the first couple of days and was live for nine days — despite multiple reports from John Doe #1 and his mother verifying his status as a minor.

Twitter is a social media platform with close to 400 million users.

Unfortunately, the platform is rampant with accounts and posts functioning as advertisements for commercial sex, including prostitution. Moreover, Twitter fails to adequately respond to its victims, claiming it cannot be held accountable for disseminating illegal material. Twitter has even flatly refused to remove verified child sex abuse material from its site when asked by victims.

Facilitating Human Trafficking

Twitter is used for advertising prostituted persons and sex trafficking victims for commercial sexual exploitation, often via pornographic images or webcamming. These tweets often include offers to meet in person for “escorting” services, and sometimes they ask users to follow and pay for nude images, videos, or live streaming.

Law enforcement has documented that pimps and sex traffickers often coerce trafficking or child sexual abuse victims into making such social media or advertising posts or creating the posts themselves in their victim’s name.

Twitter is filled with pornography that supports rape myths, normalizes adult-with-teen-themed and incest-themed exploitation, and reinforces degrading racially charged sexual stereotypes. These include ads for prostitution, webcamming, and in-person encounters.

Moreover, the Super Follows feature on Twitter resembles OnlyFans, a pornography platform that law enforcement notes for child sex abuse material, sex trafficking, prostitution, and other crimes.

Lawsuit Alleges Twitter is profiting from Sexual Abuse Material

Twitter must be held accountable for putting profits before people. That is why the National Center on Sexual Exploitation’s Law Center, in partnership with The Haba Law Firm and The Matiasic Firm, has jointly filed a federal lawsuit against Twitter on behalf of two minors trafficked on Twitter.

Survivor John Doe #1 was only 16 when he discovered exploitative child sexual abuse materials of himself and his friend, John Doe #2, created several years before being posted on Twitter. The video accrued over 167,000 views in the first couple of days and was live for nine days — despite multiple reports from John Doe #1 and his mother verifying his status as a minor. This lawsuit was brought to obtain damages for the harm experienced by John Doe.
#1 and John Doe #2 and hold Twitter accountable for violating anti-trafficking laws and hosting child sexual abuse material on their platform.

Twitter filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, claiming that “the law does not punish a defendant [Twitter] for participation in a lawful venture with sex traffickers, or knowingly but passively receiving the financial benefits of sex trafficking.”

Twitter would like the court to find that profiting from the exploitation of children online is a legal venture.

In August 2021, a federal judge ruled that a sex trafficking claim against Twitter could move forward. However, the case has been appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

**Verisign**

Verisign, a publicly traded U.S. company that provides Internet infrastructure and services, was granted complete management over the .com and .net generic top-level domains.

According to the Internet Watch Foundation’s 2020 report, 82% of all websites containing child sexual abuse material were registered on .com and .net domains.

While some other registrars and registries are disrupting domains associated with child sexual abuse material, Verisign fails to take meaningful action and instead inhibits attempts to protect children.

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) is concerned by Verisign’s inaction and poor policies for creating a safer and more secure Internet, specifically around curbing child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

**Visa**

Visa is the 10th most valuable company globally and a worldwide leader in digital payments. Visa has 50% of the market share of total card payments outside of China, with 206 billion annual transactions totaling 12.5 trillion dollars.

The Visa Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement claims: “Visa is committed to ensuring modern forms of slavery and human trafficking are not present in our supply chains and in our business.” Visa’s Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Report speaks of their commitment to “transaction integrity” and assigns their Global Brand Protection Program to manage situations where transactions are made for illegal activities, such as “child abuse images.” Visa cut ties with Pornhub in 2020 after public outcry and a New York Times exposé regarding the rampant sex trafficking, child sexual abuse, rape, and non-consensually distributed videos on this site.

Despite this, Visa re-initiated relationships with other pornography sites, including those owned by MindGeek, the parent company of Pornhub. They also failed to enact requirements for pornography sites to verify the age and consent of those depicted in the content and take proactive measures against illegal and abusive content. Finally, Visa continues to allow transactions for brothels and prostitution websites.

NCOSE recommends Visa should cease facilitating payments for all pornography and prostitution platforms, including camming sites like OnlyFans and sugar dating sites like Seeking (formerly SeekingArrangement). While we want to see Visa completely cut ties with the pornography industry, at the very least, they should require pornography sites to take measures against illegal and abusive content, such as verifying the age and consent of all persons depicted.

**Recommendations for Reddit**

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation requests the following from Reddit to help eliminate the continual exploitation of vulnerable people:

- Adopting strong policies against hardcore pornography and sexually explicit content, due to the inability of Reddit to verify the age or consent of people depicted in such content,
- Instituting proactive moderation and filtering solutions to enforce such a policy,
- Implementing survivor-centered practices and reporting mechanisms: for example, immediate removal across the platform when content is reported,
- Banning users who upload sexually explicit material, especially if the material depicts child sexual abuse material or non-consensually shared intimate images, and prevent them from creating another account,
- Creation of prominent, simple, and lock-able caregiver controls and blocking the ability for adults to message minors.
The Dirty Dozen List Works!

