

*Child
Sexual
Abuse*

Prostitution

Pornography



NATIONAL CENTER ON
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

*Violence
Against
Women*

2018 IMPACT REPORT

*Sexual
Addictions &
Compulsivity*

*Sexualization
of Children*

Sexting

*Child Sex Abuse Images
(Child Pornography)*

*Male & Female
Sexual
Objectification*



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Established 1962

PATRICK A. TRUEMAN, ESQ.
President and CEO

DAWN E. HAWKINS
*Sr. Vice President &
Executive Director*

LISA L. THOMPSON
*Vice President of Research
& Education*

HALEY C. HALVERSON
*Vice President of Advocacy
& Outreach*

ROBERT W. PETERS, ESQ.
President Emeritus

BOARD MEMBERS

ROBERT L. CAHILL, JR.
*Chairman of the Board
Former Managing Partner, Conklin Cahill & Co.*

RHONDA GRAFF
*Secretary
Former Aerospace Program Manager/
Industrial Engineer*

KEN SUKHIA, ESQ.
*Treasurer
Trial and Appellate Lawyer,
Sukhia Law Group, PLC*

HADLEY ARKES, PH.D.
*Ney Professor of Jurisprudence Emeritus
at Amherst College*

RON DEHAAS
Founder & CEO, Covenant Eyes

REVEREND JAY DENNIS
Founder, Strategies 4 Life

JOHN FOUBERT, PH.D., LLC
*Dean, College of Education
Union University*

ROBERT GEORGE, PH.D.
*McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence,
Princeton University*

DONALD L. HILTON, M.D.
Neurosurgeon

DONNA M HUGHES
*Professor & Carlson Endowed Chair
University of Rhode Island*

MARY ANNE LAYDEN, PH.D.
*Director, Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology
Program, University of Pennsylvania*

MOST REVEREND PAUL S. LOVERDE
Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Arlington, VA

DAN O'BRYANT, J.D.
*Fellow, Weatherhead Center for International
Affairs, Harvard University*

MARGARET RUCKS
Managing Director, Rucks Family Foundation

HELENE SHEPHERD
*National Regent,
Catholic Daughters of the Americas*

MELEA STEPHENS, L.P.C., M.M.F.T.
Marriage and Family Therapist

PATRICK A. TRUEMAN, ESQ.
*Former Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity
Section, U.S. Department of Justice*

December 2018

RE: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend of NCOSE,

The nation has been shocked by scandals of sexual exploitation this year, from wide-ranging allegations of sexual abuse in Hollywood, politics, Olympic sports, and churches. While this has galvanized some people to action, many others may feel “burnt out” or overwhelmed by hearing about sexual exploitation in the news so regularly.

At the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, we have not grown weary of fighting for you, your family, and the human dignity of all people. We continue to promote a comprehensive vision and proven battle plans that work constructively towards a world free from sexual exploitation.

This movement, while it deals with dark and disturbing topics, is ultimately focused on a message of hope—hope and faith that good information and actions, lead to better policies, which protect people and change lives.

This year, our hope was not diminished.

With your help, we have changed and improved 11 policies—including at Walmart and Comcast. Further, we have empowered 900,000+ individuals with research and action steps to combat the social and physical toxin of pornography.

Further, the public’s perception of pornography is continuing to shift as we develop and promote resources, events, PR campaigns, state legislation, and corporate activism, surrounding pornography’s link to sexual violence, child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and more.

We are overjoyed to report that with your help, our movement obtained a major win in Congress this year, fixing the law to fight online sex trafficking, with the passage of FOSTA-SESTA. This is the most significant anti-sex trafficking legislation to be passed in 20 years. As a result, the sale of women and children online has plummeted, and the commercial sex industry has been brought out of the shadows where it was nearly impossible to reach out to the victims sold repeatedly day and night.

I hope you see the progress we are making together in our movement the same way I do! NCOSE’s history, vision, and work during the past 56 years demonstrates that our vision is the right one. We have the tools and the strategy we need, and with you standing with us we will continue to stand in the gap for human dignity.

With gratitude for your commitment to this movement.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Trueman
President & CEO
National Center on Sexual Exploitation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOGETHER, WE ARE:

FORGING AHEAD

2018 Highlights	4
-----------------------	---

CHANGING POLICIES

Recent Policy Victories & Progress	8
Ongoing Policy Battles	9
The Journey to Change with Comcast	12

LEADING THE MOVEMENT

The Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation	16
The Fight against Big Tech and Online Sex Trafficking	18
Underrepresented Forms of Sexual Exploitation	20

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

The Silver Bullet for Sexual Exploitation = Intersectionality.....	24
Addressing the Buyers, Beliefs, and Businesses Fueling Sex Trafficking	25
Leading the International Public Health Approach to Pornography.....	26

EXPOSING THE CONNECTIONS

What Dennis Hof and Harvey Weinstein Have in Common.....	30
FOSTA-SESTA Strikes Blow against Online Sex Trafficking; Challenge of Eradicating Male Demand for Prostitution Remains.....	32
How the Movement Against Porn Is Transcending the GOP and DNC	35

COLLABORATING: HOW TO GET INVOLVED THIS YEAR

Ways to Fight	40
Investing in a Future for Dignity	41

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF WHAT YOUR SUPPORT ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR...

FIGHTING ONLINE SEX TRAFFICKING

73% of child sex trafficking cases investigated by law enforcement will no longer be openly facilitated by backpage.com, the largest mainstream sex trafficking website in the world. After years of advocacy led by NCOSE, survivors, and other activists, Backpage and many similar websites are shut down! This is in part due to the passage of FOSTA-SESTA, legislation which removes previous immunities for sex trafficking websites.

INFLUENCING POLICYMAKERS



In 2018, 273 political leaders across 4 states supported resolutions declaring pornography a public health problem (11 states now recognize the public health harms of pornography!). Also, our movement is international as leaders in Poland, New Zealand, South Africa, and Israel, as well as 11 members of the UK Parliament are calling on their governments to recognize the public health crisis of pornography and leaders from 18 countries attended our CESE Global Summit.

IMPACTING HOLLYWOOD

Earlier this year, a new children's movie, "Show Dogs", hit theaters with a scene reflective of child grooming for sexual abuse. NCOSE immediately called upon its supporters to take action. Our activist army sent over 4,000 emails and hundreds of tweets to the film company calling for change, resulting in the movie being **pulled from theaters** to be edited.



Walmart

CHANGING WALMART

5,000 Walmart stores **no longer sell Cosmopolitan Magazine in their checkout lines** in the United States and Walmart stopped selling child nudity books on their website. Many other retail giants are following suit as Amazon removed hundreds of child sex dolls from their online marketplace and Rite Aid, Food Lion and others have moved to place Cosmo behind blinders.

The
New York
Times



SHAPING THE NEWS

NCOSE's activism campaigns and victories have made headlines around the globe. Averaging 93 mentions by media outlets per week in 2018, NCOSE appeared on the **"Today" show and CNN** and in The New York Times, BBC News, USA Today, Fox News and more.



TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS

Each year, NCOSE hosts the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit. In 2018, **600+ attendees from 18 nations** received expert training and opportunities to collaborate across states and between countries. Additionally, 72 videos were created and made available online amplifying our message and educating even more people around the world!

TAKING ACTION ON AIRLINES



When several supporters contacted NCOSE about witnessing or experiencing sexual harassment and pornography while traveling on airlines, we responded. As a result, you sent **4,541 letters** to airline executives calling for improved flight attendant training on how to handle in-flight sexual harassment.

GIVING INDIVIDUALS A VOICE IN CULTURE

43,702 actions taken by grassroots supporters like you led to **11 policy victories** in 2018 and have started conversations with many other companies profiting from or having policies that facilitate sexual exploitation.

STOPPING LEGALIZED PROSTITUTION

New Hampshire and Washington DC have been mobilizing to fully decriminalize, or legalize, prostitution, which would increase sex trafficking and the intense violence already experienced by persons in prostitution. Over the past year, NCOSE has worked with groups on the ground to combat these efforts so that our laws reflect reality: prostitution is sexual exploitation, not a job. So far all of our efforts have succeeded in stopping their agenda.

ADDRESSING CHILD-ON-CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child-on-child harmful sexual behavior is coming out of the shadows! NCOSE launched a major campaign addressing this problem and trained school officials in three states along with **more than 40 military personnel** on the topic of child-on-child problematic behaviors.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE MOVEMENT

The number of NCOSE Defenders **increased by 30%**! These are supporters who financially contribute on a recurring basis. When more people invest in human dignity on a regular schedule, it helps build and sustain momentum so that we can continue our strong streak of victories.



COMCAST IMPROVING COMCAST

1,000,000+ Comcast customers will now have the ability to block out pornographic content with improved parental controls and have access to new features promoting digital safety and preventing unintentional exposure to pornography.

“I am happy that there are organizations like NCOSE that fight sexual exploitation in all its forms. They understand the link between pornography addiction and sexual exploitation that others seem to ignore. I have seen real results that NCOSE’s work has helped bring about. Laws are being changed for the better. More work needs to be done. I am proud to be a part of it. Thank you!”

- ALICE H., A NCOSE DEFENDER
(monthly sustained giving supporter)





*TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING
POLICIES THAT EXPLOIT*



RECENT



VICTORIES & PROGRESS



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



Since 2011, National Center on Sexual Exploitation has instigated 110 policy improvements in corporations and government entities.

No organization or corporation should profit from, or contribute to, sexual exploitation. While many feel powerless against a culture awash in hyper sexualized and degrading messages, we do not. We are leading a movement against sexual exploitation and we are strategic, aggressive, and gaining momentum.

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation stands up to represent your values of human dignity and respect in the arena of private and public policy.

While it's impossible to ever fully capture the number of children, women, men, and marriages impacted by our victories it is clear that many have been seismic. These numbers just scratch the surface of NCOSE's impact.



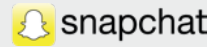
1.2 million hotel guests will no longer have on-demand pornographic movies on their hotel TVs because NCOSE convinced 5 worldwide hotel chains to reject profits from on-demand pornography.



73% of child sex trafficking cases investigated by law enforcement will no longer be openly facilitated by Backpage.com, the largest mainstream sex trafficking website in the world. After years of advocacy led by NCOSE, survivors, and other activists, Backpage and many similar websites are completely shut down!



2 billion monthly active devices subscribing to Google Play are no longer able to download pornographic and sexually explicit apps through Google's sanctioned online store.



300 million monthly active users on Snapchat can now finally report sexually explicit snaps and opt-out of hypersexualized publisher's stories.



5,000 Walmart stores no longer sell Cosmopolitan Magazine in their checkout lines in the United States and Walmart stopped selling child nudity books on their website. Many other retail giants are following suit as **Amazon removed hundreds of child sex dolls** from their online marketplace and Rite Aid, Food Lion and others have moved to place Cosmo behind blinders.



2,083,100 military service members now receive anti-sex trafficking training with the issue of pornography explained as a factor driving demand, and approximately 600 U.S. Air Force and Army Bases now no longer sell pornography in their base exchanges.

11 states have passed NCOSE's formal resolution recognizing pornography as a public health concern. Canada, New Zealand, and parts of South Africa have also passed legislation or are raising awareness about the public health harms of pornography.



270 billion online ads each month delivered by Revcontent, one of the largest native online advertising companies, will no longer bombard 97% of U.S. households with hyper-sexualized and objectifying advertisements.



1,000,000+ Comcast customers will now have the ability to block out pornographic content with improved parental controls and have access to new features promoting digital safety and preventing unintentional exposure to pornography."

These are just a few examples of the many ways the National Center on Sexual Exploitation changes culture.

You can participate and invest in this movement by joining with the National Center on Sexual Exploitation to expose the connections between all forms of sexual exploitation and to change public opinion through grassroots advocacy in order to advance human dignity one victory at a time.

Learn more at: EndSexualExploitation.org



ONGOING BATTLES

Every year brings new victories, challenges, and opportunities to our advocacy efforts. Some of our most impressive victories are the result of years of advocacy work, which is why we remain optimistic and energized to continue the fight for human dignity in many areas, including the following campaigns:

Advocating with The Dirty Dozen List

Since 2013, The Dirty Dozen List campaign has targeted mainstream entities in America that perpetuate sexual exploitation—whether that be through pornography, prostitution, sexual objectification, sexual violence and/or sex trafficking. The Dirty Dozen List is an activism tool that gives back power to individuals so they can take online actions and has a long history of victories, ranging from the Department of Defense to Google.



Influencing Online Advertisers

Online advertisers create the “wallpaper” of most people’s lives, whether they see ads while reading online articles or scrolling through social media. This year, the largest online ad company, Revcontent, made an incredible change to completely remove hypersexualized images from their ads. We continue to work with Revcontent to influence the online advertising industry at large and have already started constructive dialogue with other corporate leaders in this space.



Creating Safe Schools & Safe Libraries

Through the Safe Schools, Safe Libraries campaign, NCOSE empowers citizens to ensure their schools and libraries filter out pornography, reject educational databases that host pornographic content or links to prostitution recruitment websites, and to provide safe school-issued devices to students.



Targeting Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Pornography on Airplanes

This year NCOSE launched the campaign Fly Free to target the airline industry’s failure to proactively train aircrews to address sexually harassing actions and speech, as well as in-flight pornography-use. Already thousands of individuals have taken action to call for change!

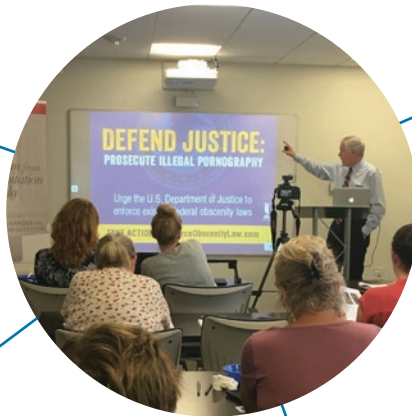


Shaping the TV/Movie Streaming Industry

Streaming services, like Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Hulu are now the way most young families and people access television shows and movies. Unfortunately, these devices are not held to the same standards as broadcast television, so their content frequently portrays graphic, explicit sexual scenes and sometimes even graphic rape scenes. Parental controls need to be improved to prevent unintentional exposure to this content.

