Debate 2

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Cons - Group A

Increasing costs due to increased policing

- **Moderating and enhancement costs** likely to soar
- **Particularly costly** when platform not subject to any jurisdiction
- **Negative impact** on community, reducing users
- Hard to artificially look into the investigation corresponding to each report/complaint

Reduced user engagement due to more policing/regulation

- Less attractive option for investors due to lower profitability
- Monitoring user interactions in the metaverse to detect harassment incidents can raise major privacy issues
- Censoring user's speech at all time may raise free expression issues
- Marginalized groups may use the metaverse to express themselves and connect with others, criminalizing their behavior could lead to further marginalization and exclusion.

Overall negative perception, especially among users

Legal issues between different jurisdictions

- Difficulty in enforcement
    - Definitions of sexual harassment are subjective and highly personal
    - Difference between illegal issue and criminal issue.
    - Unclear purpose of setting the rules (gender issue?)
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- International enforcement would be really expensive and difficult to pursue legally

Intent and accuracy of accusations

- It is hard to identify the intent behind certain actions performed by a virtual character
- The accuracy of the intent might not be sufficient enough to incriminate individuals
- It is hard to segregate the reality of the action from the perceived action

Lack of physical contact

- No physical contact between avatars
- Non-human like avatars makes defining "physical contact" difficult
- Certain behaviors are much harder to identify
- Tech progress is still limited

Private rooms/People playing within circles of friends

- People usually play with people they know or within certain circles
- Do not have to interact with users who are harassing them (block/report)
- Community guidelines ensure that VR users are protected
- Internal moderating already leads to punishment for the harassers (banned from servers, banned from platforms)

Recognition of Harassment in VR might jeopardize VR platforms existence

- Some countries like the USA recognize harassment as a part of VR platforms
- If sexual harassment is criminalize, then there is a possibility that outside platform regulation would lead to the platforms themselves being shut down
- Community guidelines, reporting/blocking, and increased moderator education on harassment adequately polices harassment in VR platforms