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CC:	GEC-TET All <GECTETAll@state.gov>
Subject:	Fwd: FYSA: New CCDH Report - The Incelosphere: Exposing pathways into incel communities and the harms they pose to women and children
Date:	Fri, 23 Sep 2022 15:26:08 +0000

FUSA

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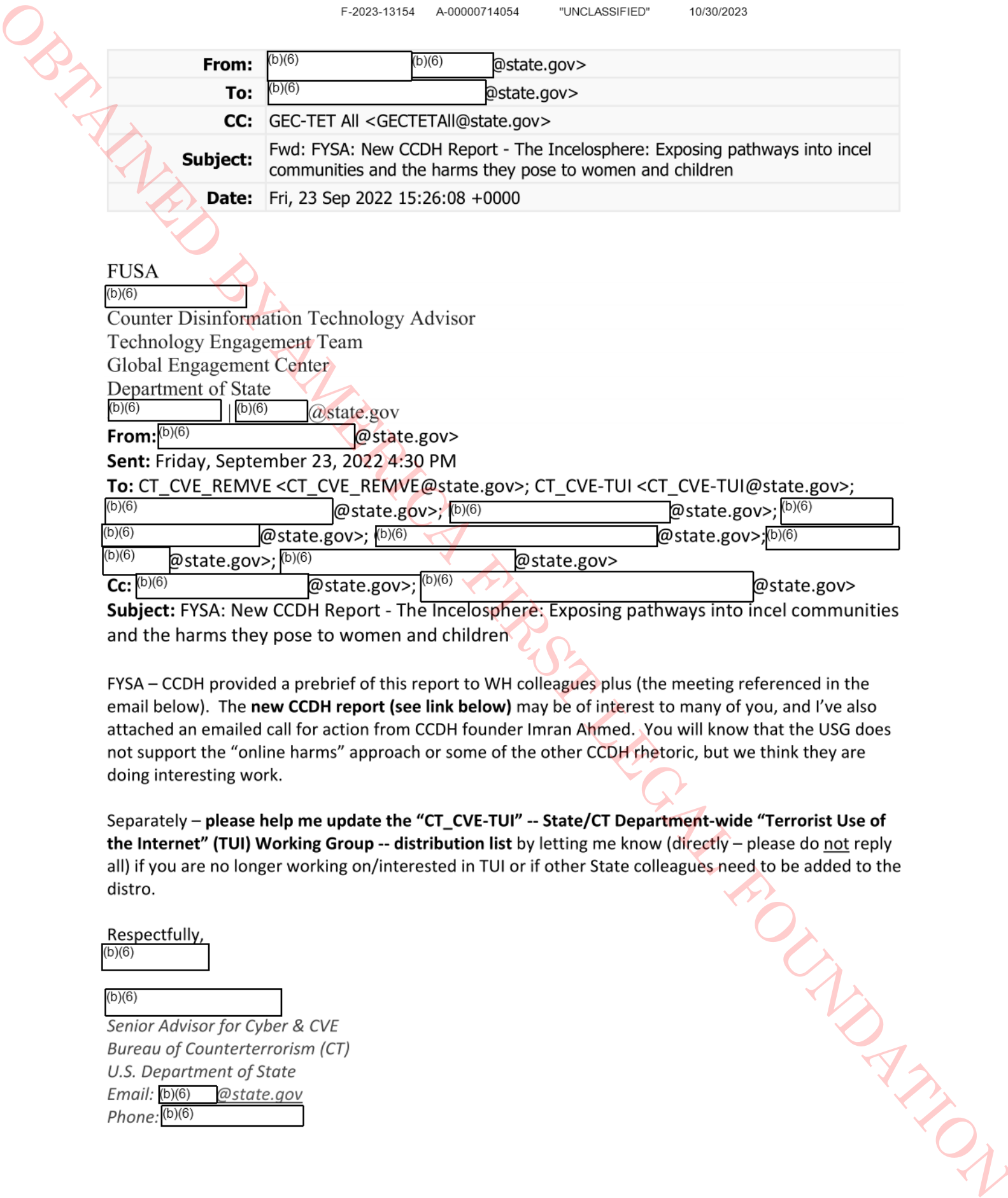
From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 4:30 PM
To: CT_CVE_REMVE <CT_CVE_REMVE@state.gov>; CT_CVE-TUI <CT_CVE-TUI@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FYSA: New CCDH Report - The Incelosphere: Exposing pathways into incel communities and the harms they pose to women and children

