

**Pornography as School for Sex Abuse and Violence:
A Review of Culturally Approved Harms to Women and Girls**

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In response to the United Nations Special Rapporteur's call for papers regarding prostitution and violence against women and girls, we submit this work for your consideration. The authors include mental health professionals and trauma and recovery coaches in the United States with a cumulative 61 years of direct care experience. Author contact: [Alyson Dearborn](#), [Anastasia Sprout](#), [Lacy Alajna Bentley](#)

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Dignity as Human Rights

As the late Andrea Dworkin wrote in her 2002 memoir, we have witnessed “the world get meaner as prostitution and pornography are legitimized. Now, women are the slave population...with new technology, cameras, and camcorders.” With exponential advancements in technology since Dworkin’s writing, “pornified” images of girls and women are now freely available to anyone with access to the Internet (Dines, 2010), the world’s “21st century brothel.”

We agree with Caitlin Roper that “[*violent porn denies women’s human rights*](#)” and legal scholar Catharine MacKinnon’s statement that “‘Pornography is a record of men’s violence against women.’ It is not fantasy, not speech, but acted out on the bodies of real women [and children] who are directly used to produce it – **‘What pornography does, it does in the real world’** (Roper, 2021).”

The violence depicted in pornography is being reenacted on girls and women in the real world – and it is traumatizing them. **Teen girls in the United States are experiencing more violence and more suicidality than ever previously reported, according to the CDC’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey’s most recent data** (Fall 2021):

- more than 1 in 4 girls seriously contemplated suicide (a 60% increase since 2011 and more than double the rate found among boys)
- 1 in 10 girls attempted suicide
- almost 1 in 5 girls (18%) experienced sexual violence in the past year (a significant increase since 2017)
- **[more than 1 in 10](#)** (14%) girls reported having ever been “**forced to have sex**” – **a 27% increase since 2019** (CDC, 2023)

Contrary to beliefs that pornography is “just fantasy,” it is validated by research that **adolescents use pornography as a “manual” for “how to behave during sex”** (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016). Unfortunately, what they are learning is to normalize and eroticize acts of extreme verbal and physical aggression.

[2010 content analysis](#) of popular pornography videos completed by Bridges et al. uncovered that:

- 88.2% of scenes contained acts of physical assault (i.e., spanking, slapping, gagging, choking, strangulation)
- 48.7% contained acts of degrading verbal name-calling (i.e., b*tch)
- males were predominately perpetrating this violence against women and girls

Vera-Gray et al.’s [2021 review](#) of 131,738 titles of pornographic videos across three major porn platforms revealed that:

- one in eight titles described sexually violent acts
- “teen” was the most frequently occurring word

- “schoolgirl” (17.6 percent), “girl” (9.6 percent) and “teen” (8.8 percent) were the words most often paired with the most coercive and exploitative content
- the most frequent theme involved incest

A [2019 study](#) of 172 “popular” videos on Pornhub showed that compared to adults, “teen performers” were:

- 5x more likely to be in titles suggesting aggressive anal penetration and facial ejaculation
- more likely to be featured “expressing pleasure” following these acts (Shor, 2019)

Vogels & O’Sullivan’s 2019 study of exposure to “rough sex,” (defined as hair pulling, spanking, scratching, biting, bondage, fisting, and double penetration), found a significant increase in viewers’ desire for and subsequent participation in these behaviors, leading them to emphasize the “need to ensure that individuals can distinguish between consensual rough sex and sexual violence.”

Vulgarity and Entitlement

With titles like “crying blonde b*tch takes rough c*nt drilling” and “big huge white monster c*ck breaking open Asian p*ssy,” it should not be a surprise that viewers of pornography are more likely to believe that women are objects who enjoy being raped and to have more rigid gender-role attitudes featuring male dominance and female subordination (Vera-Gray et al., 2021).

The common portrayal of violent material in pornography normalizes and desensitizes viewers to crimes like incest and rape (e.g., ‘Brother f*cks sister in her sleep’ or ‘Daddy keeps f*cking daughter till she likes it’), **decreases empathy for victims, and “warps the boundaries between what counts as sex and what counts as sexual violence** (Vera-Gray et al., 2021).”

[A large European study](#) of 14 to 17-year-olds found significant associations between boys’ regular viewing of pornography and their subsequent perpetration of sexual coercion and abuse, both in-person and/or online, indicating that teens who consume violent pornography “begin to view these acts as normative, legitimate, and perhaps even expected” and are driven to reenact those behaviors with their sexual partners (Stanley et al., 2018).

Indeed, **“there is compelling evidence that too many boys and young men believe they have an absolute entitlement to sex at any time, in any place, in any way, and with whomever they wish.** Equally worryingly..., **girls feel they have no alternative but to submit** to boys’ demands, regardless of their own wishes (Horvath et al., 2013).

Children as Sexual Predators

In January 2024, the National Police Chief’s Council (NPCC) in the UK and Wales released a report indicating that **there has been a quadrupling of underaged victims of sexual offenses over the past decade. Of the 107,000 reported sexual offenses against children, 52% (55,640) of alleged offenders were also children.** Ian Critchley, the NPCC lead for [child protection](#), said: “This is predominantly a gender-based crime of boys committing offenses against girls.” **Police are making direct links** between the availability and accessibility of

violent pornography for boys and the increase in sexual violence perpetration, stating, **“Boys are watching violent porn on their smartphones and then going on to attack girls.”**

Profit over Protection

Across studies, females (women and girls) are generally more likely to report that pornography is “unwelcome, socially distasteful, and makes them uncomfortable” (Horvath, et al., 2013). They are being relentlessly, aggressively targeted by a powerful, **profit-motivated pro-porn lobby**, which exists in nearly every space they inhabit.

