

# 2018 THE DIRTY DOZEN LIST

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

DIRTYDOZENLIST.COM

A PROJECT OF THE



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



**Amazon:** Amazon.com, the world's largest online retailer, facilitates the sale of materials that sexualize children and normalize the dehumanization and sexual commodification of women. Such products include eroticized child nudity photography books, sex dolls (many with childlike features,) and books with "how to" instructions for sex trafficking. Amazon Prime also produces original content that normalizes gratuitous sexual violence against women and softcore pornography as mainstream entertainment.



**Backpage.com:** Backpage.com brings the seedy street corners of America's red-light districts to home computers. As a classified advertising website known as "the hub" for prostitution advertising, Backpage.com serves as a virtual auction block where sex buyers can shop for human beings for sex from the privacy of their home, office, hotel room, or cell phone. Many of those bought and sold via the website are sexually trafficked women and children. The website facilitates this activity by allegedly editing ads to conceal the illegality of underlying criminal activity and remains immune from prosecution due to the Communications Decency Act Section 230.



**Comcast:** Comcast distributes and profits from sexual exploitation. One way it does this is by providing access to hardcore pornography via its Xfinity television packages. In 2017, Comcast informed NCOSE that it would take measures to hide and deceptively sanitize film descriptions and titles – but Comcast is still defending and profiting off of teen, incest, and racist-themed pornography.



**EBSCO:** EBSCO Information Services offers online library resources to public and private schools (K-12), public libraries, and more. In its advertising for schools, it promises "fast access to curriculum-appropriate content." However, its databases provide easy access to hardcore pornography sites and extremely graphic sexual content. In 2017, EBSCO removed some content from their K-12 databases, however there remains an incredible amount of easily accessible sexually explicit material bypassing school filters mixed in with educational material.



**HBO:** Home Box Office Inc. (HBO) is a premium cable and satellite television network owned by Time Warner. Since the early 2000s HBO has produced a string of original programs that incorporate graphic sex scenes. Examples include *G String Divas*, *CatHouse: The Series*, and *Hung*. Graphic depictions of sex, rape, and brutal sexual violence are also commonplace in *The Deuce*, *Game of Thrones* and *Westworld*. HBO has reached a new low as it turns torture porn into popular entertainment.



**iBooks:** Apple's iBooks app is automatically pre-downloaded on most iPhones as an easy way to access audio and written books while mobile. However, this app is filled with erotic literature that supports rape myths, normalizes adult-with-teen-themed and incest-themed exploitation, and reinforces degrading racially charged sexual stereotypes. Even innocent searches auto-populate graphic suggestions. Many stories feature "barely legal," student-teacher, and "babysitter" sex, "forced sex" (aka rape,) or submission of minority races like Black, Asian, and Indian to white males.

### THE POSTER BOYS OF #METOO



**The Poster Boys of #MeToo:** This year, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation broke with its tradition of placing only mainstream companies or organizations on the Dirty Dozen List, to include four "Poster Boys" of the #MeToo culture of sexual assault and harassment: Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Woody Allen, and James Franco. These four men have used their power to both harass and abuse others, in addition to shaping America's cultural acceptance of sexual exploitation through their professions.



**ROKU:** Roku, a leading media streaming company, provides its users with the ability to stream television programs, movies, music, and more, on their personal devices. Roku also facilitates access to hardcore pornography channels through hundreds of private and hidden channels. This stands in sharp contrast to the policies of other streaming device industry leaders such as Apple TV or Amazon's Fire TV.



**Snap Inc.:** Arguably the most popular smartphone app used by Millennials and teens, Snapchat is frequently used for sexting and sharing child sexual abuse images (i.e. child pornography). Snapchat's "Stories" is a feature which includes public content from media outlets like *Cosmopolitan*, frequently containing sexually graphic material that cannot be easily blocked by users. Additionally, its "SnapCash" feature enables users to easily monetize and profit from the exchange of sexual content.



**Steam:** Steam is the Walmart of online videogame distribution, with over 35 million users who are minors. Steam offers categories of "nudity" and "sexual content" video games, which include over 780 video games with explicit content, featuring only mild warnings. These games, for example *House Party*, *Men of Yoshiwara: Ohgiya*, *Super Star*, *Porno Studio Tycoon* and more, promote the dangerous misconception that sexually exploiting others is harmless and fun.



**Twitter:** Twitter is a major source of breaking news and boasts more than 300 million monthly, active users. It also serves as a major platform to disseminate hardcore pornography and facilitate prostitution. While the platform removed the ability to search for these terms directly in video or picture tabs, there are still countless pornographic accounts which often serve as advertisements for pornography websites or online prostitution.



