



Press Contact: John@icontalks.com

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Diverse Coalition of Artists and Creators Urges Congress to Protect Creativity on the Internet and Reign in Abuses Facilitated by Major Tech Platforms

Letter signed by 17 groups explains how current law allows tech platforms to “tur[n] a blind eye” to piracy and other harms

(Washington, DC) – Today, ICONTALKS joined 16 organizations that represent creators of color in urging Congress to consider the unique challenges of the digital creative economy, including the “*massive theft and exploitation of creative works on the internet*” that particularly damages diverse and independent artists, as part of their ongoing review of abuses facilitated by many online platforms.

In a letter signed by multicultural film festivals and professional, educational and advocacy organizations, the groups made clear they “celebrate the internet as a platform for creativity, expression and innovation” but warn that “*if something isn’t done to make it a safer, more equitable, more welcoming place, the promise of the internet will be lost.*”

The signatories note that overbroad legal immunities discourage many big platforms from taking aggressive action to diminish piracy and other harms:

As creators, we are keenly aware of the responsibility we bear for our creative decisions, which can have consequences for our communities and society, not to mention our own careers. But online, little such accountability exists, because expansive “safe harbor” laws have largely absolved internet platforms from responsibility for the content they choose to display to users.

As such, there have been few consequences for the dissemination of illegal and abhorrent content online, and the problems this arrangement creates are becoming increasingly apparent.

Ultimately, what is needed, the creators argue, is “*a national conversation about how we can restore the original promise of the internet*” – one that provides new avenues and opportunities for diverse creators and that connects fans and artists in new and revolutionary ways.

About ICONTALKS

[ICONTALKS](#) was founded on the principal that an icon is someone who inspires not only through their innate talents but someone who manifests their purpose and passion in how they live their life and touch the lives of others. With that mantra as our driving force, we identify and work with icons from various walks of life, from music moguls to professional athletes, CEO’s, actors, and activists but also recognize those ordinary individuals who inspire through their triumphs, determination, and good will.