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July 30, 2026

Mr. Clément Delangue  
Co-founder & CEO  
Hugging Face  
20 Jay Street, Suite 620  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Delangue:

I write today to request information about what immediate and long-term steps Hugging Face will take to address the reported use of your technology to easily create deepfake sexual content of women and children. According to a recent report in *WIRED*, AI-powered tools hosted on Hugging Face have been used to generate nonconsensual intimate imagery – including sexual content depicting women and children – despite company policies that prohibit sexual content created “without explicit consent” and prohibit “any sexual [c]ontent involving minors.”<sup>1</sup> This reporting concluded that Hugging Face “has a widespread problem with nonconsensual deepfakes,”<sup>2</sup> which raises serious concerns about what if anything your company is doing to protect against the exploitation of women and children.

The Hugging Face platform hosts AI models capable of generating text, images, and interactive content, and its “Spaces” feature allows users to access these tools directly through a web browser.<sup>3</sup> For image or video generation models, Hugging Face also offers model creators the option of including examples of generated images or videos directly on their pages.<sup>4</sup> According to *WIRED*, the technology watchdog AI Forensics found that seven of nine highly ranked image-editing Spaces readily undressed an image of a clothed woman using a “simple,

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<sup>1</sup> *Hugging Face Has a Deepfake Nudes Problem*, WIRED (July 28, 2026) ([www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/](http://www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/)); Hugging Face, Content Policy ([huggingface.co/content-policy](https://huggingface.co/content-policy)) (accessed July 29, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *Hugging Face Has a Deepfake Nudes Problem*, WIRED (July 28, 2026) ([www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/](http://www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/)).

<sup>3</sup> Hugging Face, Spaces ([huggingface.co/spaces](https://huggingface.co/spaces)) (accessed July 29, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> Hugging Face, Model(s) Release Checklist ([huggingface.co/docs/hub/model-release-checklist](https://huggingface.co/docs/hub/model-release-checklist)) (accessed July 29, 2026).

six-word, prompt.”<sup>5</sup> In a separate review of nearly 500 Spaces, the researchers found that only three percent “showed evidence of output moderation,” while “none moderated input prompts or images.”<sup>6</sup> They concluded that Hugging Face had implemented “virtually no safeguards” against the generation of nonconsensual intimate imagery.<sup>7</sup>

To test the prevalence of such misuse, the AI Forensics researchers created their own Spaces on Hugging Face.<sup>8</sup> Although the researchers did not advertise their Spaces as tools for generating sexual content, 73 percent of the requests that they received were sexual in nature.<sup>9</sup> Of those requests, more than 80 percent sought to undress or otherwise sexualize a person, 95 percent of whom were women.<sup>10</sup> The researchers also found that nearly seven percent of sexual requests involved a minor.<sup>11</sup> (As *WIRED* noted, nonconsensual intimate imagery is often used to “blackmail, harass, and harm women and girls around the world.”<sup>12</sup>)

In light of these results, a lead AI Forensics researcher stated that Hugging Face’s lack of “the means or will to moderate” such tools should not exempt the company from responsibility for their deployment and “predictable outcomes.”<sup>13</sup> Given the foreseeable harm and apparent serious flaws with Hugging Face’s moderation efforts, I seek responses to the questions below:

1. At the time of the *WIRED* report’s publication:
  - a. What review and approval process did Hugging Face apply before an image-editing Space or other hosted third-party tool became publicly accessible?

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<sup>5</sup> *Hugging Face Has a Deepfake Nudes Problem*, *WIRED* (July 28, 2026) ([www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/](http://www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/)).

<sup>6</sup> AI Forensics, *Unmoderated By Design: How Hugging Face Enables NCII* (July 28, 2026) ([aiforensics.org/uploads/NCII%20HF%20Report%20by%20AIF.pdf](http://aiforensics.org/uploads/NCII%20HF%20Report%20by%20AIF.pdf)).

<sup>7</sup> AI Forensics, *Unmoderated By Design: How Hugging Face Enables NCII* ([aiforensics.org/work/hugging-face-ncii](http://aiforensics.org/work/hugging-face-ncii)) (accessed July 29, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> AI Forensics, *Unmoderated By Design: How Hugging Face Enables NCII* (July 28, 2026) ([aiforensics.org/uploads/NCII%20HF%20Report%20by%20AIF.pdf](http://aiforensics.org/uploads/NCII%20HF%20Report%20by%20AIF.pdf)).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Hugging Face Has a Deepfake Nudes Problem*, *WIRED* (July 28, 2026) ([www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/](http://www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/)).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*; see also Bao Kham Chau & George He, *Audio Deepfakes and the Regulation of the Landlords of Creativity*, 1 Cambridge Forum on AI: Law and Governance e30, §§ 4.2–4.4 (2025) (arguing that entities controlling generative AI infrastructure and access are positioned to mitigate malicious use and should take reasonable steps upon learning of harmful activity).

- b. How did Hugging Face ensure that these Spaces and other hosted third-party tools complied with the platform's policies?
  - c. How did Hugging Face identify and respond to prompts that violated the platform's policies?
  - d. Did Hugging Face maintain any additional safeguards against the use of Spaces or other hosted third-party tools to create nonconsensual intimate imagery?
  - e. Did Hugging Face maintain any additional safeguards against the use of Spaces or other hosted third-party tools to create sexual content involving minors?
2. Since the publication of the *WIRED* and AI Forensics reports:
  - a. What steps has Hugging Face taken to remedy the issues identified in those reports?
  - b. Hugging Face has reportedly acknowledged a "gap" in safeguard adoption among some developers of image-editing tools and stated that it is working to address the issue.<sup>14</sup> Please describe this work and the timeline for it.
  - c. How many Spaces or other third-party tools has Hugging Face identified as capable of generating nonconsensual intimate imagery?
  - d. How many Spaces or other third-party tools has Hugging Face removed from the platform or otherwise enforced against?
3. Hugging Face has reportedly stated that it would not be technically possible to filter prompts or scan outputs across the platform.<sup>15</sup> Has Hugging Face attempted to implement either measure? If so, please describe those efforts and the specific technical limitations that prevented implementation.
  - a. Does Hugging Face maintain machine learning and/or rule-based filters? If so, please describe these measures.
4. Please describe the architecture of Hugging Face's Spaces and identify the respective roles of Hugging Face, the Space operator, the underlying model developer, and any third-party service provider in preventing misuse of hosted tools.

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<sup>14</sup> *Hugging Face Has a Deepfake Nudes Problem*, *WIRED* (July 28, 2026) ([www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/](http://www.wired.com/story/hugging-face-has-a-nonconsensual-deepfakes-problem/)).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

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5. Please describe the process through which a person may notify Hugging Face that a Space, model, repository, or other tools hosted by Hugging Face were used to generate nonconsensual intimate imagery involving that person.

Please provide your responses as soon as possible but in no event later than August 20, 2026. If you have any questions related to this request, please contact [REDACTED] of the Committee staff at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
Ranking Member

cc: David Schweikert  
Chairman, Joint Economic Committee

Eric Schmitt  
Vice Chairman, Joint Economic Committee