

CANADIAN FEDERAL LAW:

“The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act”

1. **Targets the demand** by targeting the buyer of sex; the predator, pimp, trafficker, john are criminalized 2. Recognizes the seller of sex is a victim; usually female and is not criminalized 3. Exit strategies put in place to assist the victim out of the sex trade.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS September 2015:

B53

HUMAN TRAFFICKING; NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS human trafficking is a real and devastating issue in British Columbia; AND WHEREAS significant work & research has been done as of late to aid in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking throughout Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the RCMP, local police forces and local governments to work collaboratively in order to implement the recommendations found within the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada's recent report ("NO MORE' Ending Sex -Trafficking In Canada") as well as the Province of British Columbia's "Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking."

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

B80

RAPE CULTURE IN CANADA; NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS sexual assaults continue to be committed across Canada, and victims are of every age, race, income and gender;

AND WHEREAS sexual assaults are under reported, and prosecution and conviction rates are low:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate for an intergovernmental task force to be convened to determine the steps needed to erase the “rape culture” that is pervasive in schools, universities, workplaces and elsewhere across Canada;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be mandated to elicit testimony from victims in order to determine the steps needed to improve the reporting, arrest and conviction rates across Canada.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Is porn immoral? That doesn't matter: It's a public health crisis.

The science is now beyond dispute. Gail Dines is a professor of sociology at Wheelock College in Boston and author of "Pornland: How Porn has Hijacked our Sexuality."



By Gail Dines April 8

Porn is everywhere, and the research is grim. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Last month, the Republican-led Utah House of Representatives became the first legislative body in the United States to [pass a resolution](#) declaring pornography “a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms.” The liberal backlash criticized the measure as an antiquated bit of conservative moralizing, with the Daily Beast calling it “[hypocritical](#)” and “[short-sighted](#).” “[The science just isn't there](#),” wrote Rewire, an online journal [dedicated to dispelling](#) “falsehoods and misinformation.”

The thing is, no matter what you think of pornography (whether it's harmful or harmless fantasy), the science *is* there. After 40 years of peer-reviewed research, scholars can say with confidence that porn is an industrial product that shapes how we think about gender, sexuality, relationships, intimacy, sexual violence and gender equality — for the worse. By taking a health-focused view of porn and recognizing its radiating impact not only on consumers but also on society at large, Utah's resolution simply reflects the latest research. The statistics on today's porn use are staggering. A [Huffington Post headline](#) announced in 2013 that “Porn Sites Get More Visitors Each Month Than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter Combined,” and one of the largest free porn sites in the world, YouPorn, [streamed six times the bandwidth of Hulu in 2013](#). Pornhub, another major free porn site, [boasted that in 2015](#) it received 21.2 billion visits and “streamed 75GB of data a second, which translates to enough porn to fill the storage in around 175 million 16GB iPhones.”

Extensive scientific research reveals that exposure to and consumption of porn threaten the social, emotional and physical health of individuals, families and communities, and highlights the degree to which porn is a public health crisis rather than a private matter. But just as the tobacco industry argued for decades that there was no proof of a connection between smoking and lung cancer, so, too, has the porn industry, with the help of a [well-oiled public relations machine](#), denied the existence of empirical research on the impact of its products.

Using a wide range of methodologies, researchers from a number of disciplines have shown that viewing pornography is associated with damaging outcomes. In a [study of U.S. college men](#), researchers found that 83 percent reported seeing mainstream pornography, and that those who did were more likely to say they would commit rape or sexual assault (if they knew they wouldn't be caught) than men who hadn't seen porn in the past 12 months. The same study found that porn consumers were less likely to intervene if they observed a sexual assault taking place. In a [study of young teens](#) throughout the southeastern United States, 66 percent of boys reported porn consumption in the past year; this early porn exposure was correlated with perpetration of sexual harassment two years later. A [recent meta-analysis of 22 studies](#) between 1978 and 2014 from seven different countries concluded that pornography consumption is associated with an increased likelihood of committing acts of verbal or physical sexual aggression, regardless of age. A [2010 meta-analysis](#) of several studies found "an overall significant positive association between pornography use and attitudes supporting violence against women."

A [2012 study of college-aged women](#) with male partners who used porn concluded that the young women suffered diminished self-esteem, relationship quality and sexual satisfaction correlated with their partners' porn use. Meanwhile, a [2004 study](#) found that exposure to filmed sexual content profoundly hastens adolescents' initiation of sexual behavior: "The size of the adjusted intercourse effect was such that youths in the 90th percentile of TV sex viewing had a predicted probability of intercourse initiation [in the subsequent year] that was approximately double that of youths in the 10th percentile," the study's authors wrote. All of these studies were published in peer-reviewed journals.

