CANADIAN CENTRE *for* CHILD PROTECTION ®
Helping families. Protecting children.

Industry's Role In Protecting Children Online

It is evident that child sexual abuse imagery and its growing availability on the internet is a social epidemic substantially impacting the lives of children, survivors and all those trying to protect them.

In November 2019, The Canadian Centre for Child Protection launched a short survey for the public to weigh in on the responsibility industry bears in protecting children online. In just 18 months, **23,700 people** completed the survey with these notable results:

85% felt a **technology company who does not remove child sexual abuse imagery on its service should be criminally charged**. Another **13%** felt companies should be fined for failure to remove.

89% felt **governments should pass laws** that require technology companies to meet safety standards that include penalties for non-compliance.

95% felt that **technology companies** who are notified that stolen images of children are being reposted/shared in a sexual context on their services **should be required by law to remove the stolen images.**

Comments from Survey:

"The government absolutely needs to step in. We can't trust corporations to do the right thing out of the goodness of their hearts. They need to be forced."

"There needs to be harsh consequences for any company/organization or individual that puts children at risk. Children are our most vulnerable and they deserve our full protection at all times."

1. **The removal of child sexual abuse material from the internet has been mostly left to the discretion of technology companies. This lack of accountability and transparency has meant thousands of child sexual abuse images and videos are being left online, leading to the continued victimization of the children/ survivors.**

   What do you think is the most appropriate response to a technology company who does not remove child sexual abuse imagery on its service?

   Nothing, it is the fault of the offender, not the company who hosts it: **2%**

   They should be criminally charged: **85%**

   They should be fined: **13%**

2. **Governments regularly institute laws and regulations to ensure the safety and protection of children in the offline world. Examples include setting the legal drinking age, driving age, the content rating system for movies, and so on.**

   What role do you think governments should play in protecting children online?

   Governments should pass laws that require technology companies to meet safety standards that include penalties for non-compliance (fines, criminal charges in egregious cases, etc.): **89%**

   Governments should work with technology companies to create a safer internet: **10%**

   Nothing, it's none of their business: **1%**

3. **Innocent images of children posted online are being stolen and reposted/shared by those with a sexual interest in children. An example is when someone snags a photo of a nude or semi-nude child from a person's unsecured social media account.**

   It is not uncommon for these type of images (e.g. an image of a toddler in a mini pool in a backyard) to then appear on public forums and chatrooms harmful to children where the image is used in a sexualized context by pedophiles. Through Project Arachnid, we see thousands of these type of images and technology companies are not required by law to remove these stolen photos.

   What are the responsibilities of technology companies who are notified that stolen images of children are being reposted/shared in a sexual context on their services and platforms?

   Companies should be encouraged to remove stolen images of children: **4%**

   Companies should be required by law to remove stolen images of children: **95%**

   Nothing, it's the fault of the offender, not the companies who host it: **1%**

4. **What is the first thing you would you do if you learned that a photo of YOUR child was in an online location where pedophiles and others sexually interested in children could see and comment on them in a degrading and sexual way?**

   I would not know what to do: **7%**

   I would report the matter to local police: **81%**

   I would report the matter to the company hosting the image: **11%**

   Nothing. I don't think anything would be done about it: **1%**