

Regarding Circu1ation

Please DO NOT harass any of the individuals mentioned in this document or contact them about the situation. This document is published to inform, warn, and prevent future incidents. Please respect the sensitive nature of this issue by leaving the people involved alone. Avoid and discourage gossip.

Preface

The Tetris Misconduct Helpline received a report of misconduct concerning Circu1ation, a top player from Hong Kong. Due to his status as a top player, and especially in response to his stream on the subject, we have found it needed to publicize a document on both the report and Circu1ation's response, as well as our recommended actions for the community going forward.

Our original intentions for this situation were to not release a fully public document, to protect the identities of both Circu1ation and the reporter, we were intending to release a private report to tournament organizers and community leaders. We felt it unnecessary to run the risk of having the accused be harassed or the reporter's identity exposed; having a more private document would significantly lessen that possibility. However, taking into consideration Circu1ation's stream on 2022/06/24, a public document has become unavoidable.

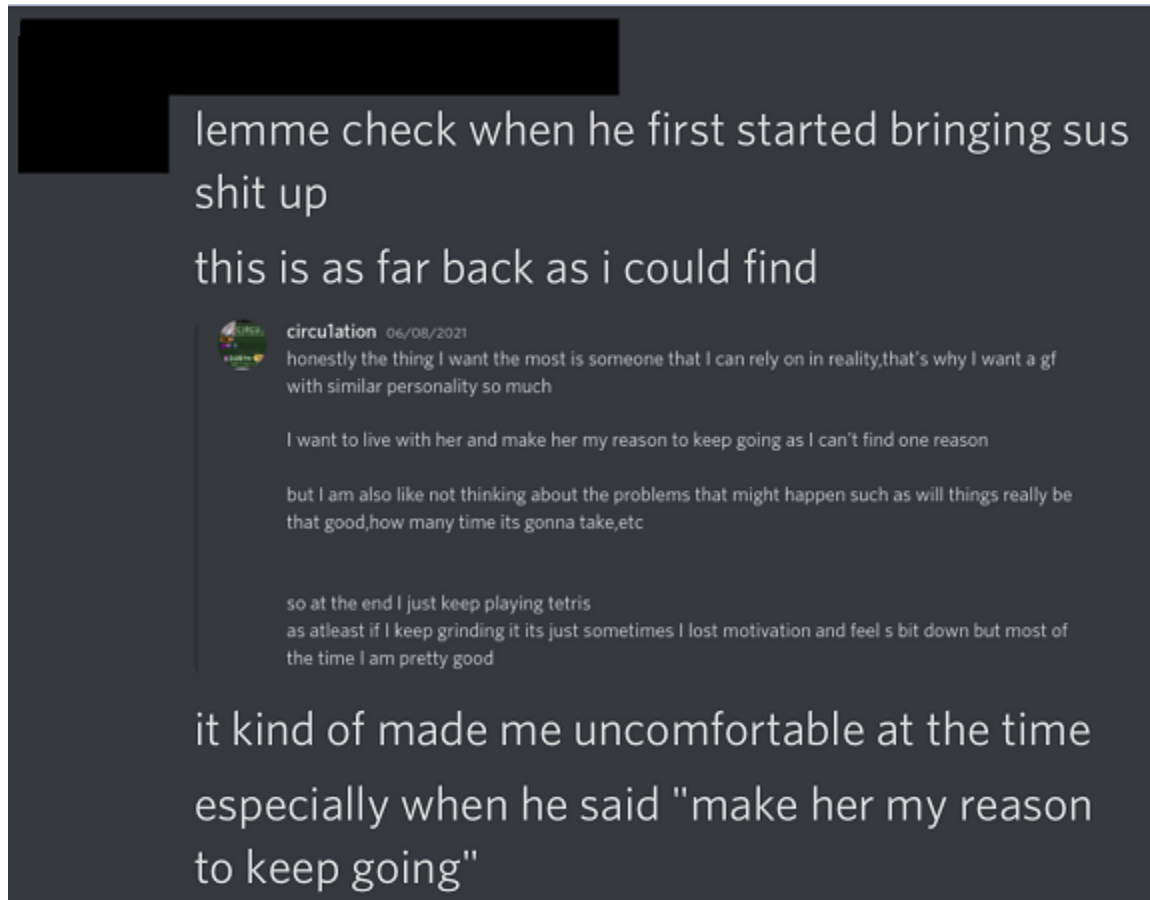
In spite of the aforementioned stream, we will be referring to the reporter anonymously to respect their confidentiality. If you are aware of her identity, please do not contact her or further expose her publicly.

In this document, we cover the contents of the report, our conversations with the reporter, as well as our initial conversation with Circu1ation and the contents of his stream on 2022/06/24. We additionally recognize that we as TMH, as well as some of the tournament organizers involved, have made several mistakes in handling the situation, some of which have directly led to the requirement of publicizing this document.

