

The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary
Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Digital and Culture

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Dear Mr Dowden, Ms Patel and Ms Dineage,

We are writing in response to the consultation outcome of the Online Harms White Paper, to urge you to ensure that your planned Online Harms legislation addresses the abuse, rape and trafficking that is widespread across the online commercial pornography industry.

The online commercial pornography industry cannot be trusted to self-regulate. Last week, Visa and Mastercard cut off ties from the online porn giant Pornhub following investigation into a series of very serious allegations:

"Its site is infested with rape videos. It monetizes child rapes, revenge pornography, spy cam videos of women showering, racist and misogynist content, and footage of women being asphyxiated in plastic bags. A search for "girls under18" (no space) or "14yo" leads in each case to more than 100,000 videos. Most aren't of children being assaulted, but too many are."

Nicolas Kristof, [New York Times](#)

Pornhub has since introduced [new protocols](#), including a tighter verification process for users wishing to upload content and increased moderation involving third-party accountability and greater transparency. These are welcome moves in the right direction. However, they are not comprehensive and have no guarantee of permanency, and across the sector abuses continue.

The Online Harms Bill represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the UK Government to tackle illegal and harmful content on online commercial pornographic platforms. We ask that:

1. **Illegal user-generated content must be prevented from appearing on commercial online pornography platforms.** There must be robust age and consent verification for all those who feature in video uploads. Current measures of reactive moderation are insufficient.
2. **Age Verification technology should be mandated for online pornography platforms.** This is by far the best and most robust means of preventing children being harmed by adult content, which is detrimental to their wellbeing and social, emotional and cognitive development.
3. **Online commercial pornography must be recognised as providing Category 1 services to ensure the transparent and consistent enforcement of its policies on legal but harmful content.** The industry itself prohibits content *simulating* illegal scenarios. Though strictly legal, such content is incredibly harmful in that it allows illegal material to camouflage, [normalises abuse](#) (shaping real-world attitudes and behaviour) and drives the demand for illegal material (particularly with regards to [CSAM](#)).

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Morse

CEO
CEASE (Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation)

Co-signed by:
Fiona Broadfoot, Survivor
Kasia Zak, Survivor