FYSA – CCDH provided a prebrief of this report to WH colleagues plus (the meeting referenced in the email below). The **new CCDH report (see link below)** may be of interest to many of you, and I’ve also attached an emailed call for action from CCDH founder Imran Ahmed. You will know that the USG does not support the “online harms” approach or some of the other CCDH rhetoric, but we think they are doing interesting work.

Separately – **please help me update the “CT_CVE-TUI” -- State/CT Department-wide “Terrorist Use of the Internet” (TUI) Working Group -- distribution list** by letting me know (directly – please do not reply all) if you are no longer working on/interested in TUI or if other State colleagues need to be added to the distro.

Respectfully,
 (b)(6)

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(b)(6)@nsc.eop.gov;>(b)(6)@state.gov;>(b)(6) EOP/NSC
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Cc: Imran Ahmed (b)(6)@counterhate.com>;(b)(6)@counterhate.com>;(b)(6)
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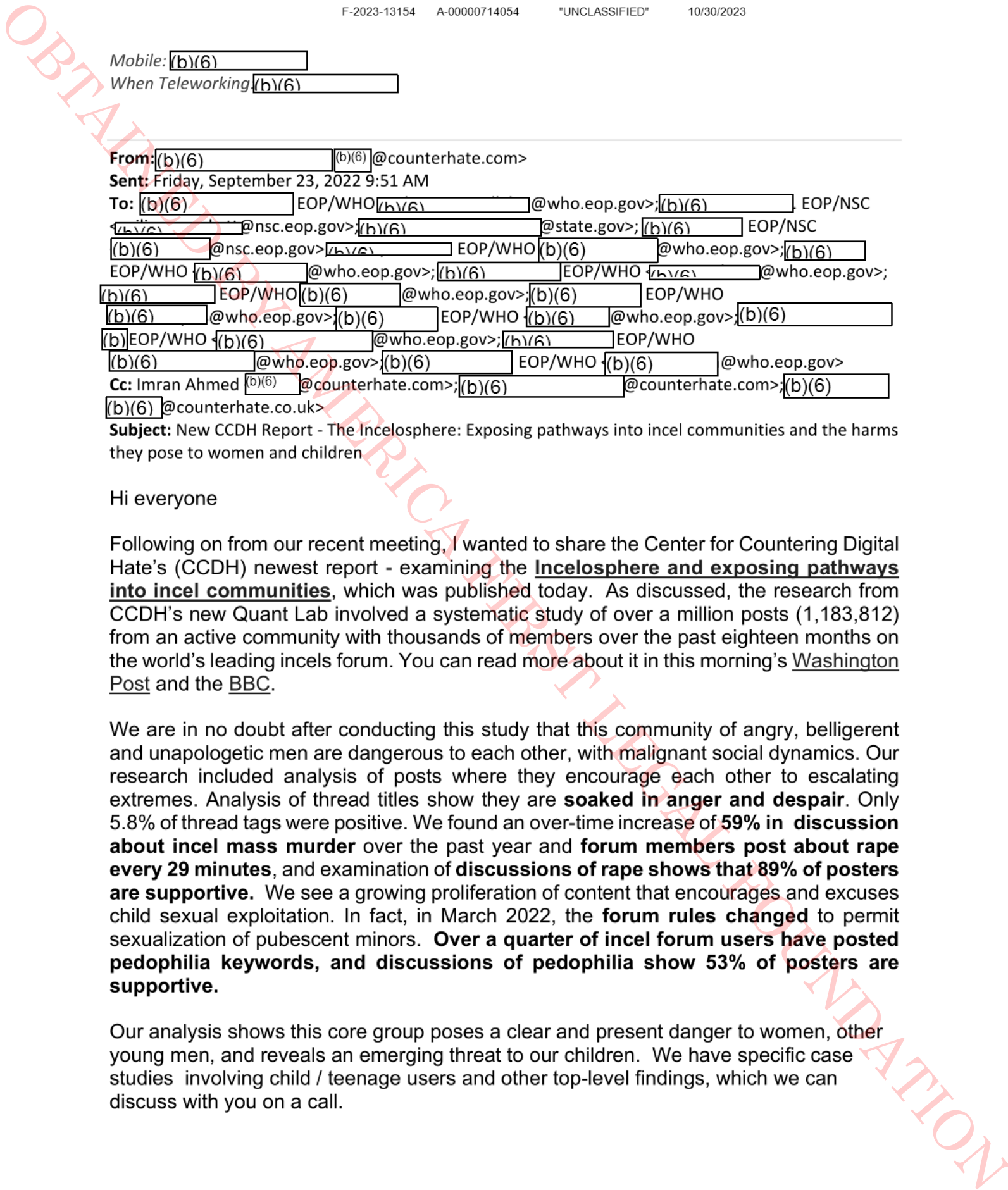
Subject: New CCDH Report - The Incelosphere: Exposing pathways into incel communities and the harms they pose to women and children

