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STATEMENT OF CRYSTAL HEFNER

I am speaking today for myself and for countless other women whose naked and sexually explicit images are being kept without our consent in approximately 3,000 scrapbooks which belonged to my late husband, Hugh Hefner.

It is critical for the public to understand that I am not referring to images that appeared in magazines. My focus is on how Hugh Hefner's personal scrapbooks chronicle private moments that took place behind closed doors.

There are serious and unresolved concerns about the scope of what these books contain. The materials span decades, beginning in the 1960s, and may include images of girls who were underage at the time and could not consent to how their images would be retained or controlled. They may also contain images of women who did not consent to their images being taken in the first place.

The scrapbooks include nude images, images taken before and after sexual activity, and other deeply intimate moments.

They contain intimate material involving women who are now mothers, grandmothers, professionals, and private citizens who have spent decades building their lives with no idea these images were still being hoarded.

I believe they include women, and possibly girls, who never agreed to lifelong private possession of their naked images, and who have no transparency into where their photos are, how they are being stored, or what will happen to them next.

These are the reasons why I am filing complaints with the Attorneys General of California and Illinois and requesting that they initiate an investigation into how these images are being handled and stored.

This is not historical documentation. This is the cataloging and objectification of women's most private details.

Today, I am told that these scrapbooks are in a storage facility in California. However, I was previously told that some of the scrapbooks could be inside a private residence to be scanned and digitized.

This is not archival preservation. This is not history. This is control.

I am deeply worried about these images getting out. Artificial intelligence, deepfakes, digital scanning, online marketplaces, and data breaches mean that once images leave secure custody, the harm is irreversible. A single security failure could devastate thousands of lives.

These materials are now being kept under the guise of a charitable organization, the Hugh M. Hefner Foundation, which publicly claims to stand for civil rights and civil liberties. The hypocrisy is as disturbing as it is obvious.

I stayed involved with the Hugh M. Hefner Foundation in part because I am worried about these books and the women in them, and I hoped the harm could finally be addressed.

Instead, I was asked to resign from my role on the Foundation's board and was excluded from the Foundation's decision-making. The concerns I raised about consent, safety, and security were ignored. Though I declined to resign my position, yesterday, in direct response to my escalating concerns regarding the handling of private photos contained in the scrapbooks, I was unilaterally removed from my position as the Chief Executive Officer/President of the Foundation.

Unlike me, the people who have custody of these scrapbooks do not have their own naked images in these books. They are not personally exposed, and they are not personally at risk. The burden and the danger fall entirely on us, the women in these photos.

Women have the right to bodily autonomy. We have the right to control our own likeness. We have the right to say that intimate images created under unequal conditions do not get to follow us for the rest of our lives.

This is not about money. I am seeking dignity, safety, and the destruction of nonconsensual intimate materials so that exploitation does not continue under the banner of philanthropy. Thousands of women may be affected.

This is a civil rights issue. Women's bodies are not property, not history, and not collectibles. And no organization should be allowed to claim the language of civil rights while denying women their most basic one: the right to control their own bodies and images.

Statement of Crystal Hefner

Represented by Attorney Gloria Allred

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