

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

3 April 2025

CC: The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP, Secretary of State for Business and Trade; The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology; The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Dear Prime Minister,

Parliamentary Sovereignty and UK Democracy: Not For Sale

The UK Parliament passed the Online Safety Act and the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act to protect and promote the interests of UK citizens, consumers, and businesses. At a time of increased polarisation, both policies are widely popular across the political spectrum.

Both pieces of legislation were strongly supported by the Labour Party in Opposition. In fact, Labour Shadow Ministers pushed the Government of the day to strengthen the legislation significantly.

Any 'regulatory review' or any commitment to potentially change the implementation of these frameworks should form no part of a trade deal with the US.

If the home country of the most powerful tech firms in the world can negotiate away regulatory frameworks created by our sovereign Parliament, then what is left of our democracy?

We urge you and others in Government to reflect on the long-term benefits that a safer online space, and fairer digital markets will bring to our society and economy. And consider the future ramifications for our sovereignty if it becomes clear that laws passed by our Parliament can be traded away.

Our sovereignty and our democracy are not for sale.

Yours,

Organisations

- 5 Rights Foundation
- Alliance to Counter Crime Online
- Antisemitism Policy Trust
- Balanced Economy Project

- Breck Foundation
- CEASE
- Childnet
- Clean up the Internet
- Demos
- Ditch the Label
- DMG Media
- End Violence Against Women
- Every Child Protected Against Trafficking UK
- Financial Times
- Foxglove
- Full Fact
- Future of Tech Institute
- Global Action Plan
- Global Justice Now
- Good Law Project
- Guardian Media Group
- Internet Watch Foundation
- Marie Collins Foundation
- Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy
- Molly Rose Foundation
- MyData Global
- News Media Association
- News UK
- Online Safety Act Network
- Open Markets Institute
- Parent Zone
- Professional Publishers Association
- Public Interest News Foundation
- Reset Tech
- Ripple Suicide Prevention Charity
- Smartphone Free Childhood
- South West Grid for Learning
- The Glitch
- UK Safer Internet Institute
- Which?

Individuals

- Adele Walton, Bereaved Families for Online Safety
- Amanda and Stuart Stephens, Bereaved Families for Online Safety
- Baroness Beeban Kidron

- Dr. Elinor Carmi, Senior Lecturer in Data Politics and Social Justice at City St. George's University
- Ellen Roome, Bereaved Families for Online Safety
- Hollie Dance, Bereaved Families for Online Safety
- Lisa Kenevan, Bereaved Families for Online Safety
- Lord Stevenson of Balmacara
- Max Wilkinson MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Culture, Media and Sport
- Professor Philip Marsden, Bank of England (Member, HM Treasury Digital Competition Expert Panel - Furman Review)
- Ros and Mark Dowey, Bereaved Families for Online Safety
- Ruth Moss, Bereaved Families for Online Safety
- Victoria Collins MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Science, Innovation and Technology