



To the European Parliament and European Union Council:

We are members of the Philippine Survivor Network, an all-inclusive program in the Philippines for survivors of different types of violence, including child sexual exploitation and abuse online (CSEA). We desire to pursue safer communities with sustained restoration of survivors and a responsive network of care and justice systems.

We are writing this letter so you will know our side of the story as survivors of child sexual abuse and exploitation and for you to know that we are willing to collaborate with you on any aspect.

We write this letter in support of the proposed EU legislation to prevent and combat online CSEA with some recommendations.

1. Balance user privacy with child protection and the privacy of victims and survivors.

We know there is a lot of concern from EU residents and lawmakers about user privacy versus child protection. For us, we think that both user privacy and child protection are important issues, and it's possible to find a balance that respects both. Protecting children from harm is a critical priority, but it can also be done without sacrificing user privacy. Ultimately, the key is to strike a balance between protecting children and respecting individuals' privacy rights. It requires collaboration among policymakers, industry stakeholders, and individuals to create solutions that serve both interests.

The privacy of victims and survivors is also important to consider. Perpetrators exposed our privacy when we were children by selling our bodies to different people without our knowledge or consent. We ask that the EU not forget about the privacy of victims and survivors whose sexual abuse is in photos and videos shared online.

2. Companies should be required to detect both new and known child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Companies should use tools that can detect perpetrators engaging in online sexual exploitation of children. Requiring tech companies to detect both new and known child sexual abuse material is essential to protect children from harm and prevent the distribution of such material. It is a crucial step in the efforts to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation online and the timely detection and removal of this material can help prevent further victimization.

It is important that both new and known CSAM be detected so that child sexual abuse material will not spread anymore. Without these detection tools, those who are being abused – like we were – will not be freed from the trauma they're experiencing.

"In my experience, I became a victim at age 10 and I was rescued at age 17, so I experienced trauma for more than 5 years. If when I was a victim, tech companies used detection tools, I would not have suffered for so many years and there wouldn't be other victims of my perpetrator." (Joy)*

*"I once had an experience where I answered a stranger's call on Messenger and was shown lewd and explicit materials. That's one of my biggest sources of trauma. Since then, I became very careful in using Messenger. **SafeToWatch will be helpful to prevent things like that. If you ask me, this is needed by any message, call or contact video apps.** Since this technology detects sexually explicit content, when children use apps and attempt to send lewd images online, it will be blocked. It will be helpful to prevent more victims of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC). We use so many apps today to connect and **this technology should be opened to all those apps.** [Not only in mobile], but also in laptops and desktops so that OSEC is really prevented." (Crystal*)*

3. Companies should be required to prevent livestreamed child sexual abuse.

The lack of a requirement for detecting or preventing livestreamed child sexual abuse in the regulation leaves a significant gap in child protection efforts. It means that online platforms may not prioritize the development and implementation of technologies and processes to detect and prevent livestreaming of child sexual abuse material. It is important that livestreaming be detected because a lot of people are now using livestreaming, even children. If there are no tools that will detect children abused in livestreams, they could be victimized in livestreaming, including in 'porn site livestreams' such as ONLYFANS. There are many underage users of this livestream site that must be prevented from being victimized.

We are not for sale. We are human. We are children that didn't know about the law or the rights that we had before.

"It was traumatizing for me whenever my perpetrator told me to play and clean their house but also forced me to do what they really want me to do in livestreams. This issue will not stop if there is no detection for livestreams and this harmful abuse will not stop happening to more children." (Joy)*



4. The 'EU Centre on Child Abuse' will support international collaboration efforts.

The creation of an 'EU Centre on Child Abuse' will increase international collaboration to find perpetrators and victims of child sexual abuse. It can have significant impact on survivors in the Philippines. Child sexual abuse is a global problem. The fast increase of child abuse material online has made it more challenging to identify and prosecute offenders and protect victims. International collaboration is necessary to combat this problem effectively. In addition, the Centre can support international cooperation to identify and rescue victims of child sexual abuse, including those who are being exploited through livestreaming. This can help provide survivors with the support they need to heal from the trauma of abuse and recover from its impact. It will have a huge impact and provide a big help to rescued victims here in the Philippines.

Through the Centre, it is easier for us survivors to get justice. We want the government to hear our message that we want to end this crime. The more governments collaborate with survivors, the more they would understand why we are advocating for our rights. The trauma we had before won't change but we can change the world together so that no more young children experience trauma. We can support one another by protecting children so that no more will experience sexual abuse that we suffered before.

5. Foreign victims outside the EU should be given the right to request and expect content removal and entitled to reparations.

If foreign victims outside the EU were given the right to request content removal and were entitled to reparations, it would provide them with more options to seek justice and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. Here are some ways these measures could make a difference:

Content removal. If victims outside the EU were given the right to request and expect the removal of online content that violates their rights, it could help prevent further harm and damage to their reputation. For example, if someone outside the EU is the victim of online sexual abuse or exploitation, they could request and expect the removal of the content from the platform. This would not only provide some relief for the victim but also prevent the content from being shared and potentially causing further harm.

Reparations. Currently, many victims outside the EU have little to no recourse for receiving compensation for the harm they have suffered. If they were entitled to reparations, it could help them with the costs of medical treatment, therapy, and other expenses related to their recovery. Additionally, the right to reparations could serve as a deterrent to perpetrators who might think twice before committing a crime if they know they will be held financially responsible for their actions.

Overall, providing foreign victims outside the EU with the right to request and expect content removal and reparations would be a step towards ensuring that they are not left behind in the fight for justice and accountability.

We need you to listen to us, SURVIVORS of Online Child Sexual Abuse, so that you will know what we went through and what we felt during those times we were abused online.

People with power can work together to stop the criminals. The people demanding child sexual abuse material and the people exploiting children to create it are powerful. But you are powerful, too, and we are more powerful together. We need you to use your powers as European leaders and citizens to protect children around the world.

May our voices awaken you that this crime wasn't good for survivors. We don't want other young children to be abused.

Survivor Leaders **Joy*** (victimized at 10 y.o., present age 27 y.o),
Ashira* (victimized at 10 y.o., present age 22 y.o), and
Carsten* (victimized at 17 y.o., present age 21 y.o) of

Philippine Survivor Network

(*pseudonyms)