Prosecution Task Force and in 2011 former Attorney General Eric Holder dismantled the Obscenity enforcement actions against illegal obscenity have been initiated by DOJ, and upheld by U.S. Courts. From the time Obama took office in 2008, no pornography despite the fact that these laws were previously enforced.

Department of Justice: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) refuses to enforce existing federal obscenity laws against pornography despite the fact that these laws were previously enforced and upheld by U.S. Courts. From the time Obama took office in 2008, no enforcement actions against illegal obscenity have been initiated by DOJ, and in 2011 former Attorney General Eric Holder dismantled the Obscenity Prosecution Task Force.

Cosmopolitan: This staple of the supermarket checkout line is a porn magazine. Cosmo hyper-sexualizes fashion, and glamorizes things like public, anal and violent sex, as well as use of pornography in nearly all their issues and web content. As long as Cosmo persists in normalizing pornography and sexually risky behavior, it’s time for it to be covered like all other pornography magazines in retail stores.

American Library Association: The ALA zealously continues to encourage public libraries to keep all public-access computers unfettered, thereby allowing patrons, including children, to view illegal, obscene material. This has turned the once safe community setting of the public library into a XXX space that fosters child sexual abuse, sexual assault, exploitation, stalking, and lewd behavior in libraries across the country.

Amnesty International: Amnesty International has developed a policy document supporting full decriminalization of prostitution. Full decriminalization of prostitution is one of the world’s most disastrous approaches to the sex trade because it allows sex traffickers and sex buyers to carry out their activities as mere “sex business operators” and “customers,” and it normalizes the sexual violence and exploitation inherent to prostitution as a form of “work.”

Backpage.com: Backpage.com is a classified advertising website that serves as “the hub” for prostitution advertising through its “adult entertainment” section and provision of free basic posting of such ads. Facilitating such advertising enables sex traffickers to remain anonymous, while simultaneously granting them access to a wide audience to market adults and children for illegal commercial sex acts. According to 51 State Attorneys General (including Guam and American Samoa), many cases of sexual trafficking involving children are directly related to the posting of these ads.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide: This global hotel chain was a 2016 Dirty Dozen List target for its sale of hardcore pornography via on-demand television offerings. However, Starwood has recently mandated elimination of pornography from all its hotels globally. We applaud Starwood for its exit from the business of sexploitation.

HBO: HBO, a division of Time Warner, is an American premium cable television network. For years HBO has pushed boundaries in its programming, by providing increasingly graphic depictions of pornography and sexual violence as entertainment. Its popular series Game of Thrones has pushed these boundaries to the extreme with copious amounts of gratuitous nudity and sexual violence.

“Sexpresso” Coffee Shops: These coffee stands originated in Seattle with a business model based on sexual objectification. Young women wearing only pasties, thong underwear, other lingerie, or bikinis ostensibly serve coffee. However, the pornified working conditions result in frequent sexual harassment of staff, have been associated with indecent exposure and prostitution, and are an affront to public decency and health. Sexpresso cafés bring strip club atmosphere to the neighborhood coffee shop.

Amazon: Amazon, the world’s largest online retailer, is known for lightning-fast shipping, its Kindle e-reader, and selling virtually anything online. Regardless of their corporate policy, which prohibits pornography from being sold, Amazon is a worldwide facilitator of sexual exploitation. They distribute pornography and sadomasochistic paraphernalia; their Kindle e-reader exposes children to sexually explicit images and content with incest, rape, and child themes; and Amazon Web Services is used to host pornography and prostitution websites.

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Since the 1950s generations of pornography users have grown up looking at pornography. Over the course of the intervening decades, pornography has become increasingly available and normalized. This should come as no surprise, as pornography users, who often start out as teenagers, grow up to become individuals who work as librarians, law enforcement officers, lawyers, judges, reporters, corporate executives, and Hollywood screen writers, etc. Naturally, the amount and type of pornography they consume eventually colors their judgements, values, and beliefs, and for some, becomes a perspective that is superimposed on their relationships, both private and professional, and ultimately culture at large. The evidence of this is all around us. From fashion magazines, the offerings of cable television and Internet service providers, popular entertainment, the “sexting” phenomenon, to the local grocery store checkout isle, American culture has been porned and this is unacceptable.

At NCOSE we work for a world where the pornified vision of reality—with its utilitarian and insatiable consumption of human beings for selfish sexual pleasure, its raw, brutal, debasing, violent and hate-filled themes—becomes intolerable to all people with concern and respect for the dignity and well-being of humanity. One way we do this is through the annual “Dirty Dozen List,” which names and shames a range of actors who contribute significantly to the normalization of pornography (or prostitution and sex trafficking). The groups, agencies, and businesses named to this list are among the nation’s worst for facilitating and protecting access to pornography, pandering and profiting directly from it, or pushing an agenda that normalizes pornography or other egregious forms of sexual exploitation.

We will continue naming and shaming until these mainstream contributors to the normalization of sexual exploitation no longer stand in alliance with pornographers, pimps, and sex buyers, and join the civilized world in working for a world free from sexual exploitation.

WHY the Dirty Dozen List?

See a full list of victories at DirtyDozenList.com