



PROSTASIA FOUNDATION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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FOUNDATION**

If anyone ought to be fighting back against the misuse of the terminology of grooming and pedophilia to impede the work of child safety professionals, it's the child safety sector itself. Yet with only a few exceptions, organizations in this space have kept silent on the issue. ...

In a sense, the reticence of mainstream organizations and commentators to come to the defense of marginalized victims of far-right grooming smears is understandable. It's safer, when fascist violence is afoot, to stay quietly out of sight. But how much longer can those who know better tolerate the groomer smear being used to mislead the public and to imperil child safety professionals?

Thankfully, as bad as recent months of grooming hysteria have been, the redemption of Allyn Walker this year provides a signal that the tide may be beginning to turn. ... [In May 2022] Dr Walker was appointed to the position of Postdoctoral Fellow with the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in the prestigious Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The announcement lauded them as "a leader in the field of perpetration prevention research, which is essential for developing a comprehensive public health approach to addressing child sexual abuse and effective prevention programs." ...

The right-wing moral panic that underpins the "groomer" smear... is not an authentic expression of concern for child safety. It is inseparable from a regressive ideology that holds all sexual "degeneracy" to blame for challenging the primacy of the patriarchal family unit, and undermining the social structures that have been built upon its authority. ...

But when the roots of the groomer libel in fascism are appreciated, the folly of assuming that groomer panic could ever be confined to just one form of "sexual degeneracy" should be obvious. Indeed, those who wield the groomer smear pay little attention to the real problem of child grooming and abuse – a phenomenon that is disproportionately present in the very institutions, such as the family home and the church, that they venerate as sacrosanct. Instead, the inevitable targets of the groomer smear are LGBTQ+ people, sex educators, sex workers, and child safety professionals.

Excerpt from "2022: Year of the Groomer", by founding Prostasia Foundation Executive Director Jeremy Malcolm, available at <https://jere.my/2022-year-of-the-groomer/>

INTRODUCTION

Prostasia Foundation is unique among organizations in the child protection sector, in that it upholds not only the human right of children to be free from sexual abuse, but also defends the human rights of all when they are threatened by laws, policies, and practices that claim to be for the sake of children, but that are actually driven by misinformation, bigotry, or pseudoscience.

As the extract on the facing page illustrates, a major challenge during 2022 was the increasing misuse of the term “grooming” to justify violent rhetorical and physical attacks on marginalized LGBTQ+ communities, sex educators, sex workers, and even child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention researchers and clinicians.

Other child protection organizations and human rights organizations alike shy away from this battleground of the culture wars in which science and progress collide with far-right politics. While this leaves Prostasia to inhabit it almost unchallenged by default, it’s a costly niche for us to inhabit.

Our 2021 Annual Report frankly acknowledged the challenges that faced Prostasia in seeking to advance our mission in an online environment overwhelmingly dominated by toxic misinformation. During 2022, we consciously took a step out of the arena to regroup, take care of our team, and take stock of the challenges before us. This meant scaling back some of our activities and reducing the services that we offered.

But we can also look back with pride at the accomplishments of our partners and allies, in part thanks to the trail that we blazed. Aside from the vindication of Dr Allyn Walker cited on the facing page, we were pleased to see the launch of the stigma-free prevention initiative *Talking for Change* in Canada, and the landmark \$10.3 million investment in prevention at the Moore Center for the Prevention of CSA at Johns Hopkins University.

Prostasia has every intention of sharing similar successes as we rejoin the fray, fortified and renewed in 2023. In particular, you can look forward to the announcement of a new Executive Director with their own take on our unique and vital mission.

PROMOTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

By scaling back our activities in other areas such as events, consulting services, and advocacy, Prostasia was able to focus on its most distinctive contribution: supporting the primary and secondary prevention of child sexual abuse, through initiatives such as peer support and community education.

Our primary vehicle for delivering peer support for prevention continues to be our fiscal and organizational sponsorship of MAP Support Club (MSC). During this year, we successfully fundraised to support two new initiatives to strengthen MSC to make it more effective and accountable:

- A call for proposals was issued in November to conduct a professional evaluation of MSC. Through this evaluation, we hope to identify areas for improvement of MSC in meeting its stated goals to support minor-attracted people in living fulfilling and law-abiding lives. One qualified applicant has already been shortlisted for this contract, which is expected to begin in early 2023.
- Also in 2023 we will be launching a new training program for MSC staff to better equip them for their role in supporting at-risk youth with issues such as suicidality, and managing unwanted sexual feelings towards minors.

We also completely revamped our online deterrence campaign in 2022. This program now includes a new series of ads aimed at helping people who encounter illegal content by accident to report it to law enforcement. We're still in the early stages of evaluating this secondary approach, but we hope it can further reduce the spread of CSAM online by increasing the rate at which reports are filed.

CAMPAIGNING FOR EFFECTIVE LAWS

Between our formation in 2018 and 2021, political advocacy was one of Prostasia Foundation's core activities. To name just a few of the highlights:

- We contributed to an *amicus curiae* brief in the constitutional challenge against the anti-sex worker law FOSTA-SESTA.