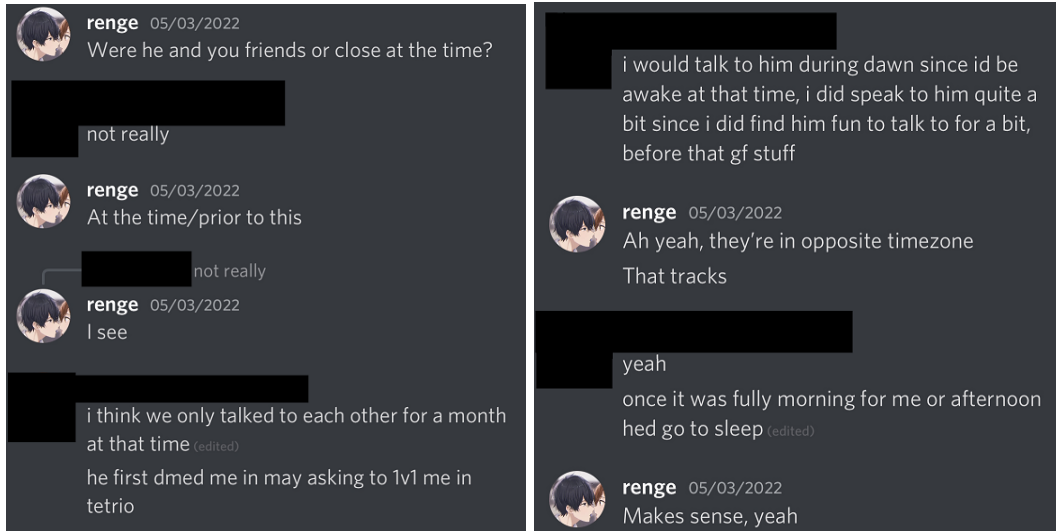
Reporter's Account

In this section, we will paraphrase the conversations held between Renge and the reporter in DMs. A full copy of the conversations can be found [here](#).

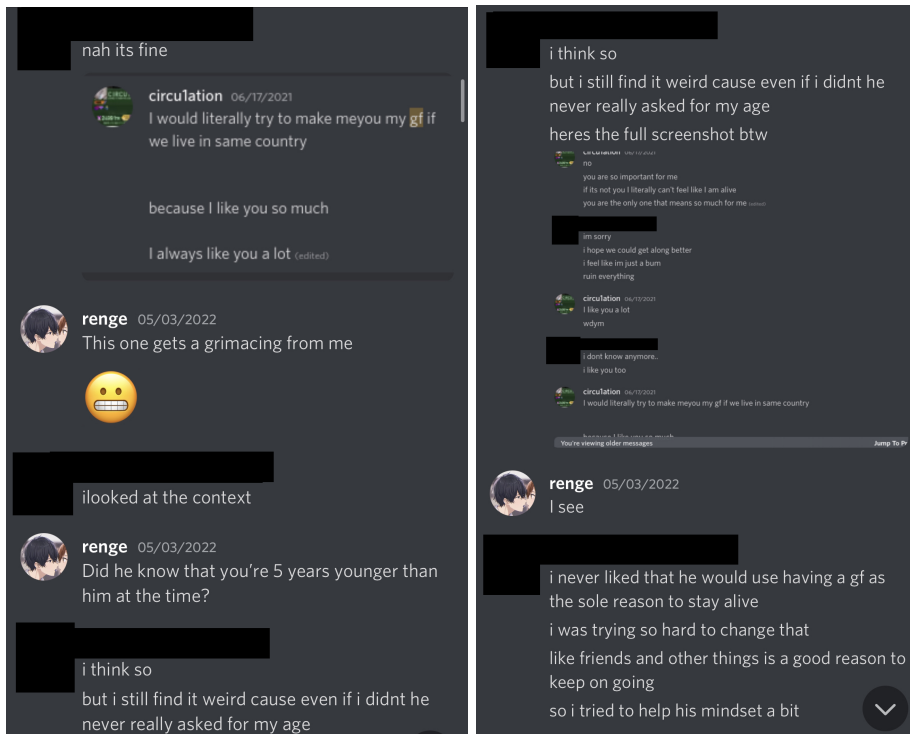
The reporter states early in the conversation that Circulation's comments on wanting a girlfriend made her uncomfortable.



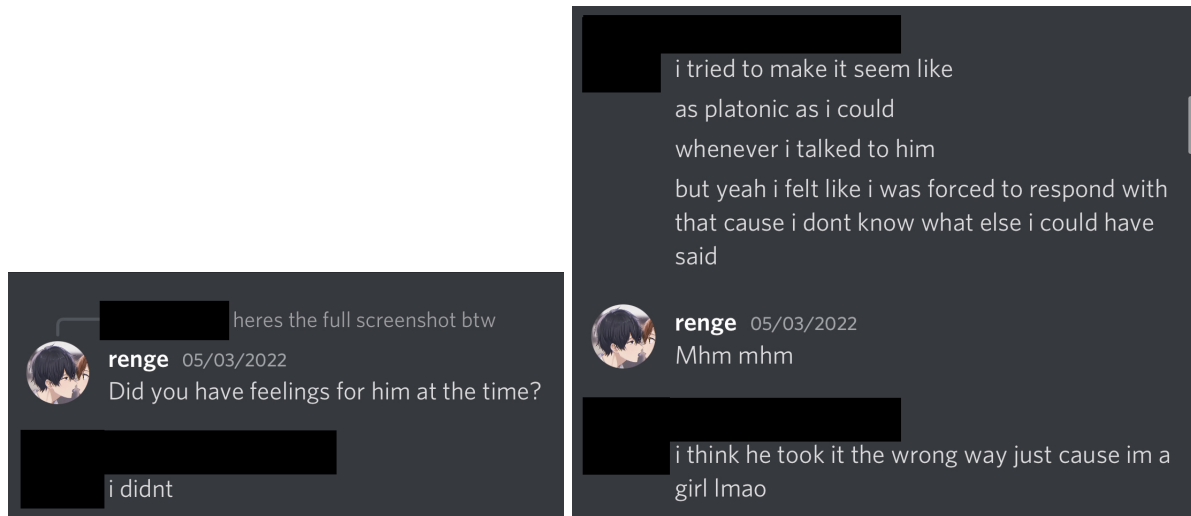
She mentions that she and Circu1ation were not particularly close at the time, having talked for about a month prior to the above screenshot.