Hi everyone

Following on from our recent meeting, I wanted to share the Center for Countering Digital Hate's (CCDH) newest report - examining the **Incelosphere and exposing pathways into incel communities**, which was published today. As discussed, the research from CCDH's new Quant Lab involved a systematic study of over a million posts (1,183,812) from an active community with thousands of members over the past eighteen months on the world's leading incels forum. You can read more about it in this morning's [Washington Post](#) and the [BBC](#).

We are in no doubt after conducting this study that this community of angry, belligerent and unapologetic men are dangerous to each other, with malignant social dynamics. Our research included analysis of posts where they encourage each other to escalating extremes. Analysis of thread titles show they are **soaked in anger and despair**. Only 5.8% of thread tags were positive. We found an over-time increase of **59% in discussion about incel mass murder** over the past year and **forum members post about rape every 29 minutes**, and examination of **discussions of rape shows that 89% of posters are supportive**. We see a growing proliferation of content that encourages and excuses child sexual exploitation. In fact, in March 2022, the **forum rules changed** to permit sexualization of pubescent minors. **Over a quarter of incel forum users have posted pedophilia keywords, and discussions of pedophilia show 53% of posters are supportive.**

Our analysis shows this core group poses a clear and present danger to women, other young men, and reveals an emerging threat to our children. We have specific case studies involving child / teenage users and other top-level findings, which we can discuss with you on a call.



In respect of your question from our last call about what time the young people identified in the study were active on the forum, our Quant team noted that this was definitely during school hours, even controlling for time zones. I have attached two graphs showing these patterns.

We are happy to meet with you to discuss the other findings in this report, answer any questions, and work with the White House team on providing further evidence, recommendations, or ways to place pressure on platforms to act on this disturbing content. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or would like to arrange a further briefing.

Best wishes

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Head of Policy

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Center for Countering Digital Hate

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About CCDH

The Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) is a US-based, not-for-profit NGO with 501(c)(3) status, that seeks to disrupt the architecture of online hate and misinformation. CCDH has been at the forefront of unmasking how online platforms and search engines drive radicalization, online harm and misinformation. The Center's work combines both analysis and active disruption of these networks. We champion levers for change to increase the economic, political, and social costs of all parts of the infrastructure - the actors, systems, and culture - that support and profit from hate and misinformation (for example, climate change denial, sexual and reproductive health, anti-vaxx, antisemitism, and identity-based hate). You can read more about our recent work [here](#).

CCDH's 20+ staff are based out of offices in Washington DC and London. CCDH is independent and we do not take money from Big Tech.

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