

PATREON

September 5, 2024

Dear U.S. Senators,

This letter responds to the correspondence sent by 12 US senators on August 9, 2024 to Patreon's CEO Jack Conte regarding voluntary NII/non-consensual intimate imagery (or "NCII") takedown programs.

Patreon recognizes the dangerous and destructive nature of NCII, and has taken action to identify and remove NCII from our platform. Our efforts in this regard are described below and address your questions.

Regarding our partnership with StopNCII, after a year of exploration and four months of working closely with the StopNCII team to formalize an agreement, Patreon is officially a partner of StopNCII as of August 2024.

Regarding our partnership with Take It Down, we were informed that integrating StopNCII as a first step would allow us to then integrate Take It Down in a more efficient and timely manner. Given this, we are in active discussions with Take It Down, and hope to integrate with them by early 2025.

Background on Patreon

Patreon provides an online platform that allows artists (known on the site as "Creators") to connect with their most dedicated fans (known as "Members"). Patreon provides tools that allow Creators to monetize their work through paid memberships. To incentivize paid membership, Creators can offer exclusive, Members-only content, accessible to Members through the Creator's unique Patreon page.

In order to create an account, all users – both Creators and Members – must first accept Patreon's [Terms of Use](#) and [Community Guidelines](#), among other policies. Patreon's zero-tolerance NCII policy, found in our Community Guidelines, is as follows:

Patreon has zero tolerance for works featuring non-consensual intimate imagery, which is defined as sexual or pornographic imagery of an individual or individuals made and/or distributed without their consent. Works which relate to non-consensual intimate imagery in the form of survival stories, educational resources, and/or advocacy, however, are permitted. If you are a victim of this behavior and feel your wellbeing is at risk, we recommend you contract local law enforcement as well. If you are addressing a situation involving non-consensual

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intimate imagery in which you hold copyright rights, we strongly advise that you report that to us here instead of submitting a notification of claimed copyright infringement. Notifications of claims of copyright infringement may be forwarded to the person responsible for contributing the accused material and may be posted publicly.

To enforce our policies and uphold safety standards, Patreon employs a highly trained Trust & Safety team, which has scaled and grown alongside the company to meet our ever-evolving needs. In addition, Patreon works with multiple outside vendors to supplement our content moderation capabilities and prevent abusive conduct and material, including NCII. For example, one such vendor screens all Creators identified as providing Adult/18+ content to flag any abusive, illegal, or otherwise concerning works – including but not limited to NCII – for further review by our in-house Trust & Safety team.

Hashes and Image Detection

Patreon is proactively prioritizing hash and image detection systems to enable us to track non-consensual intimate imagery as well as broader safety risks. We are actively implementing both Microsoft's [PhotoDNA](#) and Google's Content Safety API, which are established industry standard tools to support our moderation work and automate the removal of known abusive content. We also work with Thorn and use their products and databases to actively check hashes of images against known CSAM content. Collectively these tools further enhance our abilities to identify and remove illicit content.

Conclusion

We are proud of the work that our Trust & Safety team engages in every day to keep Patreon a platform that is safe and welcoming to a global community of Creators and their fans. We look forward to collaborating with stakeholders from other companies, industries, and sectors who share our commitment to this cause.

If you have any additional questions or follow-up comments, please feel free to reach out via email at

Sincerely,

Colin Sullivan
Vice President of Legal