

The Phoenix 11 share a common goal in putting an end to child sexual abuse imagery and the distribution of it on the internet because we have all experienced the effects of this global epidemic first-hand. Having said that, our stories are all different and I feel that it is important to recognize the ways in which our individual experiences have brought us together to work toward this goal.

Within our group of survivors of child sexual abuse, imagery and exploitation, I am in the minority as the only survivor who has not received any form of justice for the crimes perpetrated against me. When the Phoenix 11 was first brought together, this was very difficult for me. I had questions about why I didn't deserve justice like others did. I believed that the crimes that had been committed against me were not as important as what others have experienced when their perpetrators are held responsible by the justice system. This is the lifelong impact that survivors feel when their perpetrators are not prosecuted.

I remember mentioning this to the Canadian Centre and them responding that, while I am in the minority in our group of eleven, I actually represent the silenced majority of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, imagery and exploitation who are never heard in the justice system.

We are hearing more and more examples of perpetrators of these crimes gaining privacy rights that will ease their ability to perpetrate, but what we are not hearing about are concrete plans regarding the protection and privacy of children whose images of sexual abuse are distributed by these criminals.

I represent the millions of children that no one will ever hear about in the media or be heard in a courtroom and ask that governments take the responsibility of protecting the rights and privacy of children into their hands and industry to account for these rights as well. To stop a global epidemic we must address child sexual abuse imagery and its distribution as a committed, united front and I hope that can continue today.