Defending Justice: Prosecute Illegal Pornography

Most people are surprised to hear that federal law prohibits the distribution of obscene (hardcore) pornography through hotel/motel TV, cable/satellite TV, the mail, common carriers such as FedEx and UPS, retail shops, and the Internet. This is because federal laws prohibiting the distribution of hardcore pornography have not been enforced in the past nine years. When these laws were enforced in the past, not only was there less pornography on the market, but the extreme themes of violence and sex with teens that are popular in pornography today virtually disappeared. This is why we continue to push for federal obscenity laws to be enforced.





COALITION
TO END
SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION

#porn



THE JOURNEY TO CHANGE WITH COMCAST

For years, you have invested in the fight to clean up the telecommunications industry—from cable television to high-speed Internet and more. Why? Because you know, like we do, that these companies are often the first portal through which a child is exposed to hardcore pornography, or they are a constant source of temptation for adults who wish to avoid pornography.

One woman wrote to our organization about her son, Johnny, who was first exposed to hardcore pornography as a young teenager while over at a friend's house. That friend had access to a pornography channel on cable, and showed it to Johnny. As you can well imagine, it had a profoundly negative impact on Johnny, just as much of the peer-reviewed research on pornography's harms indicate it would. This is just one of many similar stories we've received.

That's why we have had a sustained campaign against Comcast-NBC Universal for five years, even naming them to our Dirty Dozen List for three years in a row. Not only does Comcast sell hardcore on-demand pornography, and host several pornographic channels, but Comcast had terrible parental controls and is one of the largest Internet service providers. Often children would be exposed to graphic and disturbing titles of pornographic films, just while flipping through their TV channels!

We knew that targeting Comcast, one of the top companies in America, would be an uphill battle and VERY expensive. But it was necessary to go after this company because it is such a strong leader in the telecom industry. So, with your help, we embarked on a multi-year campaign.

Then, in spring of this year, after Comcast received countless letters and emails from people just like you on our large activist list, our executive team was invited to a special meeting with several Comcast executives, including vice presidents in the Comcast DC office.

That's when we heard what seemed like music to our ears:

“WE TOOK YOUR FEEDBACK AND MADE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.”

Comcast announced to us its many industry-shifting improvements to their systems. During that meeting, we thought of the many long days and nights that our team of researchers and activists worked on the “Comcast Project.” We thought of the highs and lows of the project over five long years and of the financial toll it took on our resources. We thought of YOU too because nothing we ever accomplish is done without YOU. And we are grateful from the bottom of our heart for what you have done.

Here are just some of the major improvements Comcast has made:

- **The best parental controls in cable.** Comcast now offers Common Sense ratings to help parents distinguish the appropriate content for their children. They also created a “Safe Browse” option that lets people filter out both pornographic content and TV-MA content. Parental controls enable the ability to filter programming by TV or movie rating, channel, title, day and time, and/or by application (ex: blocking access to YouTube or Netflix.) Parents can also set up a Kid's Zone where all content is vetted as safe for

kids 12 and under—and still within the Kids Zone parents can filter for even more specific age-ranges and content and disable the ability to leave the Kids Zone through the use of a control pin number.

- **Preventing unintentional exposure to pornography.** Comcast has submersed pornographic channels so that they are more difficult to access, and the voice remote automatically blocks searches for pornographic content. They also sanitized titles and descriptions of pornography and Comcast completely removed pornographic channels from their mobile app.
- **Increased investment in digital safety.** Comcast has committed to promote online safety features with a “Tips & Tricks” section, and with on-going development of a family safety center to assist with parents across their cable, mobile, and ISP platforms..

We are impressed by the significant progress Comcast has made so far and now believe they provide by far the best system available for families and individuals who wish to protect their homes from sexually explicit content on Cable TV. Comcast has also committed to helping NCOSE move other major providers like Verizon and DirectTV institute at least this level of safety because it is the “right thing to do.”

Best yet, Comcast has committed to meet again with NCOSE in 2019 to further discuss these and other on-going improvements! We will represent your views at that meeting. And let me assure you, we are not done yet. The company has publicly stated that, “Comcast is committed to improving digital wellbeing for all of its customers. We welcome dialogue on how to continually improve on these measures from third-party stakeholders in family safety and digital health, **including the National Center on Sexual Exploitation.**”

I want you to know that despite this tremendous progress, we will not be satisfied until Comcast, and all cable/satellite companies remove pornography altogether. And we are asking Comcast to automatically filter pornography out of WiFi search results as well!



“I am writing to thank you for your successful effort in having Walmart remove Cosmo from the magazine racks at checkout stands. As a senior citizen, grandfather of three, I have been very concerned with Cosmo’s... covers that superficially make it look like a children’s magazine. Personally, I believe this success is far more than even just a significant drop in the bucket! I’m very very proud of your work in this effort. I thank you and am very grateful to you and very pleased with your success working with Walmart on the Cosmo issue.”

- WADE RYAN, A NCOSE ACTIVIST





***TOGETHER, WE ARE
LEADING THE MOVEMENT***



THE COALITION TO END SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Reinventing the wheel wastes precious time and scarce resources. Unfortunately, that's what many organizations and advocates do when they seek to fight sex trafficking, sexual violence, child abuse, and other forms of sexual exploitation.

This is why, for nearly a decade, NCOSE has led efforts to galvanize the movement for freedom from sexual exploitation. NCOSE works to break down silos by bringing organizations and experts from different fields and political and religious beliefs, together—because when we communicate and collaborate across disciplines and ideologies, the momentum of our work increases tenfold!

The Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation is a loose-knit partnership of more than 300 organizations. Led by NCOSE, this Coalition not only connects people of diverse viewpoints and expertise (from direct service providers, to policy analysts, and everything in between), but it also leverages these connections to foster united action and better education.

End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit

Arguably the most powerful resource provided by CESE is the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation (CESE) Global Summit. This year, the CESE Summit brought together approximately 600 movement leaders from 18 countries. The annual CESE Summit provides academic trainings, networking opportunities, action strategies and more to build a common vision for rejecting all forms of sexual exploitation across the globe.

Collaborative Task Forces

To amplify limited resources, NCOSE spearheads task forces comprised of survivors, academics, medical professionals, and experts. Our taskforce on the public health harms of pornography met this year to strategize how to better connect with schools of public health and government institutions about the research on the harms of pornography. Our taskforce on child-on-child sexual abuse also met several times this year, by conference call and in person, to discuss the nature of this toxic abuse and key policy improvements.

Strategic Partnerships

NCOSE also regularly leads or partners in campaigns buoyed by collaboration from coalition members. In 2018, NCOSE collaborated with allied organizations to pass federal legislation known as FOSTA-SESTA, a bill aimed at fighting online sex trafficking. NCOSE also conducted the 2018 public awareness campaign, "Tackle Demand," through which we partnered with 26 other anti-trafficking organizations to spread a message against buying sex during the Super Bowl. This year, NCOSE has also provided strategic messaging and resources to Coalition members in Nevada working to overturn legal prostitution.