In 2021 alone, Roku, Google Chromebooks, and Wish made significant changes affecting the online safety of millions of people—especially children.

The world is waking up to the harms, and the power to reduce those harms, tech companies and platforms can have on society. For example, the pandemic led to increased online activity with schools and work going virtual.

Tech companies have seen record profits over the last two years.

However, the Internet Watch Foundation named 2021 the Worst Year on Record for online child sexual abuse. In addition, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reported a 97.5% increase in online enticement reports. We also watched technology titans like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat face Congressional hearings over their decisions to place profits over people. Regular citizens informed those hearings and helped highlight these platforms’ role to make children safe.

Progress and Victories from the 2021 Dirty Dozen List

Google

The 2021 Dirty Dozen List urged Google to make changes to Chromebooks. As a result, Google proactively turned on all safety measures as the default for Chromebooks and other educational products used for K–12 education to safety for all users under the age of 18—thereby further protecting millions of kids from predators and harmful exposure to pornography!

Google also placed the SafeSearch feature at a higher level in the settings, making it easier to find and turn on. They also chose to automatically protect young users by defaulting SafeSearch for those under 18. They also now allow parents to request the removal of minors’ pictures in Google Images.

Google Play store has removed any apps that promote sugar dating or “compensated sexual acts.”

On the 2021 Dirty Dozen List, Seeking Arrangement had ads removed from Google Search and Google Ads after The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) identified that they were still showing up in Incognito mode despite Google policy prohibiting ads that marketed compensated sexual acts.

TikTok

TikTok is one of the most popular platforms for young people. In 2021, TikTok proactively scanned and removed content that violated their content guidelines, such as videos showing nudity or sexual activity or threatening minor safety before posting the content to the public. They also updated their Community Guidelines, including prohibiting “content depicting a minor that contains sexually explicit song lyrics.”

Snapchat

Snapchat is another app that remains one of the most popular social media platforms for teens. Unfortunately, it also remains one of the most dangerous. In 2021, Snapchat made improvements to better protect its users by blocking the ability for minors to change their birth year to over 18, thereby bypassing any age-restricted content from being accessed. Moreover, they made it harder for adults to find children by automated suggestions in the Quick Add feature. In addition, Snapchat announced parental controls starting 2022 and an updated Parent’s Guide to Snapchat that includes information about the extensive risks of using the app, especially predatory or illegal behavior such as sextortion, sexting, grooming and more.

Discord

Discord made a few critical changes to its policies to protect minors using its platform.

Sexually explicit and inappropriate content is now called “age-restricted content” instead of the confusing and normalizing “NSFW” term previously used by Discord. Earlier in 2021, Discord added the ability to designate entire servers as age-restricted instead of just individual channels within a server that was allowing minors to join groups that had sexually explicit content. They also made it harder to access sexually explicit material through the iOS app, requiring users to opt-in through the desktop or web version of Discord.

Twitch

In 2021, Twitch, the live-streaming video platform owned by Amazon, updated its policies to include serious offenses that could pose a safety threat, even when they happen entirely away from the streaming service offline. Those threats include violent extremism and sexual assault.

Wish

Wish is an online retail shopping website and app used by over 500 million people. It profits from the marketing of child-like sex dolls, spycams advertised as useful for filming women nude without permission, and misogynistic apparel.
They also were listed as a "Top Mainstream Advertiser" with TrafficJunky, the MindGeek-owned advertising firm. In 2021, after NCOSE included Wish in their Dirty Dozen list for partnering with one of the world’s most significant sources of online pornography, Wish demanded MindGeek remove their logo and said: We’ve spoken with TrafficJunky as we have never had an agreement with them, nor have they ever served ads on our behalf. They have removed our logo from their website and have ensured they will no longer misrepresent any partnership between us. NCOSE also noted Wish removed nonconsensual image capture as a component of spycam marketing, confirming this practice is against their policies.

Amazon

In 2021, Amazon made some critical improvements to the streaming service Amazon Prime, improving parental controls. For example, users can now set up to 6 different profiles with content restrictions. Amazon also introduced Kids profiles, where only films and shows appropriate for kids under age 12 will be available. Moreover, Amazon changed their online shopping platform, removing child sex abuse dolls and even adult sex dolls, although blow-up dolls and torsos remain available.

EBSCO

EBSCO Information Services offers online library resources to public and private schools (K–12), colleges and universities, public libraries, and more—but they also provide easy access to pornography and other highly graphic sexual content. After we sent them a letter detailing the evidence of this material, EBSCO removed those instances from their databases. And now, more state legislatures are considering bills related to these research databases that would ensure graphic material is not passing through for children to access.

Advocacy Doesn’t End with the Dirty Dozen List

NCOSE is engaging in advocacy efforts with corporations and entities worldwide through other campaigns or direct advocacy, even if they never make it to the official list.

Here are a few of the changes this past year that weren’t on the 2021 Dirty Dozen List but that are part of current or previous advocacy efforts:

As of March 2, 2022, Roku is now banning private pornography channels—including Pornhub.

