



# NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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February 1, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Madame Attorney General:

We are writing the U.S. Department of Justice yet again to express our continuing alarm and astonishment regarding its abject failure and outright refusal to enforce federal laws against adult obscenity.

To our knowledge, not one new obscenity case has been initiated against commercial distributors of hardcore, adult pornography in the last seven years. Yet, federal law *prohibits* distribution of obscene adult pornography on the Internet, on cable/satellite TV, on hotel/motel TV, in retail shops, through the mail, and by common carrier. The U.S. Supreme Court has also repeatedly upheld obscenity laws against First Amendment challenges.

Soon the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) will publicly announce its annual "Dirty Dozen List," which catalogs the top promoters of and contributors to sexual exploitation in America. The former Attorney General, Mr. Eric Holder, rightfully held the top spot on this List in 2013 and 2014, because more than any other person, he made the explosion of illegal adult pornography possible through his failure to ensure enforcement in this area of U.S. law. (In fact, it was during his tenure that the Obscenity Prosecution Task Force was shut down.) In 2015, given Mr. Holder's forthcoming departure from his position as Attorney General, the Department of Justice's name was added to the 2015 Dirty Dozen List. Accordingly, the U.S. Department of Justice now shares a shameful spotlight with the ilk of Backpage.com, one of biggest facilitators of sexual exploitation in the nation.

We write to inform you that given your and the Department's longstanding, intractable refusal to launch criminal prosecutions of hardcore, adult pornography the Department of Justice has again earned the disreputable distinction of placement on the 2016 Dirty Dozen List.

In letters dated March 4, 2013, and January 8, 2015, we repeatedly appealed to Mr. Holder to take action both as a matter of conscience, and because the masses of material being distributed via the Internet, through cable/satellite TV, etc. likely violates U.S. law.

As the following small sample of titles recently offered by Verizon and InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) demonstrates, themes of incest, racism, sexism, and exploitation are ubiquitous to pornography.

**Verizon:**

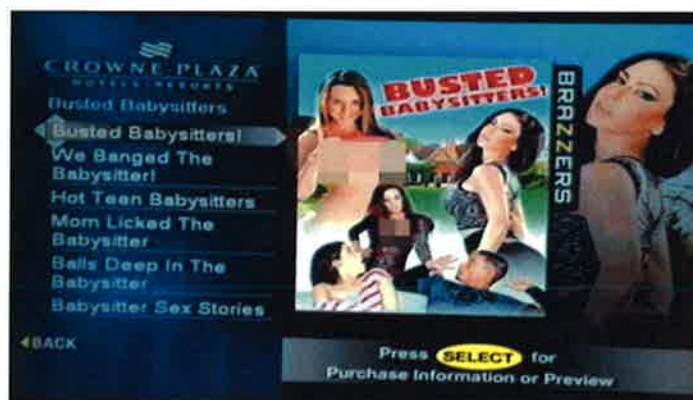
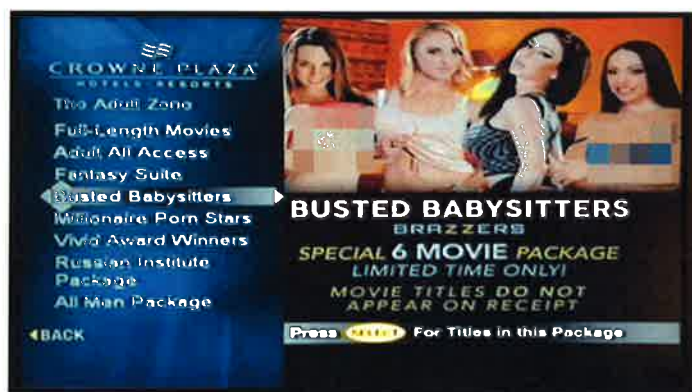
- **A Thug Did My 18YO!**  
I can't believe my 18YO has a black boyfriend! I told her that if her first time was with a black man, her slit won't be pleased by anyone ever again cuz once you go black you never go back!
- **Amateurs Paid for Sex**  
Hot amateurs are getting picked up and paid for sex! These real, all-natural babes can't resist a handsome stranger with a fat wallet and a fatter shaft, so the second he offers, they're wet and ready to go!
- **Asians Damaged**  
Hustler presents: Pretty Asian princesses spread their wet little slits for a thick ramrod! Asian girls have tighter boxes, so you've gotta push a little harder to fit inside!
- **Barely Legal 145**  
They're finally ready to spread wide open! Barely-legal hotties take shaft down their mouths until they're drenched in milky-white goodness!
- **BFFs Daddy & Me**  
Dad's new babe is eager to take a ride on this throbbing shaft! Her tight pink is aching for massive girth & she can't wait to take mouthfuls of hot goo!
- **Dainty Black 18YOs**  
Black cuties spread for extreme rod-ramming sex! 5 sweet ebony coeds learn how to love throbbing shaft!
- **Ghetto Rod Ambush**  
Two monster black shafts slam a hot white girl in every scene! These girls will never be the same again after getting double-teamed by massive black thunder sticks!
- **Horny SchoolgirlsHD**  
Hustler presents: 18-year-old sweet girls can't wait to skip class and get hammered by rock-hard schlong!

