

I am the eldest of three siblings. We were all sexually assaulted as children. Our abuse was captured by images and videos, and shared with people worldwide.

My stepfather met my mother online and took advantage of her being a single mother of young children, in a new city with no connections. When he came into our lives everything changed. My parents were not caught until after I moved away for university.

The images of our abuse are not only used for pleasure by these criminals. They are used to groom other children into thinking these crimes are normal acts that “people just don’t talk about”, this is something I experienced myself. My parents also used my images to find other men to invite into my home to assault me.

Almost everyday I see a newspaper article notifying the public that police have caught someone in possession of child abuse images. I worry if they possess images of myself; and about the children they may have abused, including possibly their own children. Or if these criminals realize these images haunt children for the rest of their lives?

When I first heard of Project Arachnid software, I was overjoyed with the news that technology was finally being adapted to combat this issue.

It is hard to believe that as we build technology solutions, we have companies like Facebook, who are promoting the use of End-to-End Encryption. This would severely limit the number of images detected on the platform. When are we going to start putting our children's rights and safety before the sake of privacy?

I call upon governments around the world to hold industry accountable for the activity that they continue to allow to occur on their platforms. You need to work together to ensure that technology developed for privacy concerns will not interfere with police investigations that protect and rescue children. Governments must also hold themselves accountable by increasing funding to police and organizations combatting child internet exploitation.

We need start putting the safety of our children first.