

Hello, my name is Rose Kalemba and I would be honored to be able to submit a statement

as I was the first PornHub survivor to speak out with my face and real name attached, initially on social media in early 2019 and then in my interview with BBC world news that was conducted in mid 2019 but was published in early 2020. Thank you so very much for hearing me out, and below is the statement I would like to make.

My name is Rose Kalemba, and in early 2019 I was the first PornHub child rape survivor to share my story publicly while waiving my right to anonymity. I wish I could say that this was 100% of my own free will- it in part was, because I wanted to show other survivors that the ways in which others brutalized us shouldn't leave us hiding our faces and our names in shame. It is also true that I had already had my name and face out there, attached directly to my trauma in the most visceral way possible, thanks to a site called PornHub.

When I was 14, I was raped and my attackers videoed the assault and posted it on Pornhub. After my rape, I tried to commit suicide, and after I survived struggled greatly to manage my life. This struggle became almost unmanageable when I was revictimized by the posting of the video on Pornhub, where an unknown number of others could watch, download, and distribute my assault. As a result, I was forced to deal with my trauma publicly while others not only witnessed but sexually gratified themselves to my pain. Six videos of my rape at age fourteen, uploaded by one of my attackers, stayed up on Pornhub while they refused to remove them for over half a year. My cries to them where I begged them to take them down, stating that I was a minor and that it was not consensual, both of which were glaringly obvious, went unheard. Every single day I had to watch the view counts continue to rise while ads appeared along with the rape video. The number of views eventually exceeded 2 million. Every single day, I had to see the comments filled with things like my name, my school, my address and my age- and people making jokes about the ways in which I was degraded and me being "jailbait."

This revictimization that I felt helpless to stop led me to consider suicide. As a last resort, I contacted Pornhub again, this time pretending to be a lawyer. After I did this, the videos were removed within forty eight hours.

My rapists put me in a mental prison all on their own, but it is PornHub who gave me a life sentence and threw away the key. I am twenty six years old today and

many days are still a fight to break free. I think to some degree it will be that way for the rest of my life, and I am slowly learning to make peace with that.

None of my attempts to stay out of the public eye and “start over” over all these years has ever worked- there was always someone who found me and would harass me, share my updated personal information online, and try to threaten and blackmail me with downloaded copies they had of my abuse. Therefore, I didn’t feel like it was even worth trying to stay anonymous anymore, and going through the crushing pain and terror of someone realizing who I was yet again.

In fact shortly before I spoke up about PornHub’s role in my trauma, a man who has popped up stalking and harassing me throughout the years was once again threatening to post screenshots of what he called his “favorite moments” of the recordings of my abuse. Me deciding to share my story openly on my own terms instead of waking up everyday praying that one more person wouldn’t recognize me as “THAT girl” felt like taking back some of my power.

The only thing worse to me than my rape was the knowledge that other people forever more would be watching and enjoying my assault. And every single one of those videos had a download option next to it. To this day- eleven and a half years later- I am still tormented by people who claim to be possessing copies of them, and who convince me of this by naming off details of my abuse I have never once shared publicly. Things they would have had to have been there to know- and thanks to PornHub, they were there- just after the fact.

Some have pointed out that PornHub was owned by a different company than MindGeek in 2011, and while that is true, the current employees at MindGeek have publicly slandered and gaslighted me and called me- by name on their Reddit page- a liar in the last year, after telling the BBC that videos with titles like those of my rape appeal to many people all over the world. I am far from the only survivor they’ve done this to, and they block all of us on social media as well the moment we speak out. Not only do I still to this day deal with abuse from people who have watched my rape, but also from people who have only recently learned about my case and want to punish me for speaking out. It feels like being punished for surviving.

I also feel it is important to mention that I am indigenous, specially First Nations (Siksika and Piikani) because of the epidemic numbers of murdered and missing indigenous women, girls and two spirit people. I want to pinch myself seeing the Canadian government holding to account the company that I was the first

survivor to blow the whistle on publicly. I hope that this will be a monumental moment for other indigenous survivors who it feels like the world has forgotten.

I don't want what happened to me and so many other women, girls and two spirit people before me to become synonymous with being indigenous. I want better for my people than to have some of the highest sexual assault, abuse and murder statistics despite being such a small percentage of the population. I will never stop fighting for a world where these crimes are non-existent, but in the meantime no website should ever be able to not only immortalized but profit from our pain and suffering. Healing out loud, a choice made in part for me by Pornhub who made my trauma into an immortalized abuse instead of one I could deal with privately, has come with severe backlash and abuse. To know that some good is coming from it makes it feel worth it and gives me so much hope not only for my people but for CSEM and revenge porn and stolen content survivors of every ethnicity, gender, and background out there.