**InterContinental Hotels Group**

- **American Innocence**  
American p\*ssy f\*\*\*ed the American way. They come to town, young, innocent, and not all jaded. But things change when you cross paths with a wild crowd.
- **4 Amateur Teens Caught on Cam 2**  
Hot teens show what they got on camera for the 1<sup>st</sup> time when four barely legal babes get their sweet honey holes stuffed!
- **7 Teen Squirters**  
These horny teen moms gush rivers after taking huge rods deep inside their wet boxes. Plowed deep and hard, these soaking wet moms are gushing and read to swallow your hot sticky load.

- **Stepdad Anal Slam**  
(No description provided)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Time Amateur Fresh Meat Orgasms**  
(No description provided)
- **Stepmom Seduction**  
(No description provided)

One IHG hotel goes so far as to offer a six movie package of babysitter themed pornography.



As many of the above titles and descriptions illustrate, pornography's emphasis on teen and young girls is inescapable. Clearly much of pornography attempts to accentuate first time sexual experiences of females, the "barely legal" age of the performers, the petiteness of their bodies, and significant age differentials between sexual partners, thus catering to the sexual fantasies of consumers (i.e. sex buyers) that involve sex with the underaged.

As you well know, the titles above are but a tiny fraction of the tsunami of pornography that has swept across this nation. Companies like BangBros, Kink.com, Naughty America, Reality Kings, Wicked Pictures, Vivid Entertainment, and dozens more, are freely and openly producing hardcore, adult

pornography. Countless Internet websites make this material accessible to homes, schools, libraries, businesses, and government offices<sup>1</sup> across the country.

In an age when our society is struggling to deal with serious child and adult sexual exploitation,<sup>2</sup> racially-motivated sexual violence,<sup>3</sup> an epidemic of sexual assault on college and university campuses,<sup>4</sup> thousands of young women and girls are being trafficked for purposes of prostitution,<sup>5</sup> Department of Justice employees must be admonished to not engage in purchase of sex from prostituting persons,<sup>6</sup> and child sexual abuse is 167 times more common than autism in children,<sup>7</sup> adult, hardcore pornography only serves to exacerbate deeply entrenched social ills that have devastating impacts at the individual and societal level. It is long past time for the producers and distributors of this sexually toxic material to face justice.

A wealth of peer-reviewed research demonstrates the many harms of pornography. For instance, a growing body of neuroscience reveals that adults are developing addictions to pornography, as pornography hijacks the brain's reward center in a way similar to drug addiction.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, an alarming, nationally representative online survey of 3,000 people reveals that nearly half of young people (ages 13-24) actively

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<sup>1</sup> We note that this has been a problem for federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Missile Defense Agency, the Securities and Exchange Commission, etc. See: <http://dailycaller.com/2015/04/30/epa-employees-watched-porn-harassed-women-and-got-promoted/> and <http://fellowshipoftheminds.com/2012/08/22/federal-employees-watch-child-porn-on-govt-computers/> (accessed January 14, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Bryce Covert, "Women in Baltimore Public Housing Were Forced to Trade Sex for Basic Repairs." *Think Progress* (Jan 9, 2016), <http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2016/01/09/3737612/baltimore-housing-sex-settlement/> (accessed January 9, 2016); U.S. Department of Justice. "The National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction: A Report to Congress, (August 2010), <http://www.justice.gov/psc/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf> (accessed January 14, 2016).

