

Sex Trafficking—Filmed and Photographed: PORNOGRAPHY

1. Pornography facilitates the GROOMING process

a. *Pornography is a child's first form of sex education.*

- i. Children are usually exposed to porn once they have internet access—before age 11.
- ii. 95% of children have seen porn before age 16.

b. *Pornography normalizes sexual violence and exploitation.*

- i. Close to half (46%) of adolescents age 13-25 see nothing wrong with, “sexual acts that may be forced or painful” (Barna Group, 2016).
- ii. Porn viewers are more likely to believe that women desire rape or that rape is their fault.
- iii. One in five pornographic images are of children (child sexual abuse images/videos), and there is a large market for rape and incest porn

c. *Pornography constructs sexuality in a way that eroticizes power inequality (especially between men and women).*

- i. Porn affects the forming of a person's sexual template.
 1. Porn users eventually may *only* be aroused by porn or *only* aroused by violent, painful, body-punishing, and/or degrading sex acts with a partner.
 2. Girls are sexualized early, may be expected imitate acts in porn, endure sexual pain and violence, groomed into the sex industry, and are sent the message that they will be valued most by their sexual appeal and pleasing men.
 3. Boys develop attitudes of objectification, may believe that girls/women are only valuable for sexual use, and may groom boys into perpetrators of sexual violence, as well as buyers and traffickers.

- ii. Nearly 90% of the most popular porn scenes contain physical violence (Bridges, 2010).
 - 1. Common forms of violence and degradation: strangulation, choking, gagging, slapping, drowning, bondage, gang-rape, multiple penetrations by multiple men at one time, verbal abuse, humiliating acts, ejaculation on woman's face, and torture

d. *Pornography is used as a training tool for prostituted/trafficked people.*

- i. Traffickers may have victims watch pornography demonstrate what sex acts victims will be expected to perform on the men who purchase their bodies. They also use porn to normalize, desensitize, and monopolize the environment and media of victims to groom and normalize sexual exploitation.

2. Pornography drives and sustains DEMAND

a. *Pornography normalizes the purchasing and consumption of women.*

- i. There were more votes casted on videos within a single porn site than votes casted for the most recent presidential election (Forbes, 2017).
- ii. The most popular porn site on the internet boasted 33.5 billion visits in 2018. (There are currently 7.53 billion people on Earth.)

b. *Because of sexism and male entitlement, people are sexually exploited because men create the demand for it.*

- i. At least 1/5 - 1/6 U.S. men self-report purchasing a woman's body for prostitution.

c. *Commercial sex buyers rent prostituted women to imitate porn scenes.*

- i. 80% of prostituted women said commercial sex buyers showed them porn to "illustrate" the acts buyers want them to perform (Malarek, 2009).

3. Pornography facilitates and profits from sexual EXPLOITATION.

a. *Pornography, by definition, is the filmed depiction of trafficking. Minnesota sex trafficking law defines traffickers as anyone who "aids in the prostitution of another," therefore, all pornographers are traffickers because they aid, facilitate, and profit off the videotaped prostitution of another.*

b. *Many victims are trafficked into the legal porn industry, others are filmed as part of their exploitation as children or adults.*

c. *Sexual images/videos or filmed rape videos are used to blackmail people into entering the sexual exploitation industries (sextortion).*