The commercialized sex industry is the only one in the modern world that features the criminal, violent, sadistic, sexual use of other people’s bodies – for “adult entertainment” purposes. Who, exactly, is this material meant to “entertain?” Compared to girls, boys use pornography more often, view it more positively, are more likely to seek it out, and to “use it for purposes of sexual arousal and entertainment (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016).” **A world in which boys are watching girls’ bodies being brutally sexually abused for purposes of their “arousal and entertainment” is a hostile and dangerous world for girls.**

Sexual Crisis for Natal Females

For the first time in history, adolescent natal females have outweighed the ratio of adult natal males presenting to gender medicine clinics worldwide (Marchiano, 2017). A significant number of this anomalous cohort have sexual abuse histories, multiple co-occurring mental health diagnoses (e.g., complex trauma plus autism), and no history of childhood gender distress. How many of the 776 natal females in the US aged 13-17 who underwent double mastectomies from the years 2019 to 2021 (Respaut & Terhune, 2022) may have been seeking to escape their pornified reality by “opting out” of the female sex altogether?

The International Society of Aesthetic Genital Surgery and Sexology (ISAGSS) posts statistics on its website indicating the number of “female genital aesthetic surgeries” performed worldwide. Purported to “correct, shape, and beautify the female genital area,” the most frequently performed female genital operation worldwide is labiaplasty (genital lip reduction), with the rate of that operation in the US alone rising by 217.3% from 2012 to 2017. The age distribution of patients included 469 (4.3%) under the age of 18 (read: *minors*) and 5,963 (55.3%) between 19 and 34 years old (January 2024). **Girls and young women are being conditioned to surgically remodel their natural bodies to “match” the profit-driven pornography aesthetic.**

Gail Dines states that girls are being told they have two choices: to be “f*ckable or invisible,” and pornography prepares girls to “smile and say ‘bleed’ instead of ‘cheese’ (Dworkin, 2002).” Failing to consider this broader context and to directly explore the impacts of sexual trauma among natal females is causing iatrogenic harm.

End of Self-Preservation?

When powerless to escape a threat, the autonomic nervous system is designed to shift into the fight, flight, freeze, or shutdown states (Wagner, 2016). We believe that girls’ rapidly increasing rates of reported suicidality, compulsive sexual behavior, pornography consumption, and participation in other sexually exploitative behaviors are reflective of pornography-induced

sexual trauma. Trauma reactions include sexual self-hatred, shame, hyperarousal, hypervigilance, trauma reenactment, compliance, dissociation, and heightened vulnerability to seeking supranormal sexual stimuli.

We are concerned that our colleagues who defend the sex industry without addressing the rise of sexual violence occurring against women and children may themselves be reacting from a state of trauma, lack a comprehensive understanding of these issues, and/or are intentionally failing to uphold basic child safeguarding principles. The state of “appeasement” (Stockholm Syndrome) may describe our entire cultural landscape, rife with disconnection, disembodiment, and dissociation from the reality of brutality surrounding its operation and the impact on its victims.

Young women and girls are groomed into sexual self-exploitation through “sexual liberation gaslighting” (e.g., female empowerment, sex-positivity, financial gain), which succeed through deception, coercion, and submission, not informed consent (Sprout, 2019). We agree with Kathleen Barry and Sheila Jefferys' analysis, as quoted by Rachel Moran in 2013, that “Consent to violation is a fact of oppression. **Oppression cannot be effectively gauged according to the degree of ‘consent,’** since even in slavery, there was some consent **if consent is defined as an inability to see or feel entitled to any alternative** (Moran, 2013).”

The sex industry must be exposed for what it truly is – a global, sadistic, sociopathic training school run by a criminal-commercial enterprise that profits from the sexual torture and degradation of others. It must be condemned and abolished. **Globalist organizations must take a stand against global perpetrators, as the sex industry has no borders, and there are no lines of demarcation between “fantasy” and “reality.”** Every single country that has **legalized or decriminalized prostitution has recorded higher rates of sex trafficking, more violence, more abuse, more rape, and more profound levels of sex-based inequality** ([Exodus Cry, 2023](#)).

Because decriminalization drives demand, sexual abuse and slavery increase, while more generations are socialized to view females as existing for male sexual purposes.

The voices of female survivors of the commercialized sex industry must be heard and amplified. **Transactional sex is abuse that undermines the human rights of women and girls, who deserve to be the subject of their own lives, NOT the sexual object of someone else’s.** Sexual slavery must be condemned, and those responsible must be held to account for their crimes against women and children.

Protect Women and Girls

We urge you, the United Nations, to lead the way in recommending the abolitionist solution to the problem of prostitution and violence against women and girls. Any alternative damns them to continue being harmed with impunity.

We recommend and advocate for the [Nordic Model](#) to be implemented on a global scale along with massive public health campaigns such as [Culture Reframed](#), [Collective Shout](#), and [Persons Against Non-State Torture](#), designed to **deprogram the traumatized, reactive porn-compliance and collusion that has overrun our culture.**

We further recommend:

- **Immediate removal of any and all sexual (abuse and exploitation) images of minors.**
- **Immediate removal of pornography from the Internet that might be accessible in any way to minors.**
- **Criminal prosecution of any distributor of pornography to minors, punishable at a level consistent with United States child abuse and protection laws.**
- **Shutting down any and all industries associated with the sexual purchase or sexual exploitation of human beings.**

This is the front line of a sexual war, and we ask you to **please take a stand to protect the sex-based rights of women and girls to be treated humanely and offered protection from culturally approved violence.** This action is fundamental to the survival of females as a sex-class – and to the well-being of humanity as a whole.

This paper is lovingly dedicated to all survivors of sexual violence and the late, great Gary Wilson, author of Your Brain On Porn.

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