



August 30, 2009

**Open letter to:**

Mr. John S. Hendricks,  
Chairman  
Discovery Communications

Regarding: **The Learning Channel program: Jon and Kate plus 8** (#3 letter)

Dear Mr. Hendricks,

I have written to you on two previous occasions voicing our concern about the treatment of the children on *Jon & Kate + 8*. Our concerns are that the children are being subjected to emotional abuse and neglect and we have asked that the show be cancelled immediately. You have chosen neither to address the issues raised nor to respond to our correspondence.

Instead you are implementing damage control by running Mrs. Gosselin through a public relations make-over in the hope of softening her public image to save the show for another season or longer. That says a lot about your priorities.

Have you forgotten what this show was about; two young parents struggling to raise a large family? It's turned into an awful version of 'Dallas,' evolving from a 'reality' show to a full-fledged drama. While all this is going on the emotional gap between Mrs. Gosselin, her husband and their children grows.

We at Child AbuseWatch.net will continue to do everything in our power to convince you to look out for the

welfare of the eight Gosselin children. As I advised, we wrote to some of your advertisers recently asking them to remove their ads from the show. Nestle wrote to me during the week to tell me that they had pulled their ads.

We get repeated requests asking that we get involved in advocating for the children of other TLC shows, specifically “*Toddlers and Tiaras*,” (which has been described as child erotica) and ‘*Octomom*.’ As a result we are, this week, starting a revised campaign asking advertisers to remove their advertising spends not just from the children’s reality shows but also from TLC entirely. If you won’t listen to your public, you may listen to the guys who write your checks.

The type of programming you produce with the use of underage children depicted in various circumstances is representative of a disturbing trend of underage exploitation which you and your channel have pioneered. You produce this material and package it for an audience without appreciating the damage it does to the children now and in the future. Nor do you pay the children – you pay the parents; ‘reality’ show children’s rights, not classified as child actors, are not protected as individuals.

These children have two distinct abusive timelines to deal with; the present as they try to make sense of what is going on and the future when they realize that they have been exploited by their parents and by you. And indeed by the voyeuristic viewers who tune into watch.

Sincerely yours,

**EVIN M DALY**

Evin M. Daly  
Founder, Executive Director  
**Child AbuseWatch.NET**  
[www.abusewatch.net](http://www.abusewatch.net)  
[edaly@abusewatch.net](mailto:edaly@abusewatch.net)

**Copy to:** Discovery Corporate Management - David M. Zaslav, Mark Hollinger, Adria Alpert Romm, Joe Abruzzese, Bruce Campbell, Bill Goodwyn, Joseph A. LaSala, Jr., Brad Singer,  
General Media release

Delivery via Investor Relations email with request to forward to addressees c/o  
Craig\_Felenstein@discovery.com, investor\_relations@discovery.com, Michelle\_Russo@discovery.com