

From: [REDACTED]
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For the last 20 years my family has totally depended on my income as a commercial and editorial photographer. Copyright protection of that work is very important as much of the work I produce is valuable in the marketplace after the initial creation.

As the web has become a much more important means of public mass communication, I find my work increasingly used without my permission or payment. This has eroded my income. Digital images can be transferred so easily, and there is a prevalent public attitude that anything digital, especially on the web, is free.

But it's not free for me. I spend hours, money and energy creating the photographs. No one pays me by the hour. Rather I am paid by the number and quality of photographs I create. If they are stolen, that is money taken directly from my family.

Victoria, I urge you to maintain strict copyright laws that protect the creators. In addition, since we have become so globalized, Victoria, I also urge you to work with other countries to protect intellectual and creative property.

Thank you.