

ELIMINATE DEMAND, IT DRIVES “PORNOGRAPHIC” VICTIMIZATION AND CORRUPTION: A BRIEF

Submitted by

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To

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PRIVACY AND ETHICS

Responding to the motion the Committee adopted in December: *That the committee call representatives of Pornhub / Mindgeek, namely Feras Antoon and David Tassillo, to explain the company’s failure to prohibit rape videos and other illegal content from its site, and what steps it has taken and plans to take to protect the reputation and privacy of young people and other individuals who have never provided their consent*, put forth by MP Nate Erskine-Smith.

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Eliminate Demand, it Drives “Pornographic” Victimization and Corruption: A Brief

Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald

Preamble: Our submission is in response to the Committee’s Meeting No. 18, 1 February, 2021, and witnesses Serena Fleites’ victimization as a child and Michael Bowe’s legal opinion.

Demand for Child “Pornographic” Victimization will Ignore Protection of Privacy

Protection of privacy or the ascertainment of consent of young people is ethically and legally unattainable. Children of any age cannot consent to sexualized exploitation or human trafficking (“sex trafficking”) under Canadian trafficking in persons s. 279.01(2) legislation. Protection of reputation and privacy is not achievable unless the **demand** for such criminal victimizations and associated corrupt businesses are eliminated. Sexualized exploitation via the internet is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. Canada is aware of the everyday misopedic sexualized victimization risks that confront children,¹ as Serena Fleites explained. *The Globe and Mail* article says Pornhub is one of the largest worldwide suppliers of **meeting demand**,² as did the *New York Times* which described “a video of a naked woman ...tortured by a gang of men.”³

Canadian Facts:

- A. **Research on demand by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection** of internet images of the sexualized victimization of children revealed (Bunzeluk, 2009):⁴
 - a. Fifty-seven percent of the crime scene images were of children under eight years of age, and the most extreme sexualized victimization was inflicted against them, with many crime scene images showing infants or toddlers being victimized;
 - b. Crime scenes involved torture, bondage, bestiality, and for example of children’s degradation when being defecated on;
 - c. Eighty-three percent of the crime scene images were of the girl child; and
 - d. Parents and those known to the children were the most common perpetrators.
- B. **Depravity demand** was described in an article that stated employees of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection noted there was a 12 percent increase between 2013 and 2014 of the depravity of “torture” and “bondage” of children.⁵
- C. **Depravity demand** was expressed by Corporal Pierre Lemaitre of the Burnaby, British Columbia RCMP detachment who described the seizure of 100 “loathsome and

¹Sarson, J., & MacDonald, L. (2020). *Women silenced We’re naming their violence torture! A webinar: Non-state torturers who inflict pornographic victimizations.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y8cENaYAXc&t=673s&ab_channel=RadicalGirlsss

²Castaldo, J., & Van Praet, N. (2021). Pornhub’s parent company MindGeek facing proposed class-action lawsuit. *The Globe and Mail*. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-pornhubs-parent-company-mindgeek-facing-proposed-class-action-lawsuit/>

³Kristof, N. (2020, December 4). The children of pornhub. *nytimes*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/04/opinion/sunday/pornhub-rape-trafficking.html?referringSource=articleShare>

⁴Bunzeluk, K. (2009). *Child sexual abuse images: Summary report. An analysis of websites by cybertip.ca.* Canadian Centre for Child Protection. https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_ChildSexualAbuse_Summary_en.pdf

⁵Cribb, R. (2015, April 26). Underground child porn trade moving toward youngest victims. *The Star*.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2015/04/26/underground-child-porn-trade-moving-toward-youngest-victims.html>

unspeakable” DVDs of pornographic crime scene images of misopedic torture and horrification—of bestiality involving children, dogs, and horses.⁶

- D. **Torture pornographic victimization** identified by 93 respondents, mostly women, who completed our questionnaire on torture victimization committed within families,⁷ revealed that 63 (68%) stated pornographic crime scene pictures were taken and 40 (43%) stated pornography or snuff films were made/used.

Points of Evidence and Suggested Recommendations

1. **Eliminate Demand.** Canada has ethically known for years of the **demand** for the pornographic crime scene victimization of children under the age of 18 years. Including having the knowledge that **demand** is heavy for our most vulnerable citizens from infants to eight year olds. This knowledge lies in the Office of the Minister of Public Safety. **Demand** by “the consumer” feeds the financial greed of companies, conversely **eliminating demand** results in no financial gains.
 - a) **Recommendation:** Evaluate why Canadian law and enforcement fails to hold any company, group, or individual legally accountable when **demand** involves the misopedic/misogynistic risks of the sexualized victimizations of children/women.
2. **Acknowledging the severity of the victimization.** To lawyer Michael Bowe’s testimony and his mention of “snuff videos” we add that “torture videos” are also **in demand** including victimizing infants and young children. The knowledge of the **demand for child torture-pornographic victimization** is provided to the Minister of Public Safety. The present Class Action in the Superior Court in Montreal, Quebec, No. 500-06 mentions that “PornHub hosted the video of a 14 years old Indigenous girl’s sexual assault and torture for months, despite requests for the removal” (para. 22 c), exposes misopedic torture as being such a **demand**.
 - a) **Recommendation:** To address the **behavioral demand** for torture and snuff videos,⁸ the terms “torture pornography” and “snuff pornography” must be ethically added as amendments to s. 163.1 (1) on child pornography legislation.
3. **Eliminating internet “pornographic” human trafficking and business corruption.** According to the testimony of lawyer Mr. Bowe, Pornhub uses gaslighting tactics to disguise its business wherein sexualized human trafficking victimization of children occurred. Eliminating any organized crime of sexualized human trafficking is achieved by **eliminating demand** for the victimization of children on the internet. How did Canada miss identifying images of sexualized exploitation of children on Pornhub?
 - a) **Recommendation:** Enforce and/or amend human trafficking legislation, s. 279.1 (1) Trafficking in persons, to place criminal responsibilities equally on a company that “exercises control” and on the buyer “every person” whereby **demand creates the victimization of children** as described by witness Serena Fleites.

⁶ *The Chronicle Herald*. (2004). Authorities seize child porn, bestiality DVDs. p. A7.

⁷ Persons Against Non-State Torture. (n.d.). *Questionnaire 2: For persons who may have survived NST*. <https://nonstatetorture.org/research/participate/questionnaire-2>

⁸ Burke, J., Gentleman, A., & Willan, P. (2000, October 1). British link to ‘snuff’ videos. *The Observer*. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/oct/01/ameliagentleman.philipwillan>