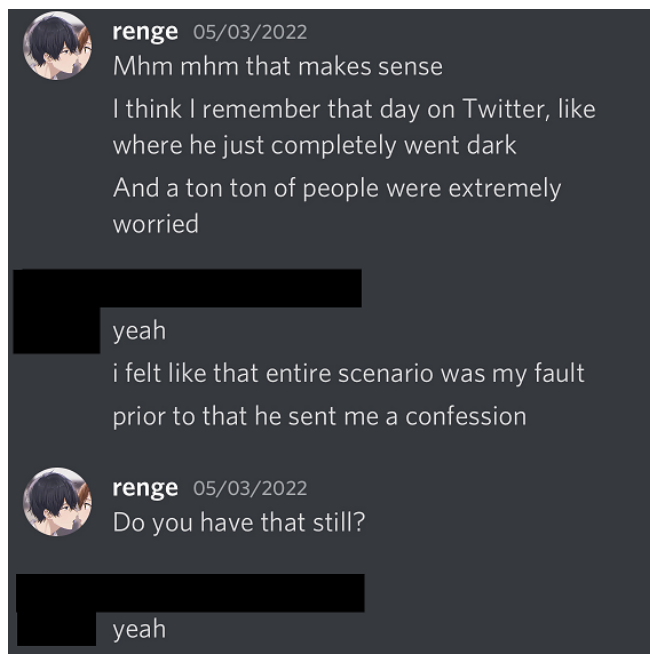
The following screenshots see the reporter providing more examples of things that Circu1ation said to her that made her uncomfortable. Additionally, she mentions here that she believes that Circu1ation was aware of their age difference at the time.



The reporter notes that she did not have feelings for Circu1ation, and responded how she did because she did not know what else she could have said in the situation.



Renge and the reporter discuss the events surrounding Circu1ation's disappearance from social media on June 11th, 2021. The reporter writes that she blamed herself significantly for Circu1ation's disappearance and worried that he would hurt himself.



no problem

circulation



circulation 06/11/2021

idk what even I am

I cant chat properly and I cant stop thinking of reason that I make others hate me my mental is so weak that I have my mental totally destroyed like once a week and I starts being like total different person when I am feeling extremely bad

and I am afraid that people thinks that how I always be like and hate me or don't like me

too many things happened me

I literally can't feel secured

I literally never have someone that I can fully believe in and rely on in my life

and I am so afraid that I lose more so I am so sacred about anything

and I get even more and more stressed

12:04 PM

when I talks to others I feels like if I am the one hearing It must be so boring,I literally don't know how to chat properly ,even myself notices that

maybe thats why everyone dont message me on their own



circulation 06/11/2021

during those few days I was really happy that you are here,as I never constantly talks with someone for several days,you also started the conversation one day,although it might be because I said I hope you can dm me since no one sends message to me at all

I have also said that I want to rely on someone I like so much as no one can ever help me when I feels very bad,and I also said that If a girl shares similar personality with me and talks a lot with me its very easy for me to like her

You're viewing older messages

Jump To Present



circulation 06/11/2021

during those few days I was really happy that you are here,as I never constantly talks with someone for several days,you also started the conversation one day,although it might be because I said I hope you can dm me since no one sends message to me at all

I have also said that I want to rely on someone I like so much as no one can ever help me when I feels very bad,and I also said that If a girl shares similar personality with me and talks a lot with me its very easy for me to like her

I honestly kind of expected this to happen,and I have tried my best to control myself,but eventually I am gonna hurt myself even more

I love you so much and you are totally my ideal type of gf

It will be so good if you are by my side in reality...


I am not asking for any reply or what,also I know that we live in totally different place,and you probably don't look at me that way too

sorry for being so gross
but idk about everything anymore

blame me in whatever way you want


i went to the bathroom to come back and see
all this

Tap to see attachment

 **reng** 05/03/2022
So after this, he went MIA for the few days,
then came back

yeah, it was only for 2 or 3 days but i was so
afraid that it was gonna be longer than that or
he did something to himself


i was supposed to get my covid vaccine on that
day but i moping over if i was the reason that
he was gone
i felt so terrible man

 **@reng** I think I remember that day on Twitter,
like where he just completely went dark


and i blamed myself cause i couldnt respond
immediately before he went missing and
caused that stuff

The reporter perceives the accused as having only been in contact with her because she is a girl, rather than anything she has done for him. She feels the friendship to be one-sided, and that Circu1ation would only really affirm his love for her when she needed emotional support.

maybe
idk if i should say this
i wanna d..
i dont want anyone to be concerned
i havent really told anyone
ive been feeling sort of
suicidal again
im sorry

