

8 April 2022

**Dear Prime Minister,**

We are writing to ask you to ensure that Age Verification for online pornography remains in the Online Safety Bill, is enacted swiftly and enforced effectively.

As you know, Age Verification is a vital child protection measure that aligns the online and offline worlds. Children currently have unfettered access to online pornography which normalises and legitimises misogyny, coercion and sexual violence against women and girls. Pornography is shaping our children's sexual attitudes and undermining their capacity to form healthy and satisfying sexual relationships, wreaking damage which can last a lifetime.

The Conservative Party's commitment to this issue is more than now 7 years old. The failure to implement Part 3 of the Digital Economy Act 2017 mandating Age Verification for online pornography has meant that around 4 million more UK children have been exposed to porn or its impact for the first time.

We welcome the fact that the Online Safety Bill now includes a standalone duty for all websites publishing pornography to prevent children's access. But history has made us wary.

We call upon the government to ensure that Age Verification remains in the Bill. It must be enacted as soon as possible and not subjected to further delay.

And Age Verification must be workable and effective. As the Bill currently stands, Ofcom's enforcement powers are ill-suited to the pornography industry and will fail to protect children.

**We ask that you:**

- 1. Ensure that the standalone duty for robust, independent, standards-based Age Verification to protect children from exposure to pornography remains in the Online Safety Bill.**
- 2. Include a statutory deadline for these Age Verification measures to commence within 6 months of the Bill receiving Royal Assent.**
- 3. Give Ofcom powers to commence business disruption measures after seven days notice in respect of any non-compliant pornographic content.**

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this vital child protection issue.

Yours sincerely,

**The #KeepKidsOffPorn Coalition**

**COALITION:**

CEASE (Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation)

5Rights Foundation

CARE

John Carr OBE, Secretary to the Children's Charities Coalition on Internet Safety

Dr Elly Hanson, Clinical Psychologist and author of [Pornography and Human Futures](#)

Andrew Hawkins, Democracy 3.0

**CO-SIGNATORIES:**

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP, Chair, Women and Equalities Select Committee

Baroness Floella Benjamin, DBE

Lord Browne of Belmont

Lord Morrow

Lord Farmer

Lady Andree Deane-Barron on behalf of Central YMCA

The PSHE Association

Laila Mickelwait, CEO/Founder, Justice Defense Fund

Deborah Denis, CEO, The Lucy Faithfull Foundation

Patricia Durr, CEO, ECPAT UK (Every Child Protected Against Trafficking)

Kathy Evans, CEO, Children England

Donald Findlater, Director, Stop It Now! UK and Ireland helpline

Vicki Shotbolt, Founder/CEO, Parent Zone

Lauren Seager-Smith, CEO, Kidscape

Dr Samantha Callan

Dr. Gail Dines, Professor Emerita, President: Culture Reframed

Dr Heather Brunskell-Evans, Sociologist

Ioannis Dekas, Father and campaigner for Age Verification

Lisa Marie Taylor, CEO, FiLiA

Anthea Sully, CEO, White Ribbon UK

Janice Williams on behalf of OBJECT

Dr Darryl Mead, Chair, The Reward Foundation

Mary Sharpe, Advocate, CEO, The Reward Foundation

Safe Schools Alliance UK

Ava Vakil, Womens' rights campaigner

Colin Hart, Director, The Christian Institute

Jo Bartosch, Writer and Campaigner

Laura Bloomer, Backed Technologies Ltd

Dr Jessica Taylor - Chartered Psychologist, Director of VictimFocus

Dr Elena Martezello, Associate Professor in Criminology, Centre for Child Abuse and Trauma Studies (CATS), Middlesex University

Helen Roberts, CEO/ Founder, Dignify

Rosemary Hack, CEO, Press Red

Kathleen Richardson, Professor and founder of the Campaign Against Porn Robots

Anna Fisher, Chair, Nordic Model Now!

Survivors United

Not Buying It

Kendra Houseman, Director, Out Of The Shadows

You My Sister

Ian Henderson, CEO/Founder, Naked Truth Project

#KeepKidsOffPorn Campaign  
Implement Robust, Effective Age Verification Laws As Soon As Possible

Peter Kerridge, CEO, Premier Christian Communications Ltd  
Simon Hackett, Professor of Child Abuse and Neglect, Durham University  
Kate Zak, International Advocate & Survivor  
Zan Moon, Founder of ScreengrabThem, Campaigner  
Clean up the Internet