

**ITEM G.102  
FOR ACTION**

FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S OFFICE USE ONLY					
	A. Resource Allocation & Stewardship		D. Coordinating Committee		G. Outreach to the World
	B. Personnel & Nominating		E. Mid-Councils		H. Ministerial Teams
	C. Property/Legal		F. Nurture the Body		P. Plenary
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – TO BE COMPLETED BY SUBMITTING OFFICE					
COST (explain in the Rationale section):					
Within Per Capita Budget _____		Within Mission Budget	X		New Funds _____

**Subject: Request authorization for MRTI to file shareholder resolution on online sexual exploitation**

**Recommendation:**

**The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board authorize the committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to file or co-file a shareholder resolution on child exploitation with an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) company.**

**Background:**

MRTI is in the process of developing its 2020-2021 work plan which will be finalized at its next stated meeting in October. The committee has decided that given the increased number of youth online for longer periods of time due to the COVID pandemic, and the church’s policies on child sexual exploitation (see Human Trafficking and Human Rights: Children of God not for Sale <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/human-trafficking-human-rights-children-god-not-for-sale.pdf>), it is appropriate and prudent for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., through MRTI, to engage companies and prepare to potentially file or co-file on a child online exploitation-related resolution in 2020/2021. The exact companies included in the overall ecumenical engagement strategy will be determined later this fall.

Per the Guidelines for the MRTI Committee, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB) must initially authorize MRTI to file or co-file a shareholder resolution on a particular issue area or concern (See Appendix I). MRTI has never filed a resolution regarding online protections against sexual exploitation in the past, thus PMAB authorization is required.

Here is an example of a resolved clause (the “ask”) included with a resolution filed at Alphabet during the 2019/2020 filing season:

RESOLVED: Shareholders request that the Board of Directors issue a report assessing the potential sexual exploitation of children across the Company’s businesses, including a risk evaluation, at reasonable

expense and excluding proprietary/confidential information, by February 2021, including whether the company's oversight, policies and practices are sufficient to prevent adverse impacts to the company's brand reputation, product demand, or social license.

The following justification and research on the issue is included in the Alphabet resolution:

- Child sexual exploitation online (including Child Sexual Abuse Material, or CSAM) is an escalating threat to children worldwide significantly exacerbated by the growth in social media platforms, online advertising, cameras on mobile devices, and children increasingly accessing the Internet and mobile applications;
- INTERPOL reported about 4,000 unique child sex images circulating worldwide in 1995;<sup>1</sup> yet in 2018, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received *45.8 million child sex abuse images and videos*, double the amount from 2017 and a 10,000% increase since 2004;<sup>2</sup>
- The World Health Organization now estimates 200 million children are sexually abused each year,<sup>3</sup> and that much of that abuse is online or captured and distributed digitally where children are re-victimized with each viewing;
- 1 in 5 children are now sexually solicited online;<sup>4</sup>

**Notes on Financial Implication: None**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.icmec.org/commonwealth-internet-governance-forum-a-joint-report-on-online-child-protection-combatting-child-sexual-abuse-material-on-the-internet/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/wearethorn/photos/a.539537636085793/2387317711307767/?type=3&theater>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.undispatch.com/here-is-how-every-country-ranks-on-child-safety/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.fosi.org/documents/366/Online\\_Safety\\_in\\_the\\_Age\\_of\\_Artificial\\_Intelligence.pdf](https://www.fosi.org/documents/366/Online_Safety_in_the_Age_of_Artificial_Intelligence.pdf)

**APPENDIX I**

EXCERPT FROM MRTI COMMITTEE PROCEDURES MANUAL:

SECTION III.B.3 –Guidelines for MRTI Committee Assigned Tasks

3. Recommend to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board specific actions on the exercise of investor rights and responsibilities.

These investor rights and responsibilities are:

- a. The filing of shareholder resolutions. Following initial authorization by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board of MRTI recommended shareholder resolutions on particular issues or concerns, the resolution(s) may be refiled or filed with another company upon approval by MRTI. All shareholder resolutions filed or refiled shall be reported at the next meeting of the Justice Committee of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board.