

Testimony

of

Tim Tebow

Chairman

Tim Tebow Foundation

before

the

US House of Representatives

House Judiciary Committee

March 6, 2024

10:00am

Good morning. Chairman Biggs, Ranking Member Jackson Lee, and honorable members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Tim Tebow, Chairman and Founder of the Tim Tebow Foundation. We exist to bring Faith, Hope & Love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need. To sum it up – we fight for those who cannot fight for themselves – and that is exactly why we are here today.

One of the things that I loved about playing sports was the pursuit of trying to be my best. It was a challenge. It was a goal. It was my drive – to try to be not just my best, but *the* best. And every now and then I got the chance to be the MVP – the most valuable player. But one day, when I saw people being thrown away because they were born different or looked different, they were being thrown away as less than, as insignificant, as cursed, as trash ...God pricked my heart and said “Timmy, I have a more important MVP for you to chase. It's not the most valuable player, it's the most vulnerable people.”

And that is why we are here today. Ladies and gentlemen of this committee, you have the chance to be the most valuable players for the most vulnerable people.

Over a year and a half ago, this lady next to my left, Camille Cooper, joined our team. One day we were talking, and I said “Camille, what breaks your heart the most?” She stood up and wrote the number 20,000 across our whiteboard. Nothing else. Just 20,000.

I asked “20,000 what?”

She said “20,000 unidentified boys and girls...”

I said, “what do you mean?”

She went on to explain that she thought there were at least 20,000 boys and girls whose images and videos of their sexual abuse and rape were housed in a global database at Interpol and their identities were unknown.

Camille then shared a couple studies about these images:

- 84% of the images were of actual sexual abuse.
- 47% contained extreme abuse including actual rape, bondage, torture, defecation, and bestiality.
- More than 60% of unidentified victims are under 12.
- 65% of unidentified victims were girls.
- 4.3% of the images were infants. (Over 2,100 infants!)<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> 2018 studies from NCMEC and Interpol.

I asked Camille “How can we get to them?” and she said we need all the best players to play on the same team.

And so last year, almost exactly one year ago today, we convened a meeting in Lyon France with all the experts in Victim Identification – Homeland Security, Interpol, NCMEC, Europol, Onemi, ICMEC - and 18 other countries, and we joined together to find out 2 things:

1. How many boys and girls were unidentified in the images in Interpol's database?
2. How are we going to find them and protect them?

Well, we found out there were not 20,000 unknown children, there were at least 50,000.

This meeting led to what we have been told is now the largest and most successful victim identification operation in the history of victim ID and it happened right here in the United States, led by Homeland Security Investigations. They called it *Operation Renewed Hope*. Last summer, over the course of fifteen days, 316 children were identified. And of those that have been rescued from that operation, more than half of them were right here in the United States.

If we extrapolate, that means there are potentially tens of thousands of American children, included in these images, that are waiting to be identified and rescued from their worst days!

You might be asking yourself, well, Timmy, what are you wanting us to do today?

As some of you know, we are drafting a bill. Some of you are helping us with that bill, but we need all of you on this committee to help us.

This bill is going to build a big enough rescue team to get to all those boys and girls. And we need you to say yes to creating those positions on the rescue team. We need you to say yes to funding those teams. We need you to say yes to giving them the best training and the best technology.

I've been fortunate to be on many different teams in my life, and on almost all of them, we had incredible resources, the best funding, and great support - and all of it was done for us just to win a game!

But this is to rescue lives. The most vulnerable people on the planet – children. And would we not put our best forward? Because we know with every one of these incredible boys and girls, our God gave his best, and would we not give our best for them so that they could be rescued?

For the next two hours, you're going to listen to our voices pleading for your support.

For just one moment I want you to listen to their words.

In a moment, I'm going to read you a poem written by an incredible child who was sexually abused and exploited online for 7 years. She wrote:

*Rescue Me  
Help "ME!"  
Monsters are chasing!  
Can't you see?  
Monsters are whispering.  
Can't you hear?  
Monsters are shouting – You're nothing.  
Can't you feel my pain?  
Monsters are pushing - "End it all - Just jump!"  
Can't you hear all the whys I'm asking?  
Monsters are laughing.  
Your all alone in this  
Can someone please rescue me?*

Most of you came to Congress because you wanted to make the world better, you wanted to help people, you wanted to change things.

Today is not about policy or politics, it's about people.

You can change the lives of tens of thousands of children right now.

I imagine these children go to bed afraid every night. I imagine they cry themselves to sleep. They are hurting. They probably pray every night for someone to come and rescue them.

They think no one is coming to save them.

But you can. You can save them.