Victories & Highlights

FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Instagram Takes Step Forward Against Pornography, Sex Trafficking, & Grooming for Abuse

72% of America’s teens are on this social media platform and many of them experience sexual harassment, pornography exposure abuse, and solicitations for sex from strangers with little help from Instagram—until now. We met with and have had ongoing dialogue with Instagram regarding concerns about grooming for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, child pornography, and more on their platform. They have promised continued collaboration on solutions about digital safety and wellbeing of their young users. NCOSNE has also leveraged Instagram as a means for educating the public on the dangers of sexual exploitation to the tune of over 85,000 Impressions with Instagram users directly on the platform itself.

Snapchat Progress on Pornography and Sexual Harassment

One-third of child sexual abuse reports list another child as the abuser, but we know the number of cases of child-on-child sexual abuse is much bigger than that. In March, NCOSNE hosted a packed national symposium at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. NCOSNE is the only organization bringing together hundreds of key stakeholders—from social workers, educators, government officials, law enforcement, psychologists, to other child safety experts—in order to better unify efforts addressing this complex issue. These efforts are increasingly crucial as pornography continues to influence children’s behavior at even younger ages as the average age of exposure to pornography creeps lower and lower.

Critical Legislation to Stop Child Sex Trafficking

Currently, men who buy a child for sex in 20 states can get away with it by simply saying they didn’t know the child was underage. NCOSNE’s Law Center has drafted model state legislation to hold sex buyers accountable when they purchase trafficked children for sex so that loopholes can be closed and perpetrators of sexual exploitation can be held accountable for their crimes.

Snapchat—one of the most popular apps for tweens and teens with over 16 million regular teen users are 13-24 years old—is a photo sharing app that often is used to share pornography or to advertise sex trafficked and prostituted victims because of the fact that photos will “disappear” after a few moments. We brought these concerns, and many more, to Snapchat headquarters in Washington DC. While we cannot share many details right now, Snapchat told us that they are working to make progress in many of the areas we identified.

Netflix Finally Improves Content Controls for Parents, Still Needs to Improve Content

After thousands took part in NCOSNE’s campaign demanding that Netflix institute better parental controls and content warnings on their platform with nearly 150 million subscribers, they listened! Parental controls have drastically improved and there are now warnings at the beginning of every show about exactly what kind of content will be present. On the heels of this important victory, our campaign against this media giant continues as 9 out of 10 Netflix Originals contain full nudity or graphic sex scenes.

2019 Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit

The 2019 CESE Summit brought together 600 leaders in-person from 15 countries, with more than 37,000 joining online, for the annual meeting of the movement to end sexual exploitation. Join us next year. EndExploitationSummit.com

Preparing Multiple Lawsuits Against the Kingpins of Sexual Exploitation.

NCOSNE launched a project to match victims of sexual abuse with plaintiffs lawyers for the purpose of filing litigation against the sexual exploitation industry, specifically focused on bringing justice for those deeply hurt by pornography, sex trafficking, and child sexual abuse. Our goal is to cripple the pro-exploitation industry and bring it to its knees much like what happened with Big Tobacco. As a part of our continuing efforts to educate the public, the video underscoring the pressing need for our increased Law Center efforts gained traction on social media where it was seen nearly 30,000 times.
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15 States Have Now Passed Resolutions on the Public Health Harms of Pornography

The NCOSE-authored resolution declaring pornography to be a public health crisis has passed in Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia. As more efforts are underway to do the same in other states, NCOSE’s Law Center has drafted more model legislation to help build on this momentum to combat pornography!

Legislation Recognizing the Link Between Drugs and Sex Trafficking

In light of the nation’s opioid epidemic, as well as the link between human trafficking and drug addiction, NCOSE is pushing Congress and others to pass legislation that would criminalize the use of drugs to facilitate human trafficking. We are actively working with Senator Sherrod Brown’s (D-OH) office who introduced the legislation with the “Protecting Rights of Those Exploited by Coercive Trafficking (PROTECT) Act” in July.

Helping Hold the Line Against the Full Decriminalization of Prostitution & the Skyrocketing of Sex Trafficking Around America

Currently there is a nationwide, state-by-state, pro-prostitution effort to fully decriminalize prostitution by removing all laws or regulation around buying sex, selling sex, pimping, brothel keeping, etc. While this is a well-funded effort by the porn and sex industries, NCOSE has so far assisted in holding the line so that the seven states that have faced proposed legislation have refrained from passing what would have given rise to explosive growth in sex trafficking and all other issues of sexual exploitation.

Sent 150+ advocates to Capitol Hill in July and Attended High Level Meetings at White House, DOJ, FBI, HHS, Department of State, and More

NCOSE is aggressively pushing its 21-point federal policy agenda titled “The Freedom from Sexploitation Agenda,” and it is already finding a lot of support among key leaders in the federal government. No other entity is working a strategy like this! We are making your voices heard.

Furthering Research on Sex Buyers

NCOSE participated in a groundbreaking research study on sex buyers in Germany. This study will help shed light on the root cause of sex trafficking and prostitution—the individuals who purchase sex, and will provide key data on the connections between sex trafficking and pornography.

Senate Hearing, Resolutions on Digital Safety for Children

Studies are showing that 90% of children know how to use smart devices by the age of two, yet there are very few regulations in place protecting children in the digital space. As a part of our campaign to #FixAppRatings and hold Big Tech accountable for healthier and safer standards for children in our digital age, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation helped instigate the Senate Judiciary Committee to hold a hearing in July with twelve senators and a packed room on the topic of “Protecting Innocence in a Digital World” in order to talk about the predatory targeting, grooming, sex trafficking, hardcore pornography, and more that makes up the experience of so many young users of social media and apps. NCOSE submitted written testimony, including screenshots of proof, and followed up with Senators and Representatives with resolutions and letters on Capitol Hill.