

NATIONAL CENTER *on* SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



FORMERLY MORALITY IN MEDIA, INC

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*Defending human dignity.
Confronting sexual exploitation.*

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American Library Association
c/o Mr. Keith Michael Fiels
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Mr. Fiels:

We are writing you to express great concern regarding your support of the distribution of hardcore, possibly obscene pornography in public libraries across America.

Public statements and advice to public library administrators by officials of the American Library Association, as well as materials on your website appear to favor the distribution of pornography via library computers. At a minimum, your policy positions seem to oppose Internet filters that would block pornography for public libraries, despite the fact that filters today are effective.

No public library in America is constitutionally required to provide pornography to patrons on computer or in printed publications. This fact was made clear in congressional testimony and by the U.S. Supreme Court when the Children's Internet Protection Act was upheld. Yet, ALA misleads libraries by telling them they cannot and should not filter or else they risk violating the First Amendment.

Shortly, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCSE) and Morality in Media (MIM) will publicly announce the annual "Dirty Dozen List," which contains the top promoters of pornography and sexual exploitation in America. After careful consideration, we have decided to keep American Library Association on that list.

All children, women, and men have a natural human dignity and thus a right to live in a decent society. Pornography and all sexual exploitation are degrading, dehumanizing, exploitive, and a violation of this right.

NCSE and MIM exist to make society aware of the many harms of pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation; to equip individuals and families to overcome or protect against those harms, and to advocate that all laws defending the right to be free from pornography are vigorously enforced.

Not only does pornography exploit, degrade and dehumanize the people in the films and photos, but it exploits, degrades and dehumanizes the people exposed to it, teaching them to view others as merely objects for selfish pleasure.

Our nation is now suffering an untreated pandemic of harm from the widespread distribution of pornography and the American Library Association bears some responsibility for that harm.

Adults, and even children, are developing life-long addictions to pornography. Sexual violence against women, including rape, and sexual harassment of women are directly tied to the consumption of pornography. Pornography is a destructive force in marriage and research even demonstrates that it kills a desire to marry. There is increased demand for child pornography among many adult-porn users who find that they are no longer excited by adult images, and pornography is a contributing factor in the increased demand for sex-trafficked women and children in the U.S.

A wealth of peer-reviewed research demonstrates the many other harms of pornography. We maintain a database of such studies at PornHarmsResearch.com.

We also have many testimonials from people formerly caught up in the pornography industry, of being exploited, given illicit drugs, coerced to perform objectionable acts, and therefore sexually trafficked in violation of the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

It may be easy to detach from the issue and consider pornography as a mere profitable part of modern life—but only by avoiding common sense. We at NCSE and MIM have dedicated countless hours to researching pornography and promoting awareness to its many devastating harms and thus we urge you to stop using pornography and sexual exploitation to sell products.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with your representatives to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Trueman
President & CEO



Dawn Hawkins
Executive Director