

I'm naturally a shy person who has a lot to say but am often too shy to say it. Being a part of the Phoenix 11 has helped me overcome my fears and manage my social anxiety. Through bonding with them, I feel comfortable to at least try to open up and speak. That's a pretty big deal for me. I'm going to try. I just want our voice to be vital and heard.

Each of us here today has experienced sexual abuse and had our images distributed on the internet. I was abused from the time I was a toddler until I was about 7 years old. I live every day with the impacts of this abuse and knowing that images of my abuse are being viewed by offenders around the world. For so long, we have suffered in silence.

I really feel like it needs to be clear that jail or prison time is what is required for those who download the images of my abuse as a child and the images of so many other children who are being harmed. We have to send a message that it is never okay. Offering offenders therapy instead of jail time is so offensive when most of us struggle to find and pay for therapy to manage the ongoing nature of what **they** are doing to **us**.

We never knew that there was any hope for getting the images of our abuse taken down from the internet. We always thought it was another thing that we could not control. Now that we know that there are actually ways to do it, we want it all shut down. We don't want any more children to have to deal with what we deal with if that can be fixed.

Seeing what these women have done for me, makes me want to be there for future victims, future survivors. There's nothing simple about healing from this form of abuse. Very few people actually understand it. We need to mentor young victims and help them manage school, friendships, and the reactions of others. I am now motivated to do whatever I can for children on a local level.