



March 29, 2020

THE US Fund  
7th Floor, 510 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 0M3

RE: DARK CLOUD DOCUMENTARY

To whom it may concern,

Define the Line/IMPACTS would like to extend its support for Spotlight Productions' project "Dark Cloud" and their application to the THE US Fund.

Define the Line/IMPACTS is a cluster of research programs based at McGill University in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE), under the umbrella of Define the Line. The program not only engages in pioneering research into cyberbullying, sexting and online sexual violence, it also aims to share its findings with educators and policy makers, as well as youth and parents. It does so through our website, which engages a wide audience and partners with influential institutions and private companies – including support from the Social Science and Research Council of Canada – affiliation with Stanford Law School, The Center for Internet and Society, and Facebook. Our outreach also includes public speaking engagements; conference keynotes, panels and workshops for educators and young people; expert witness and policy briefings to the federal and provincial governments and the legal community. Our emphasis on policymaking, education, and law, intends to better define cyberbullying, address offensive online communication and promote digital citizenship in such a way promotes healthier online interactions for youth across Canada – and beyond!

Our organization has already supported the filmmakers by providing an on-camera interview (with myself, the Director of Define the Line). The content of that interview aligns the filmmaker's vision with some of the key concerns of our organization. Namely, the film addresses questions like: why is cyberbullying important? Why should it be a concern for public policy? What is the role of legal institutions and schools? And what's the best way to educate and protect our young people?

We look forward to extending our support by sharing the production with our network of professionals and stakeholder community. We wish the filmmakers the best with their efforts and encourage the THE US Fund to consider supporting their efforts to bring awareness to this important issue and further the conversation about cyberbullying.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shaheen Shariff".

Shaheen Shariff, Ph.D., James McGill Professor |  
Dept. of Integrated Studies in Education | Faculty of Education |  
McGill University | 514-398-4527 ext. 094764 | shaheen.shariff@mcgill.ca  
Associate Member | Centre for Human Rights and Legal Studies |  
McGill Faculty of Law  
Affiliate Scholar | Centre for Internet and Society | Stanford Law |  
| Co-Director | Institute for Human Development and Wellbeing | Director | Define the Line Projects on Cyber and Sexual  
Violence | [www.mcgill.ca/define-theline/IMPACTS/](http://www.mcgill.ca/define-theline/IMPACTS/)