**YouTube:** In late 2017, Google's YouTube came under scrutiny for hosting disturbing videos that targeted children, often with children's characters put in sexually charged or violent situations, and searches in the YouTube search bar would autocomplete with suggestions for child sex-themed videos. YouTube states that it removed many of these channels and the autocomplete suggestions, but YouTube is failing to proactively monitor or restrict sexually graphic content and it forces users to go through a rigorous process, which includes watching the material, if they want to report the content for removal.

# WHY the Dirty Dozen List?



At the National Center on Sexual Exploitation we work for a world where the pornified vision of reality—with its utilitarian and insatiable consumption of human beings for selfish sexual pleasure, and its raw, brutal, debasing, hate-filled themes—become intolerable to all those who have concern for the well-being of humanity, respect for human dignity, and affirm human rights. We work for a world where human beings are not bought and sold for sex, whether on seedy street corners or via the modern convenience of the Internet. We work for a world free from sexual exploitation in all its forms.

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, prostitution, sex trafficking, and other forms of sexual exploitation. The groups, agencies, businesses (and this year, individuals) named to this list are among the nation's worst for masquerading as mainstream entities with respectable reputations, while facilitating access to, or pandering and profiting directly from pornography and or prostitution. Others push policy agendas that normalize egregious forms of sexual exploitation. This list ensures that their participation and collusion with the various aspects of the sex trade becomes public knowledge, and equips concerned citizens with information and tools to hold them accountable.

We will continue naming and shaming until these mainstream contributors to the normalization of sexual exploitation no longer stand in allegiance with pornographers, sex traffickers, and sex buyers, and join us in fighting for the right of everyone to live sexploitation free lives.



**Department of Justice:** For the past nine years the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) refused to enforce existing federal obscenity laws (hardcore pornography) despite the fact that these laws have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court and previously enforced. This gross negligence gave a free pass to producers and distributors of pornography, and enabled the culture of sexual exploitation to flourish. Will the new leadership at DOJ take robust action against the purveyors of obscenity?



**Cosmopolitan Magazine:** This staple of the supermarket checkout lane is a visually hypersexualized and verbally pornographic magazine. With inexhaustible predictability, Cosmopolitan accosts shoppers with covers pronouncing dozens of recycled "sex tricks" and flaunting an endless supply of hypersexualized cover models. Within the Cosmo magazine, and increasingly on its website, it relentlessly glamorizes things like public, anal, group, and violent sex to its young female readership.



**Verizon:** Verizon distributes and profits from sexual exploitation by providing hardcore pornography as an Internet service provider, through pay-per-view movies available in its FiOS television packages and as a wireless carrier. They have even defended child, rape, incest, and racist themed pornography as a benefit to their consumers. However, Verizon has taken a step toward curbing its participation in sexual exploitation by creating an opt-in system for new subscribers to FiOS IPTV services. Does this step mark the beginning of Verizon's journey towards becoming a sexploitation free corporation?

## VICTORIES from the Annual Dirty Dozen List

See a more complete list of victories at [DirtyDozenList.com](http://DirtyDozenList.com)



Google adopted a policy to prohibit pornographic ads and any ads that link to websites with sexually explicit content.



Facebook has taken steps to improve blocking and reporting of child pornography on its site.



GooglePlay instituted policies that prohibit pornographic apps in their app store after the first year on our list (though law enforcement of this policy followed). After a second year on the list, GooglePlay removed all apps in violation.



Hilton Hotels Worldwide publicly announced it would stop selling pornography and issued orders to implement this policy in all of their properties around the world.



The Department of Defense stopped the sale of pornography in all Army and Air Force base exchanges. The DOD also ordered that regular search and removal of all sexual materials displayed in public and workplaces take place for all military branches.



Walmart, RiteAid, Food Lion and other retailers moved to put the sexually explicit *Cosmopolitan* magazine behind blinders in their retail shops.



This premiere international hotel company, which includes brands like Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza, was a candidate for the 2016 Dirty Dozen list for its sale of hardcore pornography via on-demand television offerings. But IHG worked with NCOSE to remove pornography from all its hotels globally and stayed off the list.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Existing federal law prohibits the distribution of obscene material (hardcore adult pornography) on the Internet, on cable/satellite TV, hotel/motel TV, in retail shops, through the US Mail, and by common carrier. Most state laws also prohibit the distribution of obscene pornography. Despite pornography's destructive force and the illegality in the U.S., many mainstream companies are now involved in the distribution of the material. For more information visit [endsexualexploitation.org/doj](http://endsexualexploitation.org/doj).

Join the Campaign at  
**DirtyDozenList.com**

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