



**BRIEF SUBMITTED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CANADIAN HERITAGE
REGARDING BILL C-11**

We are pleased to provide this submission to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, based on our combined 32 years of experience combating the sexual exploitation of children.

WHO WE ARE

Timea's Cause--founded by multiple, international award-winning, survivor expert and social entrepreneur Timea Nagy-- is the world's first survivor-led, global educational and awareness firm specializing in modern-day slavery, especially sex trafficking. Mrs. Nagy's work has assisted over 300 victims and over 500 human trafficking-related investigations throughout Canada through the first organization she founded, Walk with Me. Over the years, she has providing training to over 10, 000 law enforcement officers across Canada, U.S. and Europe; partnered with the United Nations Financial TaskForce to End Human Trafficking, and is an appointee to the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

OneChild--founded by Order of Ontario appointee Cheryl Perera-- is the first organization in the world empowering a movement of children and youth taking against the sexual exploitation of children through prevention education, advocacy, survivor care and survivor empowerment, impacting over 79, 000 across 11 countries. Ms. Perera founded OneChild, as a result of her experience partnering with Sri Lankan law enforcement, and playing the main role of the decoy-a 15 year old girl—in an undercover STING operation to bring a child sex perpetrator to justice. She has pioneered Canada's first prevention education program directed at schools, and the Canadian private sector's engagement in ending the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism; and she has provided shelter and long-term comprehensive care to hundreds of child victims in Asia.

Our organizations are putting forward the perspectives of two critical stakeholders: those with sexual violence, and children, themselves, who are asking to be protected by their government. We both strongly support the federal government's commitment to working with survivor-led and child and youth-led organizations towards dignity, safety and well-being for children online and offline.

**DIGITAL, SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT AND ITS AFFECT ON CHILDREN'S
DEVELOPMENT**

We are pleased to hear that the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage is undertaking a study on Bill C-11, an Act to amend the Broadcasting Act, and is considering including the transmission of programming on the Internet. The amount of time children are spending online is increasing, and while there are many benefits for children using the Internet, there are also many dangers.

Today, Canadian children's access to sexually explicit content and the broadcasting of sexual violence has gone far beyond the realm of television and radio. This content is broadcasted online through digital advertising to pornography. The Internet has unleashed a tsunami of content that is objectifying, violent, and misogynistic in nature, and those viewing this harmful content are getting younger and younger. According to a study on prostitution by Dr. Susan McIntyre of Mount Royal University in Calgary, participants began viewing hardcore pornography at very young ages, in some cases younger than 11 years of age.ⁱ

This content greatly informs our cultural norms, values, and ideologies. In the case of children, who are still navigating the world and are in the process of developing their sense of self and esteem and learning how they should treat others and how others should treat them- this kind of material is detrimental to their development. It warps their understanding of sex, consent, boundaries, healthy relationships, and gender roles. Moreover, viewing this kind of online content has frightening links to rape, 'sextortion', deviant and illegal types of pornography such as online child abuse material, domestic violence, patronizing prostitution, and even involvement in sex trafficking.

VITAL POLICY CHANGE

We must act swiftly before more children's attitudes, behaviours, and expectations are molded by this dangerous content. We cannot wait any longer.

Timea's Cause and OneChild recognizes the federal government's commitment to invest in the health of Canadian children and their digital well-being. We strongly encourage the federal government to amend Bill C-11 to ensure the Broadcasting Act includes the two important policy goals of:

1. Protecting children from sexually explicit content
2. Safeguarding the rights of women by preventing the broadcasting of sexual violence.

Please do not hesitate to contact us as a resource. We thank you for your ongoing commitment to the prevention and protection against the sexual exploitation of children.

Sincerely,

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ⁱ McIntyre, Susan, "The Role of Technology in Human Trafficking", Microsoft White Paper, March, 2015