



MORALITY IN MEDIA, Inc

Opposing pornography and in decency through public education and the application of the law

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March 4, 2013

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

We are writing you to express our deep concern regarding your failure and apparent 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 during your four years in office. 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, such as UPS or Fed/Ex. The U.S. Supreme Court has also repeatedly upheld obscenity laws against First Amendment challenges.

Shortly, Morality in Media will publicly announce the "Dirty Dozen List," which contains the top promoters of pornography in America. After careful consideration, we have decided to include you Number 1 on that list because you, more than any other person, have made the distribution of illegal adult pornography possible in America. You appear to have no regard for the children and families and the women and men that suffer harm from the widespread distribution of obscene adult pornography in America.

All children, women, and men have a natural human dignity and thus a right to live in a decent society; and as the Supreme Court has recognized, obscene materials, which are inherently degrading, dehumanizing, and exploitive, violate this right. Morality In Media exists to make society aware of the many harms of pornography; 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 you, Mr. Holder, bear great 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. On average, American children are first exposed to pornography at age 11 and many act out what they see in hardcore pornography; four out of five 16 year-olds now regularly access pornography online and many are developing life-long social/sexual problems as a result. 56% of matrimonial lawyers cited obsessive interest in pornographic websites as a factor in divorce cases they handled in the previous year. There is increased demand for child pornography because adult-porn users are finding that they are no longer excited by adult images -- and pornography is a contributing factor in the increased demand for sexually-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.

You can continue to turn a blind eye to the harm that illegal hardcore adult pornography online and elsewhere is causing and to treat this sordid material as just another profitable part of modern life – but only by avoiding common sense, the evidence, and your responsibility to enforce federal obscenity laws. We at Morality in Media have dedicated countless hours to researching pornography and promoting awareness to its many devastating harms. We urge you to reconsider your anything goes approach to illegal adult obscenity and to vigorously enforce federal obscenity laws for the sake of our nation and all Americans.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Trueman
President & CEO



Dawn Hawkins
Executive Director