- We gathered over 17,000 signatures to a petition to the United Nations in opposition to a plan to water down the meaning of "child pornography" to include art and fiction.
- We held a political briefing on the future of Europe's fight against child sexual abuse with Member of the European Parliament Patrick Breyer and a panel of experts.

During 2022 however, Prostasia Foundation has not been active in political advocacy. This is because in 2021 our prevention mission became a flashpoint for alt-right "groomer" misinformation, which poisoned the well for us as a political advocacy group. We had foreshadowed this in our 2021 Annual Report, in which we explained that we would "no longer be co-organizing events, campaigns, or publications with groups from other sectors".

In any other year we would have been leading the charge against harmful laws such as the Kids Online Safety Act, and in favor of positive laws like the Jenna Quinn Law. But in 2022, Prostasia's political activism was limited to commentary from our social media team, and the publication of an analysis of the reintroduced EARN IT Act in our February 2022 newsletter.

Now that the alt-right's "groomer" campaign has become better understood for what it is, and as Prostasia Foundation prepares to introduce its new Executive Director for 2023, the time is right for us to return to the field of political advocacy – and we are looking to recruit a new Activist to our team to lead this work.

DEFENDING THE INNOCENT

Our focus on core prevention services in 2022 also meant that fewer resources were devoted to our defense of those whose human rights were infringed in the name of protecting children.

However we did present one event on this theme during the year, titled *Sex-positivity and child protection: not a contradiction in terms*, at SexPosCon 2022. In this well-received session, we explained what a sex-positive approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse (CSA) looks like, and explored the difficulties of communicating the benefits of this approach to the general public.

Our social media team also highlighted some particularly egregious examples of misdirected accusations of “grooming” this year. These included attacks against prevention professionals such as sex therapist Miranda Galbreath, and those against LGBTQ+ supporting organizations such as Mermaids and the Trevor Project.

There was a notable development during the year in one case previously supported by our Protect Fiction Legal Defense Fund. As highlighted in our November 2022 newsletter, an appeal was heard against the conviction of Thomas Arthur for publishing fictional stories, which we regarded as both a dangerous incursion into freedom of expression, as well as an unjustified diversion of enforcement resources away from the prosecution of cases of actual child sexual abuse.

OUR TEAM

During 2022 we instituted new measures for safeguarding our team members against doxxing, harassment, and online abuse. This has included removing public information about our team members from our website. However, full information about our team continues to be available in public documents and by request.

As at December 2022 the Board of Directors of Prostasia Foundation comprised Jeremy Malcolm, Maggie McNeill, Jae Snell, and Gilian Tenbergen. Advisory Council members during all or part of 2022 included Ira Ellman, Craig Harper, Lola Hunt, Maggie Ingram, Nerea Vega Lucio, Kyung Sin Park, Honey Sampson, and Gilian Tenbergen.

Key staff during 2022 included Jae Snell and Laramie Gorbett both as Interim/Acting Executive Director, Prescott Bayern as General Manager, Sidney Slate as Blog Editor, Joshua Casey as Social Media Manager, and Kevin Ayram as Staff Psychologist. Our liaisons with MSC during 2022 were Timothy Fury and Elliot Porter.

FINANCES

Our 2021 Annual Report foreshadowed that 2022 would see a temporary contraction of both revenue and expenditure, for reasons explored earlier in this report. This prediction has indeed been borne out, as we ended 2022 in a similar position to 2019, when the organization was also fully volunteer-run. Nonetheless Prostasia ended the year with a

healthy surplus for an organization of its current size. Even after accounting for some upcoming budgeted expenditures in 2023, Prostasia Foundation remains solvent.

REVENUE/INCOME

Name	Total
Donations	24,794.59
Memberships	4,677.50
Miscellaneous	26.76
Total income	29,498.85

NET WORTH

Name	Total
Total assets	25,397.18
Total liabilities	50.67
Net worth	25,346.51

EXPENSES

Name	Total
Taxes & licenses	3,964.97
Hosting fees	1,221.92
Bank fees	571.08
Software licensing	537.09
Contractors	300.00
Mailbox rental	229.09
Depreciation expense	170.12
Events	161.14
Memberships	100.00
Miscellaneous	94.59
Total	7,350.00

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Name	Opening balance	Closing balance	Difference
Accum. depreciation	-871.27	-1,041.39	-170.12
Copyright licenses	387.95	387.95	0.00
Credit card	-623.07	-50.67	572.40
Web hosting credit	326.96	0.00	-326.96
Office equipment	1,721.87	1,721.87	0.00
Payroll taxes liability	-2,106.15	0.00	2,106.15
Petty cash	134.37	134.37	0.00
Current donations	935.09	617.00	-363.09
Bank account	3,426.45	23,577.38	20,150.93



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**Prevention,
Restoration,
Rationality,
Human Rights.**

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