 **circu1ation** 06/17/2021
it's ok
I love you anyways

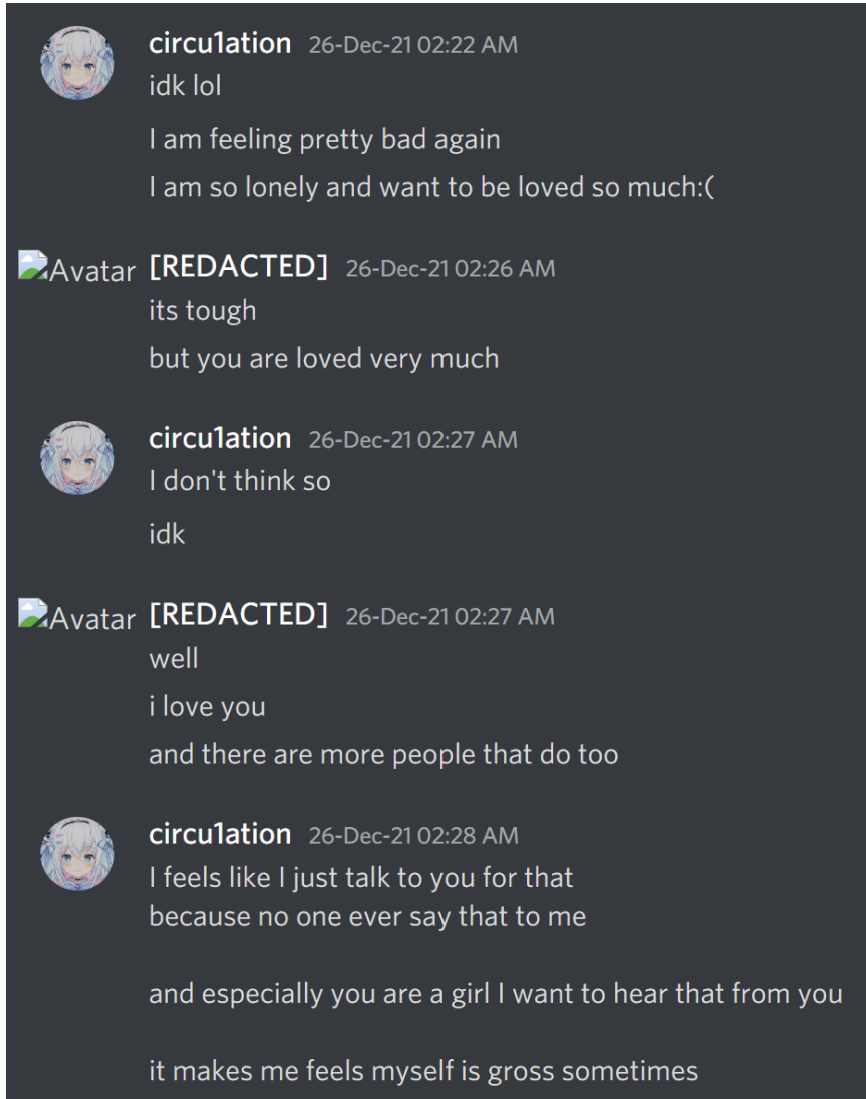
and said this when i told him he could be more
open to me

 **circu1ation** 05/12/2022
yes I think
the only thing that I think I don't say is I always feels like I want to get some sweet conversation
when I am talking with you because you are girl and your voice is cute and I am a fking loser I
guess lol

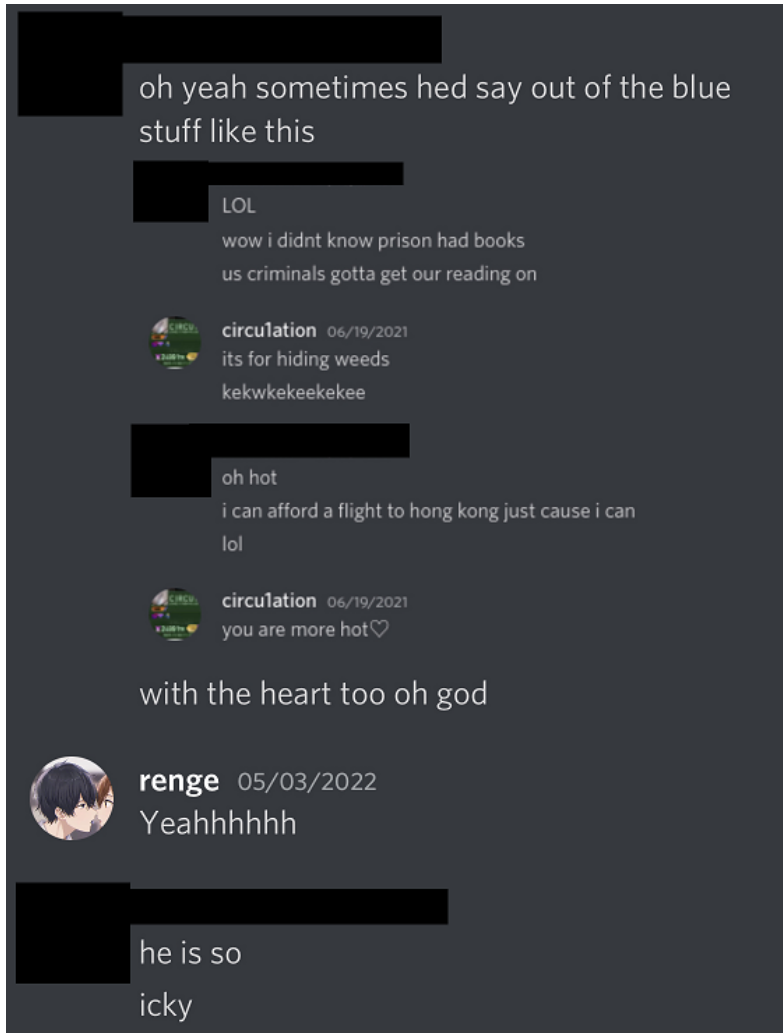
its not that I really love you in a romantic way or I want you to be my gf or whatever but I am just
very nani
ok idk why I said that
whatever
too lonely guess kek w

and i got the idea that
he only likes talking to me cause im a girl
not really cause im a friend or that ive tried to
help him
and one day when i asked him if he still thought
of me as a friend, he said "not really" or smth
like that
i felt like i spent good time helping him out only
for him to just think this way
what was all that for
and at that point i didnt really want to talk to
him that much

This is acknowledged by Circu1ation, who recognizes that he might in fact talk with her solely for that reason, and expresses disgust with himself upon reflecting on that realization.