<sup>3</sup> Victoria Olive, "Sexual Assault against Women of Color." *Journal of Student Research* 1 (2012): 1-19; Gabby Bess, "Notre Dame Tutor Accused of Forcing Student into 'Racially Motivated' Sex." *Broadly*, (November 2, 2015), [https://broadly.vice.com/en\\_us/article/notre-dame-tutor-accused-of-forcing-student-into-racially-motivated-sex](https://broadly.vice.com/en_us/article/notre-dame-tutor-accused-of-forcing-student-into-racially-motivated-sex) (accessed January 14, 2016); Donna M. Hughes, "'Welcome to Rape Camp' Sexual Exploitation and the Internet in Cambodia." *Journal of Sexual Aggression* 6, no. 1/2 (2000):1-23, <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/rapecamp.htm> (accessed January 14, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> The White House Council on Women and Girls. *Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action*, (2014), [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/sexual\\_assault\\_report\\_1-21-14.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/sexual_assault_report_1-21-14.pdf) (accessed January 9, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> Polaris. *2014 Statistics*, <https://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/2014Statistics.pdf> (accessed January 9, 2016).

<sup>6</sup> Adam Lerner, "Holder's Friday Memo to DOJ Staff: Don't Hire Prostitutes." *Politico*, April 10, 2015, <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/eric-holder-prostitution-memo-116865> (accessed January 14, 2016).

<sup>7</sup> National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. *The Health Impact on Children & Youth*. [http://www.preventtogether.org/Resources/Documents/Health\\_Impact\\_on\\_Youth.pdf](http://www.preventtogether.org/Resources/Documents/Health_Impact_on_Youth.pdf) (accessed January 9, 2016).

<sup>8</sup> Simone Kühn and Jürgen Gallinat, "Brain Structure and Functional Connectivity Associated with Pornography Consumption: The Brain on Porn," *JAMA Psychiatry* 71, no. 7 (2014): 827-834. Ji-Woo Seok and Jin-Hun Sohn, "Neural Substrates of Sexual Desire in Individuals with Problematic Hypersexual Behavior," *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, (November 30, 2015). ). Porn Study Critiques, "Current List of Brain Studies on Porn Users, (September 29, 2015) <http://pornstudycritiques.com/current-list-of-brain-studies-on-porn-users/> (accessed January 28, 2016).

seek out pornography weekly or more often.<sup>10</sup> This is especially troubling given that research into how the human brain develops shows that adolescents are not as readily able to access their frontal lobes—the portion of the brain that controls impulses and allows for rapid, smart decision making.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, adolescents are more susceptible to forming addictions than adults because the dopamine neurons in their nucleus accumbens (i.e. the brain’s pleasure center) are much more active and have an exaggerated plasticity in response to addictive stimulus.<sup>12</sup> Thus, it can be said that a propensity for addiction is more strongly “hardwired” into the adolescent brain.<sup>13</sup>

Additionally, sexual violence against women, including sexual harassment and rape, are correlated to the consumption of pornography. A recent meta-analysis of 22 studies from seven countries provides clear evidence confirming that pornography exposure is associated with sexual aggression in the United States and internationally, among both males and females; associations are stronger for verbal than physical sexual aggression, but both are significant.<sup>14</sup> As the authors state, “the accumulated data leave little doubt that, on the average, individuals who consume pornography more frequently are more likely to hold attitudes conducive to sexual aggression and engage in actual acts of sexual aggression than individuals who do not consume pornography or who consume pornography less frequently.”<sup>15</sup>

A separate meta-analysis of 46 studies demonstrated that pornography contributes to the development of sexually dysfunctional attitudes and behaviors including:

