

2019

# THE DIRTY DOZEN'S LIST

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

DIRTYDOZENLIST.COM

A PROJECT OF THE



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

### NETFLIX

**Netflix:** Netflix has become a staple of at-home entertainment and a major producer of media normalizing sexual exploitation and objectification. Despite much highly-rated originally produced content on its platform, Netflix sinks to storytelling which portrays gratuitous nudity and graphic sex acts in shows meant for teen and young audiences. Further, Netflix portrays graphic and violent depictions of sexual assault in a number of their shows and has even produced shows normalizing sex trafficking and eroticizing children. Netflix allows a loophole for children to easily get around parental control features and it regularly recommends children's content paired right next to NC17 and TV-MA content.

### UNITED

**United Airlines:** As if limited leg room and baggage space aren't trouble enough, increasingly air travelers must contend with the sexually charged climate created by public pornography viewing and other sexually harassing and even violent behaviors. United Airlines fails to adequately train aircrews to address the problem of pornography-use on airplanes and the sexually hostile environment that this fosters. While reports of sexual harassment and even assault have increased in the airline industry, United Airlines has not prioritized policies and procedures to keep customers safe. United needs to enable its passengers to #FlyFree from sexploitation.



**Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue:** If there were an Olympic medal for sexual objectification, the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue* would take the gold. The magazine should be more aptly named the *Sexploitation Issue*. This magazine sends the message that women's bodies are for public consumption. These images are not about body positivity. They are about feeding male sexual entitlement, and the mega-corporation that profits off of hypersexualizing women. In the aftermath of the sexual abuse scandals that have enmeshed Olympic sports, SI's flagrant sexual objectification of women—including female athletes—is clearly mainstream misogyny.

### Google

**Google:** Google has failed to prioritize the digital wellbeing of its users through Google Chromebooks used in schools, Google Images, and YouTube. Google Chromebooks are marketed to schools as "built from the ground up to be shared with an unlimited number of students." Unfortunately, many schools distribute unprotected and unfiltered Chromebooks when Google could easily turn on a default setting for safer use by children. Further, in a fraction of one second, Google Images turns up countless graphic pornographic results where penetration is clearly visible for innocent search terms. YouTube, the world's largest video-sharing platform, regularly hosts pornography and sexual violence while Google shirks responsibility by forcing users to act at content flaggers.

### STEAM

**Steam:** #NotAGame! Steam, the online videogame distributor with over 35 million users under the age 18 has an "allow everything" policy for sexually graphic content so long as it isn't "strictly illegal." As soon as this new policy launched, the number of games tagged for "nudity" doubled in just four months. Sexually graphic games feature only mild warnings, and often juxtapose graphic sex scenes with violence and promote the dangerous misconception that sexually exploiting others is a harmless game.

### ROKU

**Roku:** Roku, a leading media streaming company, provides customers with the ability to stream TV, movies, and more. Unfortunately, Roku also facilitates hardcore pornography channels through hundreds of private and hidden channels, and is often featured on pornography websites and at pornography conventions for this feature. This stands in sharp contrast to the policies of other streaming device industry leaders such as Apple TV and Amazon Fire TV.

### Massage Envy

**Massage Envy:** #MassageToo! From Hollywood, Capitol Hill, Silicon Valley and beyond the #MeToo movement has revealed the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault in our society. But at your local massage studio too? Yes! Massage Envy has been, and is being, sued by hundreds of women for failing to take appropriate measures when a massage therapist sexually harasses or assaults a client. The biggest massage chain has hidden forced arbitration clauses in customer agreements which force women to surrender their rights. Massage Envy does not even require reporting of suspected assaults to the Massage Therapy Board, thus allowing perpetrators to continue preying on vulnerable clients.



**Nevada:** Nevada has become home base for pimps and sex traffickers. As the only U.S. state in which prostitution is legal in certain counties, Nevada legally sanctions male sexual entitlement. Its sexploitation industry has a predatory dependence on women with economic disadvantages, as well as childhood histories of neglect and sexual abuse. Its normalization of prostitution as work for women, has turned Nevada into a magnet for sex traffickers and prostitution tourists. As a result, the state-wide illegal sex trade, including sex trafficking, in Nevada is the largest in the country. Police found that 30% of women in so-called legal brothels in Nevada had red flags for sex trafficking. States and local communities profiting from prostitution (by tourist revenues), like pimps, are complicit in sexual exploitation. It's time for Nevada to join the 21<sup>st</sup> century by recognizing that sexploitation is nobody's job.

