

Dear Meta,

Young people fighting for a better online need answers.

Hundreds of families, hundreds of school districts, along with the majority of Attorneys General nationwide, have filed lawsuits against your company for repeatedly misleading the public about the dangers of Meta for children and teens. In response to the AG's lawsuit you expressed disappointment, saying: "Instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path."

There are other paths, one of which you are already obligated to comply with in the UK: the Age Appropriate Design Code (AADC). The AADC provides the existing global standard for protecting children and teens' privacy online, and Meta has endorsed it: "We're committed to meeting the obligations under the code and to providing young people with age-appropriate experiences."¹

Yet your treatment of children and teens has been a very different story in the US. From one of your former engineers, whistleblower Arturo Béjar,² and as detailed in unsealed communications in a Massachusetts lawsuit:³ Meta at the highest levels is acutely aware of the harms you're causing, and blatantly ignoring the design features that cause harm at the expense of our youngest generations' well-being. Meta executives like Antigone Davis went so far as to acknowledge the need for legislation that protects safety and privacy online, yet with a focus on parental accountability, ignoring fundamental design flaws that favor profit over safety.⁴ From defunding safety teams to refusing suggestions from your own top experts on the subject, Meta is reckless by design, and we are the ones who suffer.

Meta is an engine behind the trade group aiming to block accountability for design changes. NetChoice – the tech trade group that represents Meta, along with Amazon, TikTok, Snap, and dozens of others – has lobbied against any efforts to pass the AADC in the US and sued to stop California's law from going into effect, alleging that designing for product safety, children's privacy, and that providing an age-appropriate experience violates companies' First Amendment rights.

In NetChoice's name, Meta, you have put the rights of companies to maximize profits over the safety of children and teens. If you are truly committed to youth online safety, tell NetChoice to drop this lawsuit and prioritize the well-being of young people over profit.

¹ Sunday Times – [My journey into the metaverse – already a home for sex predators](#)

² Wall Street Journal - [His Job Was to Make Instagram Safe for Teens. His 14-Year-Old Showed Him What the App Was Really Like.](#)

³ CNN - [Mark Zuckerberg personally rejected Meta's proposals to improve teen mental health, court documents allege](#)

⁴ Meta - [Parenting in a Digital World Is Hard. Congress Can Make It Easier.](#)

Signed:

[Design It For Us](#) and it's youth members, led by co-chairs Emma Lembke and Zamaan Qureshi

Design It For Us is a youth-led coalition to advocate for safer online platforms and social media. The "Design It For Us" coalition aims to drive and achieve key policy reforms to protect kids, teens, and young adults online through the mobilization of youth activists, leaders, and voices. The youth-led coalition is led by two Co-Chairs and a Core Team of young people between the age of 18 and 26. The coalition is supported by an array of youth activists, youth-led organizations, and advisors.