This Coalition not only connects people of diverse viewpoints and expertise (from direct service providers, to policy analysts, and everything in between), but it also leverages these connections to foster united action and better education."



“The staging area for the gathering of an army to wage war on sexual exploitation.”



“For someone looking to be involved in the fight for human dignity and the abolition of the sexual exploitation industry, this is THE one event you most certainly CANNOT afford to miss.”

“CESE Summit will break your heart and then put it back together sealed with hope for a better future.”





THE FIGHT AGAINST BIG TECH AND ONLINE SEX TRAFFICKING

Dec. 24, 2016 — that's the night that 16-year-old Desiree Robinson was murdered by the man who purchased her for sex on Backpage.com.

Backpage.com had operated as an advertisement website, akin to Craigslist, for years and made millions of dollars by posting ads for prostitution and sex trafficking, just like the ad that delivered Desiree to her murderer. But due to a series of flawed court interpretations of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA) the operators of Backpage were immune from prosecution even if they knew the ads published on their site were for sex trafficking victims.

So Backpage operated with impunity, even though everyone knew that sex trafficking and prostitution flourished on its website. But changing the CDA seemed like an impossible task. Getting legislation through Congress is difficult even the best of times. But in this case, there was significant opposition from Google, FaceBook, and other Big Tech corporations who spent lobbying and public relations money to keep the CDA from being amended. They didn't want to deal with the increased responsibility of responding to sex trafficking online. The National Center on Sexual Exploitation and several other anti-trafficking organizations regularly met to discuss how, with limited NGO-style funding, we could go up against the well-financed Big Tech machines.

IT WAS DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH, BUT WITHOUT THE SLINGSHOT. THAT IS, UNTIL SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING AND THEIR MOTHERS STARTED SPEAKING OUT.

It was Desiree's mother Yvonne Ambrose's testimony to a Senate committee in September 2017 that marked a critical shift.

Ambrose's heart-wrenching account of her daughter's sexual exploitation and senseless death stripped away the ability of any legislator in the room that day to feign ignorance of the fact that some Internet platforms existed for the sole purpose of profiting off the sale of people for sex.

Even still, Ambrose's story and those of other mothers' whose children became public sexual commodities in online red-light districts were no silver bullet. It took several more months of relentless effort by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation and key allies before Congress passed FOSTA-SESTA, the legislative package which amended the CDA.





This was a monumental victory. It removed the de facto immunity for knowingly facilitating sex trafficking and prostitution online, and it allows survivors go to court against websites that acted as virtual pimps.

BUT IT DIDN'T END THERE.

BIG TECH HAS TRIED TO GET LANGUAGE THAT WOULD ONCE AGAIN GIVE IMMUNITY TO KNOWINGLY FACILITATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION INTO THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA).

They realized that if Big Tech succeeds here, the prospects of similar language becoming boilerplate for future trade negotiations with other countries is high. The result: global export of criminal and civil immunity for websites that facilitate sex trafficking.

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation was grateful to join other allied anti-trafficking organizations and advocates responding to this new threat. By utilizing the networks of this coalition, the alarm was able to reach high levels in the White House, and as a result, the draft NAFTA language was released with a special provision protecting against sex trafficking, sexual exploitation of children, and prostitution.

While we breathe a sigh of relief, we know that this struggle is not over. Big Tech is still actively looking for ways to circumvent this law—whether through trade agreements or through lawsuits.

Supporters like you are a vital part of keeping online ads for sex trafficking and prostitution illegal. Your donations make it possible for us to advocate for sex trafficking survivors and victims in Washington DC. Not only for Desiree, but the other 242 individuals ranging in age from 3 to 71, whose murders the anti-trafficking advocacy groups identified as occurring as a result of ads on websites like Backpage and Craigslist.

Together, I truly believe we can hold the line and move one step closer to ending online sexual exploitation.

Adapted from the article “NAFTA negotiations could make sexual violence America’s top export” by Lisa L. Thompson, NCOSE Vice President of Policy and Research, originally published in The Hill, September 19, 2018.



OUT OF THE SHADOWS: ADDRESSING UNDER-REPRESENTED ISSUES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

No survivor of sexual exploitation should be ignored just because they don't fit the narrative the media likes to portray.

While the media often hyper-focuses on extreme sexual exploitation stories of kidnapping or torture, our organization wants to widen the lens.

Out of the Shadows: Addressing Underrepresented Issues of Sexual Exploitation is an on-going NCOSE campaign that does just that by shedding light on underrepresented issues of sexual exploitation.

This includes projects like Pornography + Sex Trafficking, which addresses the way pornography is used to “train” and exploit sex trafficking victims and the way pornography drives the demand for purchasing sex.

Further, NCOSE's Out of the Shadows project “Addressing the Sexual Exploitation of Men and Boys,” sparked a national symposium and press conference in the National Press Club on the experiences of boys and men involving sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse, sexual objectification, or early childhood exposure to pornography.

THIS YEAR, NCOSE LAUNCHED A THIRD OUT OF THE SHADOWS INITIATIVE TITLED “CONFRONTING THE RISE OF CHILD-ON-CHILD HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR” TO ADDRESS THE TRAGIC REALITY OF MINORS WITH SEXUALLY HARMFUL BEHAVIORS, OFTEN FUELED BY EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY.

As part of this initiative, NCOSE hosted a working group with school administrators and teachers from several different states to discuss this problem and found that schools and parents alike are currently overwhelmed and ill-equipped to deal with these problems.

*AFTER THE EVENT, ONE EDUCATOR TOLD US,
“THIS WAS A POWERFUL FIRE HOSE OF INFORMATION!”*

NCOSE also hosted a seminar for more than 40 military personnel on the topic of child-on-child sexual abuse. According to an Associated Press investigation published earlier this year, the U.S. military is struggling with cases of child-on-child sexual abuse on military bases and in military schools—much like in the civilian population.

AS SOME OF THE MILITARY OFFICIALS LEFT OUR BRIEFING, THEY SHARED WITH US THAT THE EVENT WAS INCREDIBLY HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY BY BREAKING DOWN COMMUNICATION BARRIERS ACROSS DIFFERENT AGENCIES WITHIN THE MILITARY.

In Spring 2019, NCOSE will build on this momentum and advocate for solutions by holding a national symposium on the issue of child-on-child harmful sexual behavior.

We know that the complex web of sexual exploitation cannot be dismantled until every survivor has a voice. This is why we educate and equip individuals to respond to the wide-ranging forms of sexual exploitation that impact people's lives.



“Your team encouraged me 5 years ago when I started what has now become Pornografia Destrói, which from what I’ve seen since then appears to be the only daily-updated ministry fighting pornography (and its attendant problems of prostitution, sex traffick- ing, sexual addiction and the hypersexualized culture which feeds them all) for Brazil, Angola, Portugal and the Portuguese-speaking world. You have been an inspiration to both my- self and this ministry, which in the past half-decade has turned into the most fulfilling thing I’ve done save being a husband and Dad.”