### HBO

**HBO:** Home Box Office Inc. (HBO) is a premium cable and satellite television network with extensive cultural influence, which regularly produces original programs that incorporate graphic sex scenes and eroticized rape scenes. Examples include *The Deuce*, *True Blood*, and *Game of Thrones*. Previous shows such as *Cathouse* and *Hung* normalized commercial sexual exploitation. Despite hosting graphic content, parental controls on HBO are clunky and ineffective, decreasing the odds of parents even using them, and increasing the odds that children will be exposed to sexually exploitative material.

### amazon

**Amazon:** Amazon delivers sexual exploitation right to your doorstep. As the world's largest online retailer, Amazon facilitates sexually exploitive products such as sex dolls (many with childlike features), eroticized child nudity photography, and books offering "how-to" instructions for sex trafficking. Further, Amazon Prime produces original movies and TV shows that insert unnecessary gratuitous nudity thus bringing softcore pornified content to mainstream entertainment. Amazon therefore sets a standard among online retailers that it's ok to profit from sexual exploitation.

### twitter

**Twitter:** Twitter is a major source of breaking news, but it also hosts vast quantities of hardcore pornography and facilitates prostitution and sex trafficking. 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. When Tumblr announced they would no longer allow pornographic content, thousands of users flocked to Twitter attracted by Twitter's loose policy.

### EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES

**EBSCO:** EBSCO Information Services offers online library resources to public and private schools (K-12), public libraries, and more. In its advertising, it promises "curriculum-appropriate content." While EBSCO has made significant improvements to elementary and middle school databases, high school databases still contain sexually graphic, non-academic, materials. This includes graphic sex act instructions and some live links to pornographic websites.

# 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 ten 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 has enabled the culture of sexual exploitation to flourish. Will the new leadership at DOJ take robust action against the purveyors of obscenity?



**snapchat** **Snapchat:** The popular Snapchat app is arguably the most popular smartphone app used by young teens. Unfortunately, Snapchat regularly exposes children as young as 13 years old to graphic sexual content in its Discover stories, such as articles on “oral sex etiquette.” Further, Snapchat is often used to groom individuals into sex trafficking and prostitution, yet it fails to remove accounts acting as advertisements for prostitution and sex trafficking through pornography distribution.



**Verizon:** Verizon profits from sexual exploitation by providing hardcore pornography as an Internet service provider, through 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 customers. 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 lax enforcement of this policy followed). After a second year on the list, GooglePlay removed all apps in violation.



The Department of Defense stopped the sale of pornography in all Army, Air Force, and Navy 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.



CVS Pharmacy committed to removing *Sports Illustrated*

*Swimsuit Issue* from the checkout aisles in its stores, noting concern over “female sexual objectification.”



Comcast executives met with NCOSE after three years on the Dirty Dozen List and said, “We took your feedback and made significant changes.” Comcast made revolutionary improvements to its parental controls on X1 products and blocked searches for pornography via its voice remote and mobile app.



After NCOSE activism, Snapchat created in-app reporting devices to report accounts sharing or selling pornography. Snapchat also removed Snapcash which was often used for sex trafficking, prostitution, and pornography purchasing. While Snapchat still has several problems warranting being named on the Watch List, these are significant improvements following activism via the Dirty Dozen List.



Walmart removed *Cosmopolitan* magazine from checkout aisles at all of its stores. RiteAid, Food Lion and other retailers moved to put the sexually explicit *Cosmopolitan* magazine behind blinders in their retail shops.



Hilton Worldwide, International Hotels Group (IHG), Starwood International, Marriott International and Hyatt Resorts have all committed to halting the sale of on-demand pornography in their hotel guestrooms, following activism from the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. This impacts approximately 2 million hotel rooms around the world.



### 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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