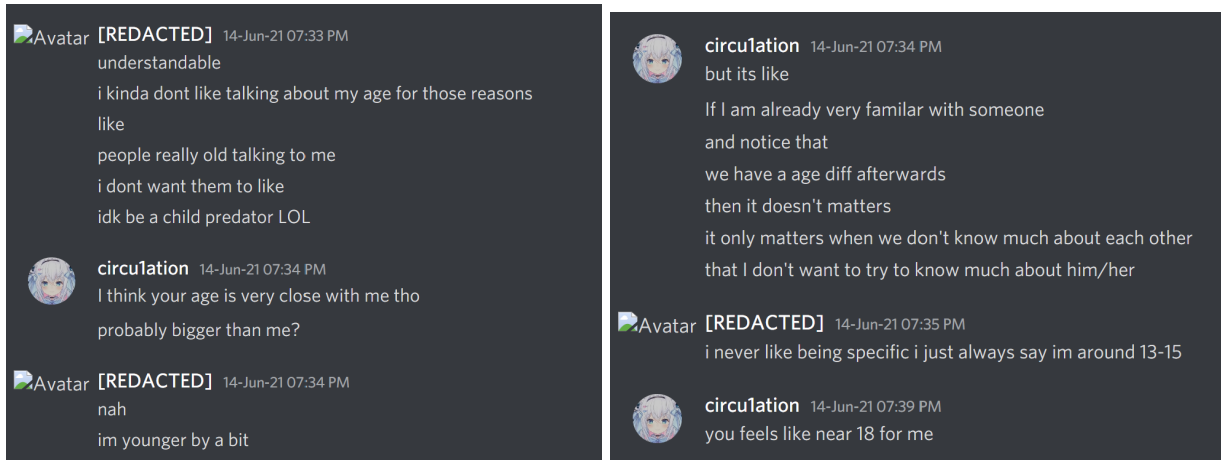
She further notes that on some occasions, Circu1ation would make flirtatious comments towards her. It is worth noting that whether or not this particular comment is sexual in nature is ambiguous. Though it may not have been meant to be construed in that manner, it is a possibility that should not be ignored.



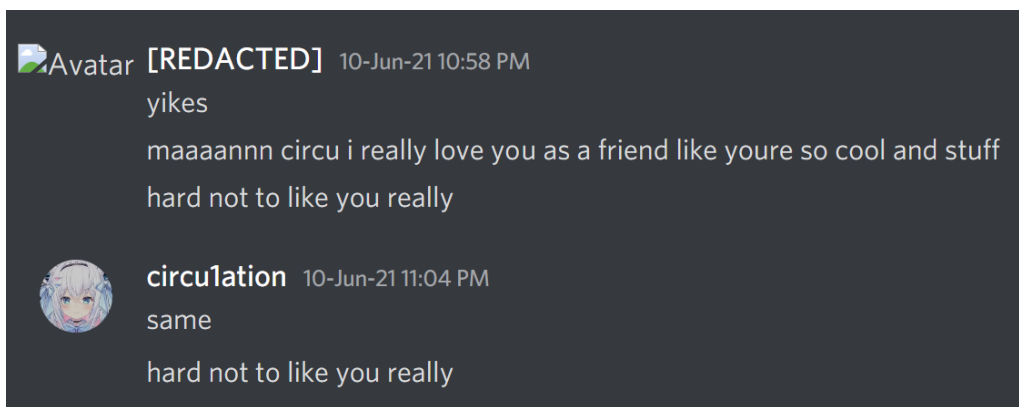
Circu1ation's Account

Circu1ation spoke with us on 2022/06/10 to shed light on the situation. Although a recording of this conversation exists, we will not link it in this document in the spirit of confidentiality. When the messages are viewed in context, with the understanding of Circu1ation's poor social awareness, they seem to read as banter.

It is important to note that Circu1ation was unaware of the reporter's age until 2021/06/14, and he believed the reporter to be older than him until she told him otherwise.





We also observe, even before that, Circu1ation saw the reporter as a friend.





After 2021 June 14, the word “love” is used almost exclusively in two main contexts: friendly memes and banter, and emotionally supportive conversations. Both cases appear strictly platonic.





 [REDACTED] 17-Jun-21 01:15 PM
thank you
i dont think im even worth your time anyway
im just
shit


 **circulation** 17-Jun-21 01:19 PM
no
you are so important for me
if its not you I literally can't feel like I am alive
you are the only one that means so much for me (edited)


 [REDACTED] 17-Jun-21 01:20 PM
im sorry
i hope we could get along better
i feel like im just a bum
ruin everything


 **circulation** 17-Jun-21 01:21 PM
I like you a lot
wdym


 [REDACTED] 17-Jun-21 01:22 PM
i dont know anymore..
i like you too


 [REDACTED] 17-Jun-21 01:10 PM
maybe
idk if i should say this
i wanna d..
i dont want anyone to be concerned
i havent really told anyone
ive been feeling sort of
suicidal again
im sorry

