

## Child Sexual Exploitation Online

### WHEREAS:

- Child sexual exploitation online (including Child Sexual Abuse Material, or CSAM) is an escalating threat to children worldwide significantly exacerbated by the growth in social media platforms, online advertising, cameras on mobile devices, and children increasingly accessing the Internet and mobile applications;
- INTERPOL reported about 4,000 unique child sex images circulating worldwide in 1995;<sup>i</sup> yet in 2018, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received *45.8 million child sex abuse images and videos*, double the amount from 2017 and a 10,000% increase since 2004;<sup>ii</sup>
- The World Health Organization now estimates 200 million children are sexually abused each year,<sup>iii</sup> and that much of that abuse is online or captured and distributed digitally—where children are re-victimized with each viewing;
- 1 in 5 children are now sexually solicited online;<sup>iv</sup>
- 71% of young people are online,<sup>v</sup> and one-third of global Internet users are now children;<sup>vi</sup>

### WHEREAS:

- Many of Alphabet Inc.'s (Alphabet) most profitable businesses have reportedly facilitated child sexual exploitation online, including AdSense, YouTube and Google;
- Alphabet has faced several recent child sex exploitation controversies, including:
  - o A 2019 *New York Times* investigative piece reported that Google was resistant to removing child sex imagery documented by a recognized CSAM-reporting agency;<sup>vii</sup>
  - o Disney, AT&T, Nestle and others dropped ads because of explicit pedophile commentary under children's videos in YouTube<sup>viii</sup> (an issue YouTube knew about for several years);<sup>ix</sup>
  - o Google's AdMob and Firebase reportedly placed brand ads within apps hosted on Google Play dedicated to finding private pedophile chatrooms, where ad revenues financially supported CSAM\* (unbeknownst to advertisers);
  - o Google was a major funder of an industry coalition to defeat US legislation on sex trafficking online<sup>xi</sup>, and financially supported groups working aggressively to block legal challenges to Backpage's business model (estimated to account for 73% of suspected child trafficking in the US before Backpage was shut down).<sup>xii</sup>
- Proponents note that Alphabet has policies, initiatives, moderators, and investments in technology aimed at reducing child sexual exploitation through some of its businesses, but Proponents are concerned about the sheer volume of child users and potential CSAM risks on Alphabet's platforms (YouTube alone posts 400 hours of content every

minute<sup>xiii</sup>) and believe that Alphabet's current response is inadequate compared to the scope of the problem and likely harm posed to children.

**RESOLVED:** Shareholders request that the Board of Directors issue a report assessing the risk of children being sexually exploited across the Company's platforms and businesses, at reasonable expense and excluding proprietary/confidential information, by February 2021, including whether the Company's existing policies and practices are sufficient to prevent adverse impacts to children (18 and younger) and to the company's reputation or social license.

---

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.icmec.org/commonwealth-internet-governance-forum-a-joint-report-on-online-child-protection-combatting-child-sexual-abuse-material-on-the-internet/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/wearethorn/photos/a.539537636085793/2387317711307767/?type=3&theater>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.undispatch.com/here-is-how-every-country-ranks-on-child-safety/>

<sup>iv</sup> [https://valueforgood.com/publications/AI\\_Making\\_Internet\\_Safer\\_for\\_Children.pdf](https://valueforgood.com/publications/AI_Making_Internet_Safer_for_Children.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC\\_2017\\_ENG\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2017_ENG_WEB.pdf)

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23738871.2017.1291698>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/09/us/internet-child-sex-abuse.html>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2019/02/22/at-t-disney-epic-games-pull-youtube-ads-child-exploitation-concerns-pedophiles/2948825002/>; <https://adage.com/article/digital/advertisers-worry-youtube-s-pedophile-fixes/316799>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://www.engadget.com/2017/11/28/youtube-pulls-150000-child-videos-over-comment-abuse/>

<sup>x</sup> <https://techcrunch.com/2018/12/27/funding-filth/>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://law.emory.edu/elj/elj-online/volume-68/essays/history-repeats-faces-behind-sex-trafficking-familiar.html>

<sup>xii</sup> <https://www.consumerwatchdog.org/newsrelease/report-shows-how-google-funded-defense-child-sex-trafficking-hub>

<sup>xiii</sup>

<https://www.unicef.org/innovation/media/10501/file/Memorandum%20on%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20and%20Child%20Rights.pdf>