Instagram announced new changes such as updated parental control options, requiring age-verification upon account creation, and critical updates to minor safety. This included blocking the ability of unconnected adults to direct message minor accounts and sending warning messages to teens if an adult they are talking to is acting.

Massage Envy is now subject to a new federal bill that would require companies to remove forced arbitration agreements for instances of sexual assault and harassment, one of the critical changes NCOSE called for.

YouTube rolled out a new content filtering option for preteens and young teenagers to bridge the gap between YouTube Kids and the regular platform, something NCOSE specifically asked for in our engagement with the company.

The latest Apple iOS 15.2 update includes an opt-in feature for minors on Family Sharing that automatically blurs sexually explicit images in iMessage and sends warnings and resources if a teen sends or receives such content.

Financial services continue to take a stand against the commercial sex industry:

Mastercard recommitted to holding new “adult content” policies in place and confirmed the policy would apply to OnlyFans. In addition, they released new enhanced measures banks must follow when working with pornography “merchants,” which took effect on October 15, 2021. Many porn sites were cut off from banks because they could not meet the requirements.

PayPal is no longer available on XVideo’s Traffic Factory or MindGeek’s TrafficJunky.

American Express confirmed they are no longer facilitating payments for Teen Fidelity.

Sign the Petition to Show You Support John Doe!

When John Doe was only 13 years old, he was exploited by sex traffickers into creating sexually explicit images which were later posted on Twitter. Twitter refused to remove or block the content depicting the sexual exploitation of John Doe—who was clearly and demonstratively a minor—and continued to knowingly profit from its distribution.

It is in behalf of John Doe and countless other survivors like him that the National Center on Sexual Exploitation Law Center—along with The Haba Law Firm and The Matiasic Law Firm—has brought a lawsuit against Twitter. Please click here to sign petition.
Corporations Are Listening and Changing

More than 22,000 emails and/or signed petitions called on corporations to do better in 2021, and these companies are clearly listening! Your advocacy has fostered incredible change—new legislation drafted, safety policies and features introduced, and the global recognition of these issues increased.

Join Us In Action with the 2022 Dirty Dozen List!

**Discord**

A recent devastating news story revealed that the popular gaming app Discord was used as a vehicle to groom and lure a teenage boy into sex trafficking.

A 17-year-old boy was lured from Louisiana to Florida by a group of suspected traffickers, all communicated and arranged through the app. The seven suspects were arrested by police in St. Petersburg, Florida in a human trafficking investigation, where authorities found another missing 16-year-old boy who had been hidden in a trailer there for at least a year. The boy was used as a sex slave, and police are investigating the possibility of other victims.


**Kanakuk**

Demand accountability by evangelical empire Kanakuk Kamps for decades of child sexual abuse

Email leadership and stakeholders at Kanakuk Kamps by clicking [here](#).

Please click [here](#) to read the National Center for Childhood Exploitation Statement—Kanakuk Kamp Leaders Must Be Held Accountable for Child Sexual Abuse.

**Visa**

Demand Visa stop processing payments supporting sexual exploitation by clicking [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page to take action.

**Etsy**

Demand Etsy to stop selling sexual exploitation! Please click [here](#) to send an email to the company.

Etsy: Stop selling incest and child abuse themed merch! Please click [here](#) to take action.

**Verisign**

Help the National Center on Sexual Exploitation hold Verisign accountable by calling on Congress for a more secure, accountable policy around WHOIS! Send an email to your U.S. Representatives and Senators by clicking [here](#).

**Reddit**

Reddit is failing kids and families. Please click [here](#) to email your concerns to Reddit executives.

**Petition Google to Take Action**

Tell Google that it’s time to better prevent and remove image-based sexual abuse from search results, including sexually explicit images/videos of sex trafficking, child abuse, and intimate partner violence victims. Sign the petition [here](#).

**Take Action to Support the Earn It Act**

When a child signs up for @Discord nothing is protecting them from sexual harassment, hardcore pornography, and predatory grooming. Help protect millions of vulnerable children by defaulting minor accounts to the highest privacy settings.

Click [here](#) to contact your Members of Congress and urge them to CO-SPONSOR and support the EARN IT Act!

**OnlyFans**

According to federal law, it is illegal for websites to knowingly facilitate prostitution or sex trafficking. Call on the Department of Justice to investigate OnlyFans and call on financial institutions to sever ties with OnlyFans by clicking [here](#).
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- Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
- Sisters of St. Francis Rochester, MN
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill Philadelphia
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, USA & Canada Provinces
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, KS
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of the Holy Family
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sisters of the Sacred Hearts
- Society of the Divine Savior
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- Southern CA Partners for Global Justice
- St. Mary’s Institute of O’Fallon
- Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking & Slavery
- U.S. Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union

The Anti-Trafficking Newsletter is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members, organizations and concerned persons collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking. Click here to access previous issues of Stop Trafficking! To contribute information, please contact: stoptrafficking@feliciansisters.org. Editor: Maryann Agnes Mueller, CSSF. Layout & Design: Mary Francis Lewandowski, CSSF. Translated into Spanish by Helga Leija, CSB.