Because so much porn is free and unfiltered on most digital devices, the [average age](#) of first viewing porn is estimated by some researchers to be 11. In the absence of a comprehensive sex-education curriculum in many schools, pornography has become de facto sex education for youth. And what are these children looking at? If you have in your mind's eye a Playboy centerfold with a naked woman smiling in a cornfield, then think again. While "classy" lad mags like Playboy are [dispensing with the soft-core nudes](#) of yesteryear, free and widely available pornography is often violent, degrading and extreme.

In a [content analysis](#) of best-selling and most-rented porn films, researchers found that 88 percent of analyzed scenes contained physical aggression: generally spanking, gagging, choking or slapping. Verbal aggression occurred in 49 percent of the scenes, most often in the form of calling a woman "bitch" and "slut." Men perpetrated 70 percent of the aggressive acts, while women were the targets 94 percent of the time. It is difficult to account for all of the "gonzo" and amateur porn available

online, but there is reason to believe that the rented and purchased porn in the analysis largely reflects the content of free porn sites. As researcher [Shira Tarrant points out](#), “The tube sites are aggregators of a bunch of different links and clips, and they are very often pirated or stolen.” So porn that was produced for sale is proffered for free.

The performers who make up the porn industry are also at risk, in ways that affect them as well as members of the broader public. Aside from [frequent claims of sexual violence](#) and harassment, film sets are often flush with sexually transmitted infections. In a [2012 study](#) that examined 168 sex industry performers (67 percent were female and 33 percent were male), 28 percent were suffering from one of 96 infections. Even more troubling, according to the authors, was that the porn industry’s protocols significantly underdiagnosed infections: 95 percent of mouth and throat infections, and 91 percent of rectal infections, were asymptomatic, which, the authors argue, made them more likely to be passed on to partners both in and out of the sex industry. Since members of the industry have [protested proposed safety measures](#) requiring the use of condoms and other prophylactics, legislating to protect these performers has proven challenging.

Beyond the porn industry, legislators have begun to respond to yet another genre of pornography quickly proliferating on the Web: “revenge porn,” whose perpetrators post and disseminate sexually explicit photos of their victims (often their former girlfriends) online without their consent.

Unsurprisingly, revenge porn [has been linked](#) to several suicides and has been used to [blackmail and sexually exploit minors](#).

As the evidence piles up, a coalition of academics, health professionals, educators, feminist activists and caregivers has decided that they can no longer allow the porn industry to hijack the physical and emotional well-being of our culture. This means understanding that porn is everyone’s problem. Culture Reframed, an organization I founded and currently chair, is pioneering a strategy to address porn as the public health crisis of the digital age. We are developing educational programs for parents, youth and a range of professionals that aim to help shift the culture from one that normalizes a pornographic, oppression-based sexuality to one that values and promotes a sexuality rooted in healthy intimacy, mutual care and respect. Parents and educators at every level need to know that if porn is not discussed in a research-based, age-appropriate sexual health curriculum, its effects will surely show up as sexual harassment, dating violence and inadvertent “child pornography” on students’ phones. Pornography can cause lifelong problems if young people are not taught to distinguish between exploitative porn sex and healthy, safe sex. As the research shows, porn is not merely a moral nuisance and subject for culture-war debates. It’s a threat to our public health.

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Know the warning signs of human trafficking in your community, at work, and when travelling. Call the police immediately. Call Crime-Stoppers: 1-800-222-8477, Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868. If a child is in danger call 310-1234 to reach Ministry of Child and Family Development.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Educate yourselves about the issue. “Education is our greatest weapon”. Look up online: **thetraffickedhuman.org**. Share what you learned today. Call for change; email, call or write a letter to leaders (Municipal, Provincial, Federal) to ask them to address the problem of human trafficking/sexual exploitation/youth and child exploitation by focusing on the 2 E’s: Education of our youth and Enforcement of the law. Support anti-human trafficking policies and support exit programs for trafficked women (Salvation Army: Deborah’s Gate, Union Gospel Mission, Covenant House, REED). Connect with our youth; encourage girls to be strong and confident, and for boys to be respectful. Talk about the issue of objectification of women and girls and that it is a human rights issue. Help frontline workers, NGO’s and the organizations that help survivors of human trafficking by volunteering. Raise awareness. Watch the documentaries (Google them): “Enslaved and Exploited” and “Red Light, Green Light” by Jared and Michelle Brock (2 young Canadian film makers). Read the Canadian “textbook” on the issue “Invisible Chains” by UBC law professor Benjamin Perrin. Take the online course on Human trafficking from Ministry of Public Safety in BC OCTIP (Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons). Study the effect of porn on the (developing) brain (neuroscience research); Dr. Gary Wilson. Watch the Dr. Jackson Katz TEDtalk on men, violence and silence. Check out “fightthenewdrug” website to address youth porn use and addiction.