- KURT WAYNE



*TOGETHER, WE ARE
EDUCATING THE PUBLIC*



THE SILVER BULLET FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION = INTERSECTIONALITY

A 14-year-old girl named “Mia” was excited when she started dating a boy who told her he was 19.¹ She had always been a little insecure, and being able to talk to her friends at school about this cute older boy she met at the movie theater made her feel special.

He showered her with attention and gifts, and for the first few months, everything seemed perfect. Then he started to ask her to send him nude pictures. She said no, but he kept asking, sometimes jokingly and sometimes telling her that if she really loved him, she would trust him and send him the pictures. Eventually she did.

What happened next was tragic.

The young man, who in reality was much older than 19, sexually extorted her Mia. He told her if she didn’t have sex with him, he would show the pictures to her parents and everyone at school. Then he told her, she needed to have sex with his friends, and eventually with strangers.

Mia was sexually trafficked for three months by this man—even while she still went to school and slept in her own bed. But repeatedly, her body was being sold for his profit.

In Mia’s case, the convergence between sexting, sexual extortion, and sex trafficking are clearly seen. Her story illustrates why the National Center on Sexual Exploitation firmly believes that if we want to solve a particular form of sexual exploitation and abuse, we must recognize and understand the connections between them all.

All too often people see these harms as merely distinct forms of sexual abuse existing their own unique vacuums, but as Mia’s story aptly illustrates, in actuality they overlap and reinforce one another.

HOW DIFFERENT MIA’S LIFE WOULD BE TODAY IF HER SCHOOL, HER PARENTS, AND THE CULTURE AROUND HER RECOGNIZED THE DANGERS OF SEXTING, AND EMPOWERED YOUNG GIRLS TO STAND UP TO REQUESTS FOR NUDE IMAGES, EVEN IN THE FACE OF IMMENSE PEER PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION!

Stories like Mia’s are why The National Center on Sexual Exploitation works to educate and engage the public about the intersectionality of sexual exploitation and abuse through editorials and online articles, media interviews, podcasts, videos, outreach to policy influencers, and in every presentation given at churches, conferences, or on Capitol Hill.

This philosophy—recognizing the intersectionality between all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse — utilizes a wide perspective to promote a comprehensive umbrella of solutions to prevent cases like Mia’s from ever happening in the first place.

¹ Name changed to protect the victim’s identity.

ADDRESSING THE BUYERS, BELIEFS, AND BUSINESSES FUELING SEX TRAFFICKING



“BEING WITH A PROSTITUTE IS LIKE HAVING A CUP OF COFFEE, WHEN YOU’RE DONE, YOU THROW IT OUT.”

This quote is from a real sex buyer. It’s both shocking and disturbing. Why? Because it’s deeply dehumanizing of the person being prostituted. Such attitudes—that people in prostitution are “disposable” or “subhuman”—are nearly universal among men who buy people for sex.

Sex buyers form the foundation of the prostitution marketplace by creating “the demand” for human bodies that they pay to sexually exploit. The demand is made up of the individuals with the desire, along with the ability and willingness, to purchase people in the prostitution marketplace who they use for sex. This demand is fueled by sexual objectification, misogyny, male sexual entitlement, as well as systems of legal or fully decriminalized prostitution.

Our culture of sexual entitlement and objectification fuels the normalization of purchasing sexual acts. Pimps (i.e. sex traffickers) are in the business of meeting this demand by providing “the supply.” Of course, they’re not selling products, they’re selling people. The result: more women, men, and children are sexually trafficked.

Demand is the fulcrum on which all sex trafficking rests. It is the overwhelmingly male demand for people whom they can access for sex that creates the prostitution marketplace. All sex trafficking is a market response to meet that demand. Thus, **failure to combat demand guarantees not only the survival of sex trafficking, but also the creation of future generations of victims.**

NCOSE has been a long-time expert on the issue of demand. We incorporate our knowledge into discussions about sexual exploitation whenever possible. However, we’ve come to observe a leadership vacuum at the national level on this issue, so, NCOSE has decided to step up to the plate.

This year, NCOSE began working diligently to lay the groundwork for a new public campaign. Next year, we’re hoping to launch our campaign - Face the Demand: Challenging Beliefs, Buyers, and Businesses Fueling Sex Trafficking.

As an example of our expertise on this subject, NCOSE has multiple current initiatives that will fall under the Face the Demand umbrella including: Stop Online Sex Trafficking, Pornography + Sex Trafficking, Tackle Demand, No Amnesty for Pimps, and Bright Light on the Red Light. **But now, there will be an official nationwide campaign directed specifically at the issue of demand and ways to end it.**

This is a bold move. Demand is a major issue that reaches into every corner of sexual exploitation. However, the light of human dignity will always shine bright through the darkness of exploitation. With our expertise, we believe NCOSE is specially positioned to be the national leader on this issue.





LEADING THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO PORNOGRAPHY

Rachel, one of our followers, shared a heartbreaking story with us: she lost her best friend, and first love, to pornography addiction.

When Rachel met Brian, they immediately hit it off. They talked, supported, and encouraged one another. They were always there for each other. Both began to have deeper feelings, but Brian couldn't commit.

That's when Rachel began to notice a change. Brian became more agitated. One day he'd be in love, the next he'd be cold and distant. He was both depressed and irritable. His respectful and honoring attitude towards women became raw and objectifying. He distanced himself from family, friends, and his church. Rachel described his behavior as follows: "He wants to be loved, but no one is good enough."

AS IT TURNED OUT, BRIAN HAD BEEN ADDICTED TO PORNOGRAPHY SINCE THE AGE OF 12.

After years of proliferating Internet pornography, the scientific research is finally catching up. The findings are both shocking yet unsurprising. Pornography is causing serious harm.

Studies have found that pornography usage is linked to negative body image, increased sexual violence, objectification of women, hijacking of the brain's reward system, and much more.

Sadly, stories like Rachel and Brian's are far too common. Brian's addiction began at the age of 12—but some are being exposed at even younger ages, and parents, despite their best efforts, are unable to prevent it. Children and young people are being exposed to this content, which by default is their "sex education." Quickly caught within its magnetizing force, adolescents and persons of all ages are developing debilitating compulsive sexual behaviors and experiencing unprecedented amounts of sexual dysfunction.

While educating individual parents to guide and protect their children is always part of any prevention plan, the problems posed by pornography today are well beyond what individuals and families can do to protect themselves. Broader approaches are essential.

This is why the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) is leading the charge in calling for a public health approach to combating the harms of pornography—an approach which harnesses the expertise of persons from a wide range of disciplines and institutions to address the problem.

Through *Pornography: A Public Health Crisis*, NCOSE highlights the scientific research behind pornography use and the need to address this growing problem. Like other public health issues, not all exposed experience the same effects. However, for many, repeated pornography exposure and use is correlated to problematic sexual behaviors that can lead to porn-induced erectile dysfunction, divorce or failed relationships, and sometimes sexually aggressive and violent behaviors.

Public health approaches have proved effective with other major problems from smoking, to lead poisoning, to drunk driving. A public health approach is needed now to address pornography. There is a wealth of research coming from many fields that support this view and overwhelming anecdotal evidence continues to mount.