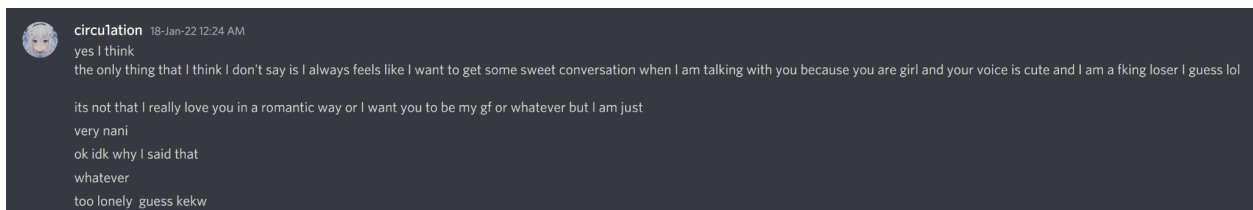
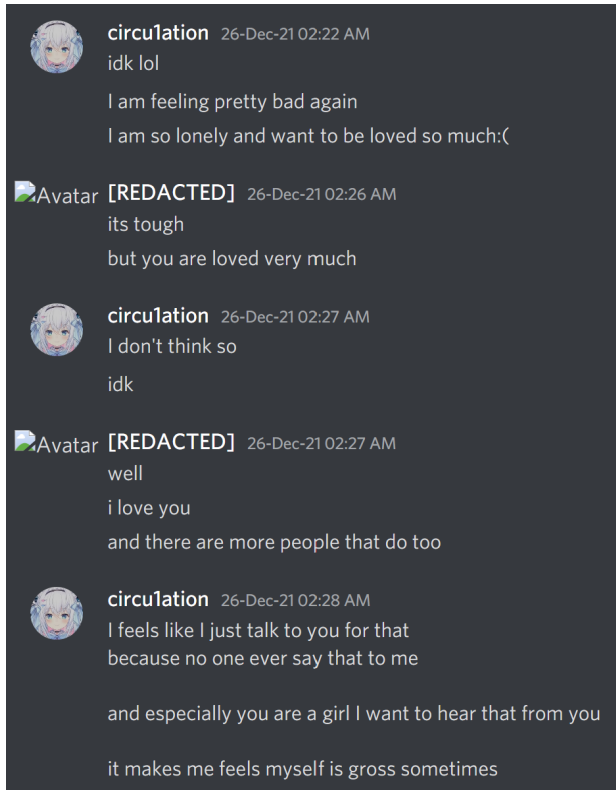
 **circulation** 17-Jun-21 01:14 PM
it's ok
I love you anyways
just remember this

 [REDACTED] 17-Jun-21 01:14 PM
i love you too

 **circulation** 17-Jun-21 01:14 PM
>.<
although I can't really provide solid help
no matter what you want to say
I am down to hear

 **circulation** 20-Jul-21 12:59 AM
so meaningless
fk
I dont believe in anyone
fk everyone
I have no friends
fk everyone in this earth
how to have someone that cares about me
I want to vent my negative mood
but there is no one I believe in
and everyone just give me respond that I don't fking want
or even hate
fk
everything
idk

 [REDACTED] 20-Jul-21 05:18 AM
circu i care about you a lot
youre always free to say something to me
im sorry i didnt respond earlier
i get very worried when youre not okay and i want to help you :<
you are welcome to vent about your negative mood
i CARE about you and i want to try my best to help <3
i love you very much and i want to comfort you
and i promise theres other people out there that care about you too
but even if you think you dont have friends.. im always here
and its not like youll never have friends you like, theres so many people in the world and you never know if theyll be your friend if you dont believe in yourself or in them
its not too late to find new friends, thats why you shouldnt shut yourself away from others
high school is a tough place to find friends, but youll get out of there soon, and youll find new things in life, i promise everything will be okay
you will be okay
and if you cant believe in yourself, ill believe in you
<3



As mentioned in the “Reporter’s Account” section, Circu1ation seems to recognize the possible one-sided nature of his friendship with the reporter, that he may have only spoken to her because she is a girl, etc. He expresses self-admonishment at this realization.

From our conversation with Circu1ation on 2022/06/10 and the DM history between him and the reporter, our conclusion is thus:

