



A GENERATION DEMANDING CHANGE



EDUCATE

We educate and develop tools to combat online harm and exploitation

EQUIP

We recruit and train students from across the U.S. to combat and speak up about digital harms.

ENGAGE

We bring key stakeholders together to collaborate with the next generation of youth for solutions.

Social media has stolen innocence from our generation, created a mental health crisis, and created societal harms beyond anything the human race has ever experienced. We want to change that.

The **Wired Human Youth Coalition** is a special project of Wired Human, a non-profit organization working to educate, equip, and engage the world with the truth about digital harms to children and the solutions to bring change. By sharing our experiences, our ideas, and our hope for a brighter future, we can create conversation that involves both advocacy and accountability.



LISA & JASON FROST
Wired Human Founders



YOUTH stories

We asked young people to submit their thoughts about how social media has impacted them. These are their stories.

B, 26

MY BROTHER, THE ONE PERSON I HAD IN MY LIFE WHO KNEW ME MY ENTIRE LIFE THROUGH FOSTER CARE, HE TOOK HIS LIFE BECAUSE OF NEGATIVE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA.

K, 18

I WAS ON A STREAMING APP STARTING AT AGE 12. ACCOUNTS WERE GETTING BANNED FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18. HOWEVER, I MADE THE APP ENOUGH MONEY BY POSTING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT OF MYSELF, AND THE COMPANY ALLOWED MY ACCOUNT TO STAY ACTIVE.

L, 14

My friend had to go to the hospital twice for doing a TikTok challenge. I was so scared and think about it everyday. Sometimes I can't get anything done because I am so scared

L started using social media at age 14

REESE, 14

When I was 10 years old, I got Instagram and decided to follow some of my favorite celebrities and when I did I saw completely naked photos of them. It scared my brain and it would not escape my mind for the next few weeks. Luckily I had my mom to help me get through it, but it made me think of all the other children who didn't have moms to get them or people they could talk to about their trauma.

Reese started using social media at age 9

PAIGE, 17

Social media reinforced any insecurity that I had when I got it. At first, I just felt not good enough, not cool enough, ect.. It felt like everyone around me was better than me. Soon though, it started to feed into depression, anxiety, and an eating disorder that almost landed me in hospitals on multiple different occasions. Seeing how other people looked/acted made me desperate to change. I genuinely believe that I would have been better off never getting in the first place. I wish more than anything that I hadn't, and I wish that for all the little kids around me too.

Paige started using social media at age 11



watch

videos of students sharing their stories.

JOSHUA, 17

Social media has impacted me negatively. Algorithms are too directed and are intended to create addiction and harm the brain. Targeted towards youth, whose brains aren't fully developed, social media created the habit of consuming more and more content, and never being satisfied with the amount consumed.

Joshua started using social media at age 16

A, 20

I WATCHED AS MY FRIENDS GOT TOGETHER TO TAKE NAKED PICTURES OF EACH OTHER TO SEND TO BOYS THEY KNEW AND MEN THEY DIDN'T.

A, 13

I got in a fight with a friend at school and she turned everyone against me. I started getting snaps and DMs of really mean things. I don't know. It was intense and I attempted suicide bc so many of them were telling me to. I also started an eating disorder bc everyone is so perfect and looks so good and I'm fat.

A started using social media at age 11

SOPHIA, 17

I started cutting after seeing an ad to prevent self harm. I was in 6th grade and it gave me the idea.

Sophia started using social media at age 11

MAIA, 19

It's toxic, man. I go back and forth with addiction (to social media) and I hate it. Even if you want to keep it clean and healthy, you can't. The crap stuff always creeps in and feels impossible to avoid. And then it gets to you. It's bad stuff and no kid or teen should be on it.

Maia started using social media at age 9

SIMON, 15

I can't even count how many times I have walked through the halls or at lunch and all of a sudden a whole group of people are laughing at me and I find out they have put me on their Snapchat stories just me being me and everyone is laughing at me. I'm a target at school and they use social media to spread and make fun of me.

Simon started using social media at age 8

TRICIA, 14

I did a some things I'm not proud of and all of it got spread on Snapchat to everyone at school. I was so embarrassed and tried killing myself- bc people told me to and also I couldn't go back to school with everyone knowing that stuff.

Tricia started using social media at age 11

TYLER, 13

I HAVE BEEN OBSESSED FOR YEARS. I STAY UP ALL NIGHT WATCHING TIKTOK AND ALL OF THE THINGS I WATCH MAKE ME FEEL WORSE AND WORSE. I HAVEN'T BEEN HAPPY SINCE BEFORE I GOT A PHONE.

POMAI, 19

At 11 years old, because of following workout influencers, my For You Page showed me diets and eating disorders, which I fell into in the coming years. I later became bulimic. The idea of body image was so out of reach. I was severely depressed, unhealthy mentally and physically.

Pomai started using social media at age 11



read more

stories collected by scanning this code.

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT (KOSA)

S 1409

Co-authored by Sens. Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Blackburn (R-Tenn.)



THE PROBLEM

Ungoverned social media platforms are designed to be addictive and use unseen algorithms promoting dangerous content and behavior among children and teens, such as:

- Anonymous and relentless bullying
- Eating disorders
- Suicidal behavior
- Sexually explicit images
- Sexual exploitation
- Substance use
- Ads for alcohol and tobacco

WHAT KOSA DOES NOT DO:

KOSA poses no threat to encryption or privacy. Similarly, banks are required to search accounts for indications of laundering by terrorist groups, yet the privacy of our financial accounts remains intact. KOSA also protects and does no harm to the LGBTQ+ community.

KOSA WOULD:

- Require platforms to enable the strongest safety settings by default
- Give options for children and teens to protect their information
- Disable addictive product features
- Allow children and teens to opt-out of algorithmic recommendations
- Create new tools for parents to support their children online
- Create a channel of reporting for parents and teachers to report harassment or threats to children on platforms

KOSA PRESENTS SOLUTIONS

KOSA changes social media platforms' focus from a duty of profit—exploiting children's developmental vulnerabilities—to a duty of care, protecting children's safety and wellbeing.



EARN IT ACT

S 1207 / HR 2732

Co-authored by Sens. Blumenthal (D-CT.) and Graham (R-SC.)

THE PROBLEM

Twenty-five years ago U.S. Courts undermined the 1996 Communications Decency Act. Child Sex Abuse Material (CSAM) was already illegal, but Section 230 was interpreted to give full immunity to internet service providers for their role in the promotion and distribution of CSAM.

- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 32 million reports of Child Sex Abuse Material in the US in 2022. That is 80,000 posts a day abusing children from toddlers to teens. That number is up 8,000% since 2012.
- 42% of those who viewed CSAM report that they sought direct contact with children afterward.

WHAT THE EARN IT ACT DOES NOT DO:

The Earn It Act only applies to CSAM. It will have no effect on the intent of Section 230. The Earn It Act poses no threat to encryption or privacy.

EARN IT ACT SAYS TO TECH COMPANIES:

- Take the CSAM down.
- Section 230 was never intended to protect the promotion and distribution of CSAM.
- There will be recourse for justice for victims of CSAM.
- Platforms must search for CSAM and report to NCMEC the information needed to find the child and to conduct an effective investigation.

EARN IT PRESENTS SOLUTIONS

Earn It protects the most vulnerable children by incentivizing tech companies to prevent CSAM distribution on their platforms and holds them accountable.