

# PORNOGRAPHY

## THE ISSUE

Although pornography enjoys first amendment protection, there is ample evidence that mainstream pornography can have harmful effects. Content-based analysis shows that standard pornography often depicts racist and intensely misogynistic imagery while at the same time eroticizing rape and other forms of violence against women. Interviews with men who consume pornography have additionally found that frequent usage of pornography negatively impacts intimate relationships, skews users' view of women, and makes men more tolerant of rape. When the pornography industry connects masturbation material with: eroticized racist portrayals, extreme acts of violence, verbal degradation, and the sexualization of children the results can be dangerous for women and children and the men consuming the hateful messages and imagery.

## DEMAND CHANGE

### Everyday Actions

- 1.** If you feel uncomfortable when someone jokes about pornography or their usage of pornographic material, call them out on it. Let them know it offends you and attempt to initiate a constructive dialogue about the issue.
- 2.** Join or create anti-pornography groups on the Internet or in the community. Sign anti-pornography petitions such as [Stoppornculture.org](http://Stoppornculture.org) or the [Antipornactivist.com](http://Antipornactivist.com).
- 3.** Encourage strict enforcement of rules concerning access or use of pornography in your work environment. Look into [ContentWatch.com](http://ContentWatch.com).
- 4.** Support CP80.org, an effort to deal with pornography on the Internet by making it only available on certain "channels" so that people who want it would have to choose to access it. This would prevent pornographic spam from being distributed and would make it more difficult for children to access pornographic material.
- 5.** As many young men and women will invariably view pornography, encourage open dialog and for them to critically dissect what they are watching and experiencing.

## Raise Awareness

**6.** Purchase the PowerPoint slide show that highlights the harms of pornography entitled "Who Wants To Be A Porn Star?" with a written script from Stop Porn Culture: [www.stoppornculture.org](http://www.stoppornculture.org). Present it at interested community groups and forums.

## Advocate for Change

**7.** Suggest to your local police department that they start keeping statistics of how often pornography is implicated in local crimes or found at crime scenes. This data can help demonstrate or prove the connection of pornography to sex crimes.

**8.** Encourage elected officials to enforce the Military Honor and Decency Act. This act prohibits the sale or rental of sexually explicit material on military installations.

## Keep Learning

**9.** Educate yourself about the potential harms of the pornography industry, particularly with mainstream, heterosexual pornography. Watch documentaries such as *The Truth About Sex* and *The Price of Pleasure*. Read books about the issue including: *Pornified: How Pornography is Damaging Our Families, Lives and Relationships* by Pamela Paul, *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture* by Ariel Levy and *Getting Off: Pornography & the End of Masculinity* by Robert Jensen.

**10.** Learn more about the issue. Visit these Web sites for more information and ways to get involved:

- Anti-Porn Activist: [www.antipornactivist.com](http://www.antipornactivist.com)
- Captive Daughters: [www.CaptiveDaughters.org](http://www.CaptiveDaughters.org)
- Charlieerrl: [www.charlieerrl.wordpress.com](http://www.charlieerrl.wordpress.com)
- Diana Russell's Web site: [www.dianarussell.com](http://www.dianarussell.com)
- No Porn Pledge: [nopornpledge.com](http://nopornpledge.com)
- Object: [www.object.org/uk](http://www.object.org/uk)
- One Angry Girl: [www.oneangrygirl.net](http://www.oneangrygirl.net)
- Stop Porn Culture: [www.stoppornculture.com](http://www.stoppornculture.com)
- XXX Church: [www.xxxChurch.com](http://www.xxxChurch.com)

1. Raphael, J. & Shapiro, D. (2002). *Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago*. Center for Impact Research.