



MAP Equality Dignity and Liberation
minorattracted.org

December 12, 2024

An open letter to the Bluesky Moderation Team:

We are MEDAL, an organization that represents people who happen to be attracted to minors. Our goal is simply to advocate for minor-attracted persons, or MAPs', right to exist without discrimination. We are not advocating for breaking or changing laws regarding age of consent. We do not endorse sexual contact between adults and minors, and recommend that MAPs abstain from that kind of activity.

We are writing to you today concerning the ban of multiple accounts belonging to MAPs and other paraphiliacs on Bluesky.

The accounts in question were suspended in a mass purge taking place in November, following a wave of negative attention directed from popular right wing accounts on X (such as LibsOfTikTok). While giving the reasoning for these suspensions, you wrote that they posted "content that supports pedophilia or the sexual exploitation of minors". However, the people these accounts belong to neither promote nor are involved with the sexual exploitation of minors.

Most of these users are minor-attracted people – individuals who have an unchosen and unchangeable attraction towards youths. Some of them are pedophiles in the scientific sense of this word, which is "an ongoing sexual attraction toward pre-pubertal children"¹ rather than an intention to commit assault. We would like you to clarify the meaning behind "promoting pedophilia" to prevent conflating this attraction with sexual acts involving children, since accounts not advocating for such acts were affected. Some MAPs are themselves survivors of child sexual abuse and advocate against abuse.

Mental health experts agree that MAP peer support networks are beneficial and have criticized other social media (for instance X, formerly Twitter) for implementing policies that prevented MAP users from openly seeking support and engaging in a dialogue.^{2 3 4}

In addition to the above, most MAPs who have sought and lost a safe space on Bluesky are queer and transgender and have been harassed with transphobic rhetoric by trolls from X. We, MEDAL, also are a

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- 1 Tenbergen, G., Wittfoth, M., Frieling, H., Ponseti, J., Walter, M., Walter, H., Beier, K. M., Schiffer, B., & Kruger, T. H. (2015). The Neurobiology and Psychology of Pedophilia: Recent Advances and Challenges. *Frontiers in human neuroscience*, 9, 344. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2015.00344>
 - 2 Bekkers, L. M. J., Leukfeldt, E. R., & Holt, T. J. (2024). Online Communities for Child-Attracted Persons as Informal Mental Health Care: Exploring Self-Reported Wellbeing Outcomes. *Sexual abuse : a journal of research and treatment*, 36(2), 158–184. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632231154882>
 - 3 Smith-Ferris, D. (2020, November 1). Twitter's pedo-populism is a setback for prevention. Prostate Foundation. <https://prostate.org/blog/twitters-pedo-populism-setback-prevention/>
 - 4 Smith-Ferris, D. (2020, November 1). Twitter's pedo-populism is a setback for prevention. Prostate Foundation. <https://prostate.org/blog/twitters-pedo-populism-setback-prevention/>

trans-led organization and our board members were targeted on their personal accounts (bi-aionic.bsky.social, ourossys.bsky.social, discoursedove.bsky.social).

MEDAL believes that MAP accounts on Bluesky have been targeted by mass-reporting trolls because the people who run the accounts happen to exist with unconventional attractions. MAPs face harassment, threats of violence, and oftentimes actual violence, just because of this attraction. No one can choose who they are attracted to, and no one should be unfairly censored simply because of their attractions. We believe it's best to have an open conversation with society about this, rather than keeping it hidden in the shadows. MAPs should have the same rights as others to participate in society, share friendship and support, and affirm their dignity.

We are not asking you to allow advocating for sexual exploitation of minors or other illegal actions. We are simply asking that you allow MAPs to exist as themselves on your platform. The existence of MAPs is not an act of exploitation or an attack on youth rights.

MEDAL urges you to reconsider your decision to ban the following Bluesky accounts:

visitmedal.org
discoursedove.bsky.social
bi-aionic.bsky.social
virped.org
ummm666.bsky.social
AegonsPuppy.bsky.social
phantasm-discourse.bsky.social
cutiepatotiebat.bsky.social
phossu.bsky.social
dankpaw.bsky.social
abominabligh.bsky.social
eaglespirited.bsky.social
wayawolf.bsky.social
ourossys.bsky.social
unbound-abyss.bsky.social
Yityers.bsky.social
pupofsin.bsky.social
findappiness.bsky.social
vallen-h.bsky.social
tinselkatalizor.bsky.social
toonimal.xyz

Sincerely,

~ The MEDAL Board of Directors ~