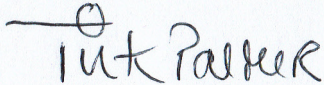


22nd December 2020

The EU ePrivacy Directive and its failure to put the needs of children at the forefront of all legislation is a shocking negation of responsibility on the part of those who should be ensuring that children are safeguarded from harm online.

At the Marie Collins Foundation we work with survivors of online sexual abuse and see, at close hand, the deep and lasting impact of the harm caused to victims and their families. For those who are harmed online, the effects are complex and can take years to recover from; these survivors show great courage in being able to face what has happened to them. We do all we can to help them on their recovery journey and protect them from future harm, and we work with partners to reduce the risk of others being harmed in the same way.

We fully support those technology companies that have pledged to continue proactively detecting online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Industry plays a central role in ensuring children and young people are protected online and is constantly being told it could do more within a global partnership of organisations with this common goal. Therefore, we commend the companies – namely Microsoft, Google, LinkedIn, Roblox and Yubo – that are taking a stance and we encourage more to follow their lead. When it comes to ensuring all children are protected and safeguarded, our response to harm and risk must be one of zero tolerance; nothing else is acceptable.



Tink Palmer MBE

CEO Marie Collins Foundation