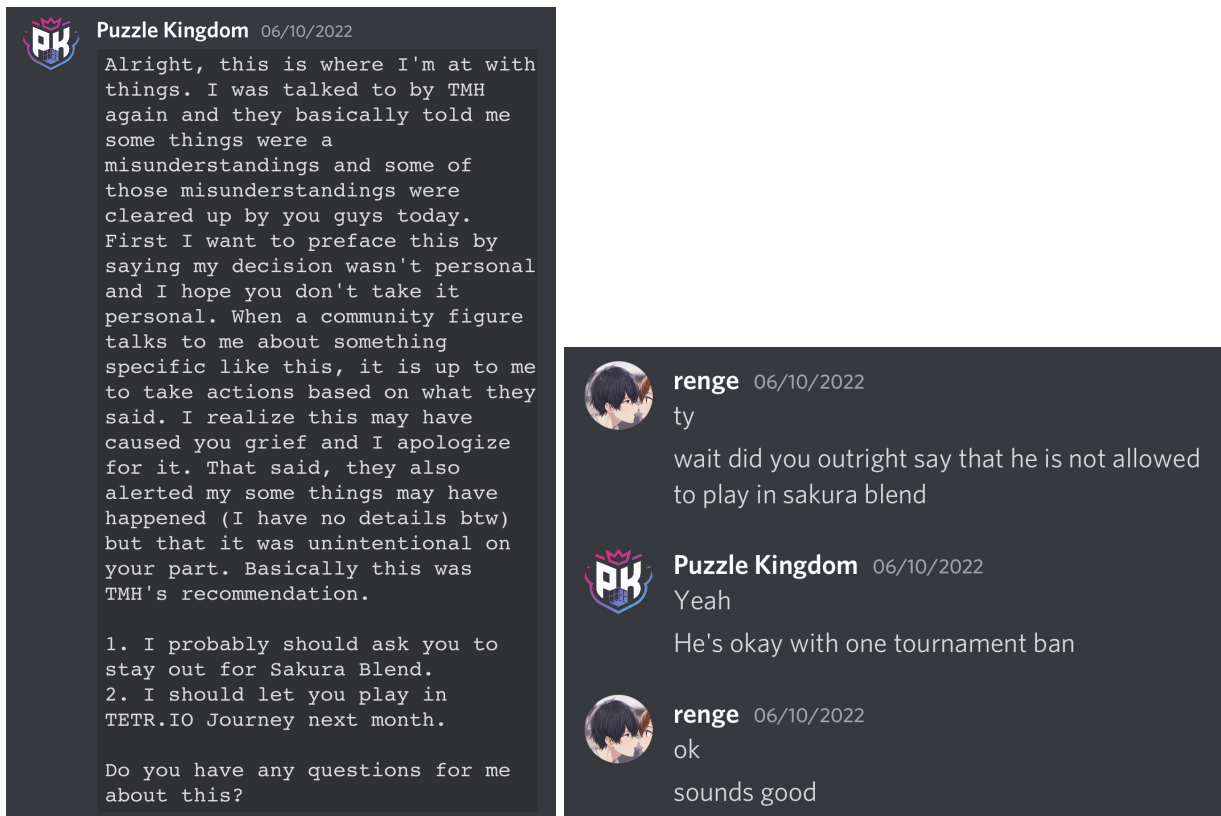
- While Circu1ation and the reporter do engage in many conversations with sexual or romantic undertones, in context, they are largely discussions of a theoretical nature with no charged, directed intentions to date the other party. Any displays of affection can be reasonably perceived as platonic.
- Circu1ation was extremely cooperative and transparent. He seemed eager to understand what went wrong; he was, at this point, unaware of Western views against romantic relations between adults and minors, as well as the fact that Western Tetris tournament organizers, particularly

Puzzle Kingdom (who had recently banned him from Sakura Blend), would hold him to that standard.

Sakura Blend

Due to the reporter's role as Puzzle Kingdom staff, Circu1ation was banned preemptively from Sakura Blend. The ban was used to protect the reporter, who could potentially have to commentate Circu1ation's tournament sets or otherwise come into contact; however, it also resulted in his awareness of the ongoing investigation and contacting of TMH.

After his discussion with TMH and our subsequent contact with MoosePK, the parties involved agreed to maintain the ban from Sakura Blend, but also restore his ability to play in TETR.IO Journey.



The screenshot shows a Discord chat log. On the left, a message from Puzzle Kingdom (PK) dated 06/10/2022 explains the ban and offers two options: staying out of Sakura Blend or playing in TETR.IO Journey next month. On the right, a user named rene (renee) responds, asking if the ban is absolute and then agreeing to the terms.

Puzzle Kingdom 06/10/2022

Alright, this is where I'm at with things. I was talked to by TMH again and they basically told me some things were a misunderstandings and some of those misunderstandings were cleared up by you guys today. First I want to preface this by saying my decision wasn't personal and I hope you don't take it personal. When a community figure talks to me about something specific like this, it is up to me to take actions based on what they said. I realize this may have caused you grief and I apologize for it. That said, they also alerted my some things may have happened (I have no details btw) but that it was unintentional on your part. Basically this was TMH's recommendation.

1. I probably should ask you to stay out for Sakura Blend.
2. I should let you play in TETR.IO Journey next month.

Do you have any questions for me about this?

renee 06/10/2022

ty

wait did you outright say that he is not allowed to play in sakura blend

Puzzle Kingdom 06/10/2022

Yeah

He's okay with one tournament ban

renee 06/10/2022

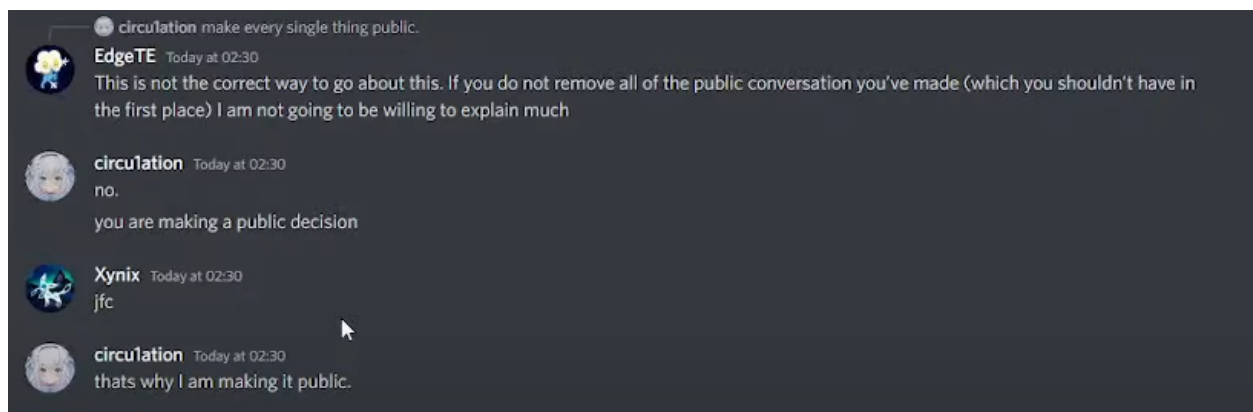
ok

sounds good

The Stream

Circu1ation was then banned from both Tetralympics and TETR.IO Journey. On 2022 June 24, Circu1ation streamed to an audience of 150+ live viewers in retaliation, showing his full chat record with the reporter, along with his recorded conversation with TMH—which he did not mention would be recorded—and a live discussion with bennxt, EdgeTE, and Xynix. For the sake of the reporter's confidentiality, we will not be linking the recording here.