THANKFULLY, FOR PEOPLE LIKE RACHEL AND BRIAN, THERE IS HOPE. PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION CAN BE COMBATED AND THE BRAIN CAN RECOVER. SPOUSES OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ADDICTED CAN FIND SUPPORT AND HEALING. NCOSE IS ENSURING THAT EVERY PERSON IS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES.

NCOSE's Pornography and Public Health efforts have resulted in many victories, including the passage of 5 state resolutions recognizing pornography as a public health crisis this year alone—that makes 11 states total since 2016! We've also changed the international conversation: 11 members of British Parliament are attempting to get government recognition of pornography as a public health crisis. Countries like Canada and New Zealand, and regions of South Africa have also begun passing legislation or raising awareness around the public health harms of pornography. Now, we must continue this momentum. NCOSE will continue to be a leader on the national level: guiding the conversation and providing resources to those on the frontlines.

Now, we need courageous individuals to take action in their community, state, and country.

** The story here is used with permission.*



PORNOGRAPHY: A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

How pornography fuels child sexual abuse, compulsive sexual behavior, sexual dysfunction, sex trafficking, and more

Prostitution

Pornography

*Violence
Against
Women*

***TOGETHER, WE ARE
EXPOSING THE SEAMLESS CONNECTION
BETWEEN ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION***

*Sexual
Addiction
Compulsion*

*Sexualization
of Children*

Sexting

*Male & Female
Sexual
Objectification*



WHAT DENNIS HOF AND HARVEY WEINSTEIN HAVE IN COMMON

By Haley Halverson, Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach, NCOSE Originally published as editorial at Townhall.com

Dennis Hof, the notorious pimp in Nevada, has died.

In his wake, he leaves a legacy of harm.

Hof rose to national notoriety by running several of Nevada's legal brothels, and starring in the HBO reality series *Cathouse*. While some have described Hof as a “bombastic” personality, the reality is that Hof maliciously made his living exploiting women, sometimes even specifically targeting those who were desperate because of crushing student debt. At the time of his death, he was nominated to the GOP state Senate in Nevada; accused of sexually assaulting a woman; and was under investigation for sex trafficking in his brothels.

Hof's philosophy was perhaps best described by himself, when he equated selling women's bodies to men with selling hamburgers at McDonald's.

His misogynistic use of women was characterized as “soulless” by a young woman who worked in one of Hof's brothels. Women in brothels were even expected to have sex with Hof, because, as one other woman said, “Well, you want Daddy to like you. You won't have a very good time if he doesn't, so if he wants you to [have sex with him], you definitely should.”

Another woman spoke about her time in two Nevada legal brothels, stating:

“[WE] DID NOT HAVE THE “INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR” FREEDOM TO TURN DOWN BUYERS. MANAGEMENT REQUIRED US TO LINE UP WHEN SOMEONE ARRIVED AT THE BROTHEL. ONCE PICKED FROM THE LINEUP, WE WOULD BRING THE SEX BUYER BACK TO OUR ROOM WHERE HE WAS ALLOWED TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTED WITH US.

“ALL OF OUR ROOMS WERE WIRED FOR SOUND, WHICH THEY TELL PEOPLE IS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE WOMEN. THAT'S NOT THE REAL REASON. THE BROTHEL MANAGEMENT LISTENED TO ALL OUR NEGOTIATIONS — NOT TO ENSURE OUR SAFETY, BUT TO ENSURE THAT THE WOMEN ARE NOT “BLOWING CALLS,” CHEATING THEM OR TURNING DOWN CUSTOMERS. AS MUCH AS THEY LIKE TO SAY YOU CAN TURN DOWN CUSTOMERS, THAT SIMPLY IS NOT TRUE.”

This woman's story is not unique. Several survivors of prostitution have spoken out about its inherently degrading and harmful nature, and reams of research shows that women in prostitution experience high levels of physical violence, sexual violence, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Nonetheless there will be many people who step up to defend Hof's legacy as a man who merely profited off of women's “consenting choice” to enter into prostitution.

But here's the reality.

THE ARGUMENT THAT PROSTITUTION IS AN EMPOWERING VENTURE DISINTEGRATES UNDER ANY SERIOUS ANALYSIS IN LIGHT OF THE #METOO MOVEMENT.

The #MeToo movement revealed the complexity around “consenting choice” when paired with dynamics such as the imbalance of power. The obvious example is Harvey Weinstein who sexually assaulted and harassed countless women. One woman summarized the experiences of many when she stated, “He just cut right to the chase and said: ‘These are contracts for my next three films. I’ll sign them, but I want you to have a threesome with me and my assistant.’”

At the time, the public immediately recognized that Weinstein’s ploy was an exploitation of circumstances—intimidating power differences and threatened lack of future economic opportunity—and so his behavior was abusive because he attempted to have sex on those grounds.

The reality is that if someone wants to have sex with you, they do it.

If you have to pay a person, whether with money, opportunity, promotion, or other things of value, then that means that the person did not want to have sex with you.

It’s clear, then, that Dennis Hof and Harvey Weinstein actually have a lot in common.

Both of them lived lives defined by male sexual entitlement—the idea that “no” means “convince me” or “incentivize me.”

Meaningful consent to sex cannot exist where payment is required.

And sure, some could argue that payment isn’t considered coercion for other jobs like being an administrative assistant. But #MeToo showed that our culture recognizes sex is different from work. When Harvey Weinstein asked a woman to perform oral sex on him, it was recognized that this was sexual harassment, not a promotion. Nobody debated that point.

So, as we sort through the legacy of Dennis Hof, let’s not pretend like the last year hasn’t happened. Let’s not view women who engage in prostitution as “deserving what they get” and as outside society’s social responsibility to protect. Let’s not ignore the fact that the practice of men buying their ways into women’s bodies is wholly inconsistent with a society striving to push back against male sexual entitlement.

Let’s keep a clear view of the Dennis Hof legacy, side-by-side with the likes of Harvey Weinstein.

Both of their legacies are dark blots in our history. Let’s remember them as such.



Editorial credit: lev radin / Shutterstock.com



Editorial credit: Dan Howell / Shutterstock.com



FOSTA-SESTA STRIKES BLOW AGAINST ONLINE SEX TRAFFICKING; CHALLENGE OF ERADICATING MALE DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION REMAINS

By Lisa L. Thompson, Vice President of Policy and Research, NCOSE

At roughly 2:00 AM on a day in 1990, Patrick Trueman, then Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS) at the U.S. Department of Justice, was surprised to find himself stuck in a traffic jam. Where was the long line of vehicles ahead of him going at such an early hour? Into the heart of one of New York's notorious red-light districts, that's where.

On a ride-along with Frank Barnaba, founder of the Paul and Lisa Program (a nonprofit dedicated to combating child sex trafficking) and Robert Flores, Senior Trial Attorney with CEOS, Trueman was there to witness firsthand the open commercial sex exploitation of teenage girls and women in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. By day, the district sold meat, produce, and dairy products. But by night, it transformed into a zone where traffickers pedaled another type of flesh—human flesh.

What Trueman saw broke his heart. "Vehicles would pull to the curb on either side of the street and young girls, some obvious minors, would get in, perform sex acts on one or more occupants, and then get out and move to the next vehicle," Trueman recalls.

