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## Annex



HRW.org

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\**In memoriam*

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June 2, 2021

President's Office  
Seoul, South Korea

Moon Jae-in  
President of the Republic of Korea

\*by email—to [president@president.go.kr](mailto:president@president.go.kr)

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am writing to you regarding an issue I know is of great concern to your government—the prevalence and impact of digital sex crimes in South Korea.

Human Rights Watch is an international non-governmental organization, with headquarters in New York, USA, that works in about 100 countries documenting human rights violations and advocating for an end to those violations. We have conducted research on digital sex crimes in South Korea and we will issue a report on this topic in the coming weeks.

Our report finds that digital sex crimes are a major problem, affecting the lives of a large proportion of women and girls in South Korea. These crimes have a devastating impact on victims, and because these crimes are so prevalent, they have a harmful impact even on women who do not know whether they have been the victim of a digital sex crime, making them feel less safe and less able to participate in public life.

We are aware of the steps your government has taken to try to address the problem of digital sex crimes, and we make note of some important reforms, including the reform of the law and the establishment of the Digital Sex Crime Victim Support Center. These are important reforms, and we believe the Digital Sex Crime Victim Support Center is a valuable model that should be replicated in other countries.

We also note in our report, however, ways in which we believe the government’s response has fallen short of what is needed to address the very serious problem of digital sex crimes. We are particularly concerned about the lack of efforts to prevent these crimes by promoting gender equity, awareness about healthy relationships and consent, and digital citizenship, for children and adults. We note remaining gaps in access to services for survivors of digital sex crimes, the frequency with which victims encounter abusive and unhelpful responses by police, the frequency with which prosecutors appear to drop digital sex crimes cases, and other failures by the criminal legal system to support survivors and hold perpetrators accountable in a manner proportionate to the harm they have inflicted. We also believe that civil remedies—such as making it easy for a victim to sue a perpetrator—are an important measure in response to digital sex crimes, and such remedies are, on a practical level, not sufficiently available in the South Korean legal system.

We have requested meetings with and data from your government during the course of this research. Some of these requests have been granted; many have not. At this time, we would like to request the following information:

- Data on digital sex crimes for each year during the period from 2010 through 2020, including the following: number of cases referred by police to prosecutors; number of cases where prosecutors filed charges; number of cases that went to trial; number of convictions; breakdown of sentences imposed after conviction.
- Funding allocated, by year, for the Digital Sex Crime Victim Support Center, from its founding through the present.
- Timeline and other details regarding the government’s plan to reform the curriculum and teaching of sexuality education in schools.

We would also be eager to hear any response to the concerns we have raised above or more generally on the issue of digital sex crimes. To ensure that we can take the government’s response into account as we finalize the report, we would request a response before June 7, 2021.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Barr', is written over a horizontal line.

Heather Barr  
Interim Co-Director of Women’s Rights  
Human Rights Watch

Cc:

Chair of the National Assembly

Ministry of Gender Equality and Families

Ministry of Education

National Police Agency

Supreme Prosecutor's Office

Supreme Court