

Matthew Prince, CEO Cloudflare

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San Francisco
CA 94107
United States

Dear Mr. Prince,

A recent report by the Center for Countering Digital Hate exposed an Incel Forum that promotes misogynist, hateful, and violent ideology against women and increasingly normalize violence against women and children.¹ We also discovered a disturbing trend in which forum members are seeking to legitimize the sexualization of minors.

We also uncovered a feeder network of three additional forums operated by the same two owners of the Incel Forum that attracts a broader audience of vulnerable people. We call this network of feeder forums and the Incel Forum the “Incelosphere”. These feeder forums are dedicated to discussion of body image and dysmorphia, suicide, and unemployment, targeting people in distress, despair or with poor mental health.

Cloudflare provides technology infrastructure and support to all of these forums directly supporting the operations of these dangerous sites.

On the 2nd September 2022 you took action to stop providing services to Kiwi Farms. You explained that Kiwi Farms represented an *“immediate threat to human life”*.²

Yet the suicide forum has been linked to at least 45 deaths, and probably many more.³ These are vulnerable individuals in need of help and you provide support to keep this site online.

When we analyzed over 1 million posts over 18 months on the Incel Forum we found:

- There was a 59% increase in the use of terms and codewords relating to acts of mass violence.
- Rape is mentioned, on average, every 29 minutes. 9 in 10 (89%) of posters in relevant discussions were supportive of sexual violence against women.
- During the period of study, the Forum’s rules changed to permit the sexualization of “pubescent minors”. Analysis of discussions of pedophilia on the forum show that 53% of posters are supportive of sexual violence against children.
- One in five posts on the Forum features misogynistic, racist, antisemitic, or anti-LGBTQ+ language.

¹ <https://counterhate.com/research/incelosphere/>

² <https://blog.cloudflare.com/kiwifarms-blocked/>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/12/09/us/where-the-despairing-log-on.html>



These sites are an immediate threat to human life and safety.

We ask that you:

1. Stop providing technology support to these websites immediately. They are an immediate threat to human life and safety, just like Kiwi Farms.
2. Put policies in place to ensure that you are not doing business with, and profiting from, websites that promote such egregious content.

Signed by:

Center for Countering Digital Hate
Friends of the Earth
Reclaim These Streets
Stop Online Violence Against Women Inc.
Glitch
ProgressNow NM
5Rights Foundation
Reproaction
Ultraviolet
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
#ShePersisted
GLAAD
Maura's Voice