



CAP International reaction to Backpage.com CEO arrest: Online escort sites take a heavy blow with arrest of classifieds site giant

On Thursday 6 October, leading classifieds website Backpage.com was recognized by the law as one of the world’s biggest pimps when its CEO, Carl Ferrer, was charged with pimping a minor.

CAP International welcomes this arrest. Our recently released Clio award winning [Girls of Paradise joint campaign](#) highlights the the role of websites in perpetuating and facilitating the violence that is particularly hidden from view when sex trafficking is moved online, all for the sake of sex buyers’ “user-friendly experience”. The arrest of Backpage.com’s CEO confirms this, and has begun a domino effect, as RentBoy.com CEO also [pleaded guilty](#) to promoting prostitution on the same day.

But arresting one CEO, or even two, is not enough.

We urge decision makers and law enforcement to recognize that we need a change in the system to protect victims. Ending sex trafficking starts by ending demand for it, by criminalizing the pimps and buyers, increasing provisions to victims, and decriminalizing the victims.

ENDS

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Notes to editor

About CAP International

Mouvement du Nid is a member of the Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International), a coalition of 14 frontline NGOs providing direct assistance to victims of human trafficking, prostitution & sexual exploitation.

The fundamental objective of CAP international is to contribute to the adoption and implementation of holistic policies and legislation at the domestic, continental and international level that can bring about an end to commercial sexual exploitation – in particular by combatting the demand for purchased sex. In order to reach this objective, CAP international aims to: strengthen the domestic capacities of each of its members & coordinate international advocacy initiatives, so as to reinforce the collective impact of its members.