



Prostasia Foundation
18 Bartol Street, #995
San Francisco, CA 94133

info@prost.asia
Ofc:+1 415 650 2557
Mbl:+1 510 480 8449
<https://prost.asia>

Cathryn Weems
Director, Trust and Safety
Twitter Inc.
1355 Market St Ste 900
San Francisco CA 94103-1337

September 22, 2020

Dear Ms Weems,

Suspension of @MAPSupportChat child sexual abuse prevention forum

MAP Support Club is a peer support forum for people with minor attraction (pedophilia and hebephilia). It does not endorse or encourage illegal and harmful sexual behaviors towards children in any way, and is a vehicle to actually help prevent child sexual abuse. It is institutionally supported by Prostasia Foundation and the Just Beginnings Collaborative, and is developing a partnership with Stop It Now to improve the support resources that it offers to those in need. This is an especially critical need during the COVID-19 lockdown period, in which more people at risk of being involved in child sexual abuse are confined to home.

We were disappointed to find that the MAP Support Club twitter account, @MAPSupportClub, was suspended last week, and we are writing to request that this error be quickly reversed. The Twitter terms of service provide that "Discussions related to child exploitation as phenomenon or attraction towards minors are permitted, provided they don't promote or glorify child sexual exploitation in any way." The @MAPSupportChat account, which merely operates as an informational gateway promoting its peer support service, has never engaged in any violation of Twitter rules or policies and in our view its suspension is a clear mistake.

We recognize that the presence of people with minor attraction on Twitter is a contentious issue. However the suspension of @MAPSupportClub is a counter-productive way of addressing it. Unlike Twitter, MAP Support Club is purpose designed for supporting these users, and the @MAPSupportClub Twitter account was used to signposting this resource for Twitter users in need. With its suspension, these users will not know where else to turn, which will result in more peer support discussion returning to Twitter, thereby raising the ire of other users and increasing the burden on Twitter's trust and safety team.

As directors of programs designed to prevent child sexual abuse, we understand the importance of providing safe and supportive resources for people with minor attraction. We can offer support and resources to these individuals, helping them to remain harm-free while addressing their concerns safely and responsibly.

We respectfully request that you reinstate the @MAPSupportClub account promptly.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Malcolm
Executive Director, Prostasia Foundation

Jenny Coleman, MA, LMHC
Director, Stop It Now.