That night was the beginning of CEOS' efforts to spur an FBI investigation into domestic minor sex trafficking in New York City. In those days, terms like "sex trafficking" weren't even in use, and FBI officials viewed sexual exploitation of women and children dismissively. Despite numerous efforts on the part of CEOS, the FBI investigative support they hoped for never materialized.

Twenty-eight years later, Trueman is still fighting the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children as President and CEO of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation in Washington, DC. Now, a national movement to combat sex trafficking has grown and matured, and the FBI investigates many cases of sex trafficking annually.

Even so, the battleground has shifted dramatically and the problem metastasized.

As Trueman explains, "Combating the sexual exploitation of women and children was a massive challenge in the 80s and 90s. As fraught with difficulty as it was, what we faced then was a drop in the bucket compared to sexual exploitation today."

What caused this change? His answer: "The Internet."

The Prostitution Marketplace in the Internet Age

In recent years, the men looking to buy people for sex no longer needed to drive around town under cover of darkness to find the "merchandise" they were seeking. Instead, men could shop anytime, anywhere, using their computers or smartphones. The prostitution marketplace in the Internet Age moved online where anonymity, societal indifference, and an archaic law—the Communications Decency Act^[1] (CDA)—shielded the sex trade and allowed it to thrive.

Like any other "commodity," the trading of people for sex operates on principles of supply and demand. Those who are bought and sold for sex constitute the "supply," those who "distribute" the supply are sex traffickers

(a.k.a. pimps), and those who make up the “demand” are the individuals with the desire, along with the ability and willingness, to purchase people in the prostitution marketplace (i.e., the sexual exploitation marketplace) for their personal sex use.

Of course, the ability of the sexual exploitation marketplace to flourish hinges on the capacity of traffickers to deliver “the goods.” This is where Internet-based platforms offered new opportunity.



As the Internet took off, specialized websites developed. By providing online bulletin board-type advertising forums where sex traffickers could easily market their wares and set up appointments with the sex buying male public, the men looking to buy people for sex no longer needed to line up in their cars to troll around “meat markets” at 2:00 AM.

SUCH WEBSITES MADE “PROSTITUTION SHOPPING” EASY. LIKE SHOPPING FOR A USED CAR, THESE WEBSITES MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE BUYERS TO EASILY PICK THE “COLOR, MAKE, MODEL” OF THOSE BEING OFFERED AS PUBLIC SEXUAL COMMODITIES.

Encouraged by the seeming anonymity provided by the Internet and the diminished risk of being the target of police sting operations in areas known for prostitution activity, men who a decade before may have hesitated to ride around their community looking for people to buy for sex, now felt emboldened by the “safety” of the Internet. Moreover, as Internet availability spread from urban areas to smaller communities, so did the sex trade. No longer relegated to urban city centers, websites made the sexploitation marketplace accessible from one end of the country to another.

While some online advertising platforms like Craigslist supplemented their earnings by the provision of sex trade advertising, others—the most notorious of which was Backpage.com—developed business models built almost entirely on the facilitation of prostitution and sex trafficking. Illustrating this point, from the period of January 2013 to March 2015, 99% of Backpage’s global revenue[2] was attributable to prostitution advertising. During this same period, Backpage made nearly \$51 million in revenue from prostitution ads in California alone. Likely the world’s largest prostitution facilitator, reports indicate at its height Backpage had 943 location sites on six continents, operated in 97 countries and in 17 languages.[3]

Thus, those seeking to combat sex trafficking rightly saw websites like Backpage as major vehicles for the online retailing and normalization of sexual exploitation and trafficking, and focused their efforts on shutting them down. After an entrenched battle against such websites spanning nearly a decade, anti-trafficking activists succeeded in dealing them a significant blow when Congress passed FOSTA-SESTA. This monumental legislative achievement amended the CDA, and at long last provided state prosecutors and sex trafficking victims legal means by which they may hold those running websites like Backpage accountable for facilitating and profiting from sexual trafficking.

Even so, the fight against sexual exploitation and trafficking is far from over.

FOSTA-SESTA WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL IN ITS GOAL OF DISRUPTING THE ONLINE PROSTITUTION MARKETPLACE—OF MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SEX TRAFFICKERS TO MARKET THEIR HUMAN WARES TO MALE SEX BUYERS. HOWEVER, THIS APPROACH ONLY DISRUPTS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SUPPLY CHAIN, IT DOES NOT TACKLE THE CRITICAL ISSUE OF MALE CONSUMER DEMAND FOR PEOPLE TO PURCHASE FOR SEX.

Combating the male demand for commercial sex remains the largest and most vital challenge for those who envision a world free from sexual exploitation. As the former global success of Backpage makes all too clear, there is no shortage of men ready to purchase people for sex—particularly if the risks to their finances, careers, relationships, and reputations are low, and the cultural forces and attitudes which foster male belief in their sexual entitlement remain high.

This is why at NCOSE we are committed to tackling demand for prostitution—the linchpin of all sexual exploitation. In 2018, this resolve led us to develop “Face the Demand,” a new NCOSE campaign which takes aim at sex trafficking’s deepest root. As we move into 2019, NCOSE will work to expand and deepen this campaign, and to empower all those seeking to end sex trafficking with the necessary tools and resources to challenge the beliefs, buyers, and businesses that fuel sex trafficking.¹

¹ Communications Decency Act, www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/47/230 (accessed November 28, 2018).

² *The People of California vs. Carl Ferrer, Michael Lacey, and James Larkin*, “Declaration in Support of Arrest Warrant and Warrent n.d., www.oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press_released_signed%20dec%20for%20arrest%20warrant%20pdf_Redacted.pdf (accessed November 28, 2018).

³ Edouard Morton, “How Chance Discovery of Philippine Child-Sex Ring Helped FBI Close Book on Backpage.com,” *South China Morning Post*, April 21, 2018.





HOW THE MOVEMENT AGAINST PORN IS TRANSCENDING THE GOP AND DNC

By Patrick Trueman, Esq., President & CEO, NCOSE

Recently, Politico published an article titled How the GOP Gave Up on Porn.¹

While the article contained some incisive analysis, its conclusion that the modern porn industry has “no real opponents” couldn’t be further from the truth.

THE MOVEMENT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY IS GROWING TO TRANSCEND PARTISAN RANCOR LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

In the past, the harms of pornography were addressed by divided perspectives. Political conservatives and religious institutions fought on one hand—epitomized by figures such as Dr. James Dobson from Focus on the Family and Attorney General Edwin Meese. On the other hand, radical feminists and women’s rights advocates spoke out against pornography—including leaders like Katherine Mackinnon and Andrea Dworkin.

Both groups gained elements of success in isolation, but activism against pornography dwindled because of two major developments:

1. The Internet

The detrimental impact of the advent of Internet pornography cannot be overstated.

In the past, young people were typically only exposed to pornography by a static image in a Playboy magazine. Advocates could target pornography shops to make tangible progress.

Now, 1 in 4 older millennials report seeing hardcore Internet pornography before puberty.² Instead of still images, children and adults alike are exposed to graphic videos with common themes of incest, sexual violence, racism, and statutory rape of adult men with young girls. And the content is unlimited.