- 1) developing sexual deviant tendencies,
- 2) committing sexual offenses,
- 3) experiencing difficulties in intimate relationships, and
- 4) accepting rape myths.<sup>16</sup>

Further, older adolescents who use pornography are more likely to be attracted to 13 or 14 year olds,<sup>17</sup> and the earlier college men were exposed to pornography the more likely they are to have engaged in nonconsensual sex.<sup>18</sup> Fraternity men who consume *mainstream* pornography express a greater intent to commit rape; those who consume *sadomasochistic* pornography express significantly less willingness to intervene in situations of sexual violence, greater beliefs in rape myths, and greater intent to commit rape; and, among those who consume *rape-themed* pornography, the researchers described “serious effects” including less bystander willingness to intervene, greater belief in rape myth, and greater intent to commit

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Brain Studies on Porn Users, (September 29, 2015) <http://pornstudycritiques.com/current-list-of-brain-studies-on-porn-users/> (accessed January 28, 2016).

<sup>10</sup> Barna Group, “The Porn Phenomenon: A Comprehensive New Survey on Americans, the Church, and Pornography,” (2016).

<sup>11</sup> Frances E. Jensen with Amy Ellis Nutt, *The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist’s Survival Guild to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults*, (New York: Harper Collins, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Paul J. Wright, Robert S. Tokunaga, and Ashley Kraus. “A Meta-Analysis of Pornography Consumption and Actual Acts of Sexual Aggression in General Population Studies.” *Journal of Communications*, (December 29, 2015): 1-23.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Elizabeth Paolucci-Oddone, Mark Genuis, and Claudio Violato, “A Meta-Analysis of the Published Research on the Effects of Pornography. In C. Violato, E. Paolucci-Oddone, & M. Genius (Eds). *The Changing Family and Child Development* (Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing), 2000: 48-59.

<sup>17</sup> Kristinn Henga, Svein Mossige, and Lars Wichstrom, “Older Adolescents’ Positive Attitudes toward Younger Adolescents as Sexual Partners,” *Adolescence* 39, no. 156, (2004): 627-651.

<sup>18</sup> Mary Anne Layden, unpublished data, 2015.

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
Page 6  
February 1, 2016

rape.<sup>19</sup> In other words, there was *no* type of pornography that did not result in a greater intent to commit rape.

We also have testimonials from former pornography performers who report being exploited, given illicit drugs, coerced to perform objectionable acts, and raped, thus constituting sex trafficking under the U.S. Trafficking Victims Projection Act.

All girls, boys, women, and men have a natural human dignity and thus a right to live lives free from sexual exploitation. All pornography is degrading, dehumanizing, exploitive, and a violation of this right. All pornography is a serial attack on human dignity, identity and worth. NCOSE exists to make society aware of pornography's many harms, to equip individuals and families to overcome and protect against those harms, and to advocate that all laws defending the right to be free from pornography are vigorously enforced.

Our nation is now suffering from an emerging public health crisis fueled by the widespread distribution of adult, hardcore pornography, and the Department of Justice bears a great burden of responsibility for this crisis. Accordingly, we request to meet with you and representatives of the Criminal Division within the next 45 days to discuss the matter of initiating enforcement of U.S. obscenity law.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Trueman  
President & CEO  
Former Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section  
Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice



Dawn Hawkins  
Senior Vice President

cc: Mrs. Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States of America  
Ms. Leslie R. Caldwell, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, DOJ  
Mr. Steven J. Grocki, Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, DOJ  
Marty J. Jackley, President, National Association of Attorneys General  
Rep. Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee  
Sen. Chuck Grassley, Chairman, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
Sen. John Thune, Chairman, U.S. Senate Comm. on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
Rep. Fred Upton, Chairman, U.S. House of Rep. Energy & Commerce Committee

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<sup>19</sup> John Foubert, Matt Brosi, and R. Bannon, "Pornography Viewing among Fraternity Men: Effects on Bystander Intervention, Rape Myth Acceptance & Behavioral Intent to Commit Sexual Assault, *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 18, no. 4 (2011): 212-231.