Learn how the internet works; its strengths and weaknesses. Be computer literate. Take a “cyberspace safety” education course and share what you learn with your family. Sit and listen to your children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren. Let them talk to you. Learn about their world. Build bridges of trust and unconditional love for your families. Be proactive and involved in children’s lives. Google: “How to stay safe online”, then share that information with your family. **“Every child is one consistent caring adult away from success”.**

(some) ORGANIZATIONS COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

BC Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP) at 604-660-5199 or octip@gov.bc.ca, REED (Resist Exploitation, Embrace Dignity), Servants Anonymous Society, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, Covenant House, Children of the Street Society, EVE (Exploited Voices Now Educating), Mothers Against Trafficking Humans, Safe Online Outreach Society, Westcoast Boys Club Network, Salvation Army (Deborah's Gate), The Joy Smith Foundation (Manitoba), RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Center (Ottawa), MAST- Men Against Sex Trafficking (London, Ontario), Moosehide Campaign (aboriginal men addressing exploitation of women and girls), Sextrade 101, Defend Dignity, End Modern Slavery-Canadian Advocacy, Stop Child Trafficking, Stop the Traffick, Hope for the Sold, Face It Canada, Walk With Me, International Justice Mission, Chrysalis Network and National Human Trafficking Support Line, Shared Hope International (Washington State), Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (Washington, DC), Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, Free the Slaves, Polaris Project (USA), Male Renaissance Project (for men and boys).

RESOURCES/ BOOKS:

"Invisible Chains" by Benjamin Perrin- the "textbook" for Canada on Human Trafficking.

"Half the Sky" by Nicolas Kristoff- New York bestseller describing the global sex trade.

"The Natasha's" by Victor Malarek and **"The John's"** by Victor Malarek- W5 award winning Canadian journalist researches the victims, and the men who use.

"Pornland" by Dr. Gail Dines- New York bestseller that exposes porn culture and how it is mainstream. Google her TEDtalk; in 13 minutes she exposes what children view online.

"No Choice, No Job" by Dr. Janice Raymond- expert in global sex trade research.

"Prostitution in Nevada" by Dr. Melissa Farley- a 2 year study of the prostitution culture in Nevada, USA.

"Girls Like Us" by Rachel Lloyd- a memoir by a prostituted sex survivor who helps others exit the sex industry.

Google online: **CNN special report (2015) called "Children for Sale: The Fight to End Human Trafficking"** produced by Jada Pinkett Smith.

CONTACT: Mrs. Cathy Peters: ca.peters@telus.net

Former inner city high school teacher (Southern Okanagan, Delta), volunteer for 5 years for 2 Federal MP's (John Weston; West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky, Joy Smith; St. Paul/Kildonan, Manitoba), educator and speaker on Human trafficking/sexual exploitation, youth and child exploitation, youth porn use/addiction.

It is unacceptable that women and children are bought and sold in a modern equal society.

The **best local website** on the issue: thetraffickedhuman.org

Here are the **quotes** that I use when I present:

Cathy Peters: "A modern equal society does not buy and sell women and children".

Josh Shipp (teen advocate/expert): "Every child is one caring consistent adult away from success".

Former MP Mrs. Joy Smith (Canada's expert and activist on human sex trafficking): "Prostitution is not the world's oldest profession, it is the world's oldest oppression".

Dr. Martin Luther King: "Oppression thrives where it is unseen and unheard. Exposing the truth banishes oppression and nurtures freedom."

Edmund Burke: "Evil triumphs because good men do nothing."

Jimmy Carter: "I am convinced that the most serious and unaddressed worldwide challenge is the deprivation and abuse of women and girls."

Additional quotes that I use particularly in universities, colleges, high schools:

Elie Weisel (holocaust survivor and author): "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim, silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. When we choose wilful ignorance, inaction or neutrality in the face of evil, we participate in the survival of that evil."

William Wilberforce (the British parliamentarian who was instrumental in abolishing slavery in Great Britain): "Having heard all of this you may choose to look the other way but you can never again say that you did not know".

Margaret Mead (anthropologist): "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Edmund Burke: "Slavery is a weed that grows in any soil."

Gandhi: "You must BE the change you wish to see in the world".

Chinese Proverb: "Women hold up half the sky."

Pornography online (sexually explicit violent material) is harming our youth and is a public health crisis. Psychologists call it the new "crack-cocaine". The research on this is sobering. Dr. Mary-Ann Layden from the University of Pennsylvania is a sexual trauma expert who treats rapists and pedophiles. She states that our culture had become pornified, where the body and sex is seen as a commodity which can be bought, sold, stolen and thrown away. Porn creates a "rape culture", because the research shows that viewers will eventually act out on what they view. Dr. Layden summarizes her research with, "The damage of porn is that it threatens the loss of love, in a world where only love can bring happiness."

There is one course I am aware of that addresses porn addiction. It is called: Fightthenewdrug. This NGO offers a program online called "Fortify".