In spite of being requested multiple times to shut down the stream, Circu1ation refused on the grounds that a public decision should be responded to with publication of all details. He felt cornered and attempted to gain public support through this stream, resulting in the reporter's identity being leaked.



Regardless of the actions that we would have taken with the initial report and subsequent conversations with the reporter and Circu1ation, the fact that Circu1ation exposed the reporter on his stream is an inexcusable offense. We believe that confidentiality is of paramount importance when approaching delicate situations like these, and breaching privacy in such an egregious way is justification for a community ban on its own due to the potential resulting mental and social endangerment of the exposed parties.

Conclusion

Albeit without malice, Circu1ation and the reporter engage in conversations with sexual or romantic undertones. The report itself is not deceitful either, and is based on the reporter's interpretation of the accused's messages in hindsight. Neither party acted with ill intent, and we reiterate: **do not harass any of the individuals mentioned in this document.**

To say that Circu1ation was not emotionally manipulative towards the reporter is untrue; that being said, we do not believe that to be his intention. Circu1ation has shown little-to-no awareness of how the reporter felt during their interactions, and taking into account his existing mental health issues, it becomes clearer how this came to pass. It does not excuse the behavior; those with mental health issues should still be aware of how their words and actions will affect others. In knowing the age gap between Circu1ation and the reporter, Circu1ation's inadvertent emotional manipulation is particularly unacceptable. Adults are put to a higher standard of behavior than minors, and should be; they hold the responsibility, being more mature and often holding more power in the relationship, of keeping the minor out of situations they may regret in the future.

The cultural difference between the East and the West was a point of contention during our conversation with Circu1ation, as well as his stream. As mentioned earlier, Circu1ation claims romantic overtones in platonic friendships between two people with a high age difference between them are more socially normalized in Asia. Circu1ation was unaware of the difference in culture, and was willing to adapt to Western cultural norms once he was made aware. It is important to emphasize here that tournament

organizations based in the West will uphold Western cultural norms, and behaviors that TOs feel violate their code of conduct or are worth a ban will often not take into consideration these cultural differences, as has been the case in this situation.

Given only the reporter's and Circu1ation's accounts, we likely would have recommended a shorter-term tournament ban, until Circu1ation had shown growth in the points presented in this document. We believe that, following our conversation with him, he was willing to learn the standards placed on him by Western communities, and knew what topics to avoid moving forward.

Taking recent developments into account, however, our suggestion shifts. Circu1ation handled the investigation and subsequent situation poorly. Recording his conversation with TMH without first notifying us, and more critically, leaking that voice conversation, its contextual DM history, and his entire DM history with the reporter on his stream are a significant offense adding onto the existing situation that cannot be overlooked.

Breaching the reporter's anonymity in a situation as tense as this is an infraction that is currently beyond redeemability, and as such, our recommendation has become a community ban on Circu1ation until the end of the year, after which his conduct should be reevaluated. We acknowledge that what each individual faction of the community does with the information presented in this document is ultimately up to them, and we advise other parts of the community to take appropriate measures to protect the minors in our scene and make it a safe space for all.

For the Future: Our Commitment to You

TMH, as it currently stands, suffers from a lack of manpower. With only three members, we fail to process cases at a satisfactory pace. Our inability to address this issue in a timely manner has led to this document being released late, and inadvertently resulted in Puzzle Kingdom's decision to take early action without our backing of a document or sufficient documented evidence. This is unacceptable, and we will be placing measures to prevent this from happening again.

Actions have consequences, including unintended consequences; this is a recurring theme in this case, and it does not only apply to the accused. Here, this faults Puzzle Kingdom and Modern Mino Community, whose preemptive bans (Sakura Blend, and especially Tetralympic Season 3 and TETR.IO Journey Sunbright) ultimately led to the reporter's identity being exposed. Acting without an existing document or verdict naturally leads to questions and complaints from the accused; in this case, this took the form of the stream. **Note that this does not legitimize Circu1ation's stream; this is merely a statement that it, or a similar action, should have been expected and considered.**

As Moose states in [his official statement](#), "it seems like people always want to find a way to protect the perpetrator but nobody ever seems to take the reporters' well-being into account." It is critical to differentiate between being in support of the reporter and being against the accused. While these two are commonly associated, they are not strictly equivalent. In this situation, these preemptive bans are

certainly against the accused, but can hardly be considered in support of the reporter when the resulting stream and exposing of the reporter's identity is kept in mind. This is an unintended consequence, but it is a consequence that should have been considered nonetheless.

In addition, our poor communication with MMC heavily factored into their bans. We currently lack proper communication channels, and as a result, TMH is internally uncoordinated in its communication with outside entities. Renge backed the ban, which ultimately caused MMC to take action and result in the previously discussed situation.

While TMH would have likely supported a short term ban, encouraging tournament organizers to do so without proper documentation was not properly discussed. This contributed greatly to the disarray between the many parties involved in this case, and is unacceptable moving forward.

We, and the tournament organizers involved here, recognize the errors listed above, and are developing a system to prevent them from happening again going forward, especially focusing on the issues of efficiency and communication. Expect announcements about this in the near future.

[Tetris Misconduct Helpline](#) - An anonymous form intended to encourage members to report problematic behavior within the community. It will be viewed by a small volunteer team (Jovilly, Renge, and Xynix). We as TMH are unaffiliated with Tetris tournaments and their organizers, and make decisions and documents independently.