Pornography changed from a local problem, to a pervasive and overwhelming force.

2. Halting Obscenity Prosecutions

Most people are surprised that Federal law prohibits the distribution of obscene adult pornography on the Internet, on TV, in hotels, retail shops, through the mail, etc.

In the eyes of the law, hardcore pornography (obscenity) is not “free speech”—similar to other forms of unprotected speech, such as defamation, blackmail, or child pornography.

Obscenity prosecutions were incredibly successful, juries almost always wanted to convict, and it had a profound effect on America’s porn industry. It both reduced the number of producer/distributors and changed the nature of the pornography produced. The leading porn lawyer put out a list of acts that should not be used

¹ Alberta, Tim. “How the GOP Gave Up on Porn.” Politico, Nov. 2018, www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/11/11/republican-party-anti-pornography-politics-222096.

² Barna Group. *The Porn Phenomenon: The Impact of Pornography in the Digital Age*. Josh McDowell Ministry, 2016.

for risk of certain conviction. Sexual violence, pain, as well as incest were on the “Cambria List” of prohibited porn themes and the industry complied.³

Now that obscenity law hasn’t been enforced by the Department of Justice for nearly 10 years, those are the same themes prominently on most mainstream pornography sites today.

The Path Forward

Despite, and perhaps because of, these setbacks, the movement against pornography has grown into a more diverse and vibrant effort than ever before.

In 2009, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation saw the need to foster a new movement, a Coalition, uniting people of all faiths or no faith, all races, and all political persuasions. This new movement recognizes pornography is one part in the interlinked web of sexual exploitation that includes sexual violence, child sex abuse, sex trafficking and more.

THE MOVEMENT IS UNIFIED BY ITS FOUNDATION IN PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH.

The research is clear that:

- Pornography hijacks the brain’s reward systems (40 neurological studies show pornography harms the brain);
- Pornography can lead to sexual dysfunctions where pixels become more arousing than real sexual partners;
- Pornography is linked to increased demand for sex trafficking, child-on-child sexual abuse, and sexual violence.

Such research led to resolutions in eleven states in the last three years declaring pornography a “public health hazard.” Social movements of millions of young people (primarily secular) have begun to reject pornography for sexual health. Activism by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation is changing corporate policies, such as getting five major hotel chains to remove on-demand pornography; getting Google to remove all ad links to pornographic websites; and more.

In 2018, over 600 diverse advocates from across the United States and around the world gathered at the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit to address pornography and its impacts on sex trafficking, child sex abuse and the pervasiveness of sexual violence as exposed by #MeToo.

THIS IS THE SIGN OF A GROWING MOVEMENT, NOT A DWINDLING ONE.

The pornography industry has not won.

In fact, it has perhaps created its own worst enemy.

³ *The Cambria List.* PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, 2002. www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontlineshows/porn/prosecuting/cambria.html.

“I just want to thank you for the hope you give me, for the good you are doing in this world, for your strength and power in making a real difference in legal policy and in mainstream media’s ideas about basic human dignity. You are shaping a better future. I have hope for my young children. I have wondered, ‘Can my children make it to adulthood without being sexually abused? Do any children stand a chance of making it to adulthood without being permeated with pornography brainwashing that would destroy the beauty and sanctity of their human sexual experiences? Do any girls actually make it to adulthood without being sexually violated in some way? What hope do I have for my sons and daughters in a world that seems ever darker?’ This movement gives me hope.”

- HEIDI K., A CONCERNED MOTHER



HOW TO GET INVOLVED



WAYS TO FIGHT

The fight against sexual exploitation is a movement. A movement formed by countless courageous activists like yourself who are devoted to defending human dignity. When we come together, our victories are astounding. To build on these accomplishments, together we must push forward each and every day. How can you continue building this trail of success? Here are some ideas:

Give Your Time

Before changing the world, you must educate yourself about the issues. We are always in need of more experts on sexual exploitation. One day, the student will become teacher.

Speak up. You may feel alone in speaking up about these issues at first, but your voice will touch the hearts and will change the minds of others in your family and circle of influence. With your help, someday all people may see the beauty of human dignity.

A small action can go a long way. NCOSE consistently posts new action opportunities on social media and our website. These include signing a petition, emailing a corporate executive, or tweeting at a company. While taking only a few seconds, these simple actions have a major impact.

Share Your Talent

One of our supporters, Chrissy, wanted to create a safer community for her young children. She took action and coordinated an effort to purchase billboards raising awareness about the harms of pornography. The best part: she said anyone across the country could easily do the same.

Renaë, an activist and former flight attendant, shared her experiences with us regarding in-flight sexual assault and harassment. She proved to be an incredible resource in building our Fly Free campaign. Just by sharing her story, Renaë deeply impacted the movement.

Alex shared his language skills and translated a number of our materials into Spanish. Michael made a handful of moving graphics to help spread the word on social media. Melissa helped us with research on issues related to the U.S. military and sexual exploitation.

Our movement is composed of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. All it takes is leadership and the desire to make a difference.

We want to help you change your community. Whether through our City Blitz billboard campaign, our Share Your Story page, by hosting a NCOSE speaker, or your own ideas, you can use your talents to do extraordinary things.

Invest Your Treasure

Our donors are an incredible blessing to this movement. Through their financial support, NCOSE has been able to provide invaluable resources to the frontlines. Your charitable gifts are the backbone of the movement. Every donation helps to grow our campaign against sexual exploitation.

THE DEFENDER PROGRAM:

We're extremely grateful for our Defenders. The Defenders are our community of sustained monthly recurring donors. Sustained donors enable us to plan with a reliable budget, and to leverage every opportunity to fight for dignity!

Will you join this community of Defenders of human dignity?
Visit EndSexualExploitation.org/defender"



INVESTING IN A FUTURE FOR DIGNITY

NCOSE has been fighting and winning battles against sexual exploitation for 56 years, and we do not plan to stop now. We continue to build on the legacy of courageous champions of human dignity who wished to help future generations in the fight against exploitation.

Just this year, when NCOSE was in critical need of funding, we received a \$500,000 donation from a supporter's estate. In other cases, we've received estate donations of \$20,000 or \$5,000 from individuals who were only able to give \$25 during their lifetime. Planned estate gifts like these make an incredible difference in the fight. NCOSE has been blessed many times by supporters including us in their will. This support always seems to come at a crucial moment.

While some individuals are unable to financially support NCOSE at this moment, planned giving is a fantastic way for anyone to support our movement into the future. An estate gift to NCOSE ensures you will impact generations to come and leave a legacy that defends human dignity. For more information and to receive a free wills planner, contact public@ncose.com or call 202-393-7245



Your continued support, service, and action will help create a world free from sexual exploitation!







NATIONAL
CENTER ON
SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION

EndSexualExploitation.org

202-393-7245
public@ncose.com

 [@CenterOnExploitation](https://www.facebook.com/CenterOnExploitation)

 [@ncose](https://twitter.com/ncose)

 [@PornHarms](https://www.facebook.com/PornHarms)

 [@porn_harms](https://twitter.com/porn_harms)