



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

# Impact Report

# 2020



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of NCOSE:

We have accomplished much of our three-year plan in just one year alone! Despite the unexpected turns and seeming setbacks of 2020, our work has hastened and the results are world-changing.

Thus, it is with overwhelming gratitude for your endless support, partnership, and dedication to our audacious goals, that I share the following report with you from our most impactful year yet.

As you read through the following pages, you will see how your partnership is helping to create a world free of sexual abuse and exploitation with each passing day.

The driving force behind our work at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) is to change the very culture of sexual exploitation mired in almost every aspect of society. To achieve that goal, we engage with the culture in ways that inspire, bring hope, and produce meaningful change.

Thanks to your partnership with us, the pornography industry as we know it is changing forever! At this moment, MindGeek, owner of most of the major porn websites, is removing millions of abuse videos and completely revamping their policies in light of the pressure we have mounted. They will never be able to operate with impunity again. We will not let up even one ounce of energy until we see the whole industry crumble!

Why is this goal so important? Because the pornography industry is a driving force behind much of the harm and exploitation we see today. Pornography serves as the launching pad for the demand for paid sex, and therefore, the demand for more victims of prostitution and sex trafficking. Violence against women, child sexual abuse, broken families, addiction, harm to child development, and more are all made worse because of pornography.

At NCOSE, we genuinely believe a world that respects human dignity is possible, and we are confident that you do too, which is why you so generously support our efforts. Without your support, none of these victories would have been possible.

Yes, the tasks before us are daunting and the challenges formidable. But, as the saying goes, “Challenges are what make life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.” As difficult as these challenges sometimes appear, this work is meaningful and the successes we achieve swell our collective hearts with endurance.

Thank you again for making the journey with us. Together we will press on and rise up on the palisades of promise and hope to change our culture and transform lives.

Yours for a world free of exploitation,



Patrick A. Trueman  
President and CEO

# MAJOR VICTORY: END TO THE INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY INDUSTRY AS WE KNOW IT

OUR BIGGEST VICTORY YET—AFTER YEARS OF TIRELESS ADVOCACY FROM PASSIONATE DEFENDERS OF DIGNITY LIKE YOU, THE HARDCORE ONLINE PORNOGRAPHY TITAN PORNHUB IS FINALLY CRUMBLING BEFORE OUR EYES!

Spring 2020

"Dozens of survivors speak up about non-consensually shared videos of sexual abuse and exploitation on Pornhub"



January 2020  
NCOSE spearheads international campaigns to destroy the infrastructure propping up the pornography industry—namely financial partners like Visa, Mastercard, and Discover and advertisers like Heinz Kraft. Major companies open investigations and begin changing their policies



Summer 2020

Exodus Cry's #TraffickingHub campaign gains monumental traction, resulting in over two million signatures on their petition to shut down Pornhub.



December 4, 2020

The New York Times publishes an expose revealing the magnitude of Pornhub's crimes regarding child sexual abuse material and other harmful content.



December 8, 2020  
Pornhub announces changes including banning downloads, only allowing verified users to upload content, and expanding content moderation.



December 10, 2020

Visa and Mastercard sever ties with Pornhub within hours of each other and both agree to remove partnership with all MindGeek-owned companies pending further investigation.



December 11, 2020  
Discover follows closely behind as the major credit card company removes payment processing from Pornhub.



December 11, 2020

Executives at MindGeek are called to testify in an investigation announced by Canadian Parliament.



December 14, 2020

Pornhub purges over 10 million videos and counting from their site. MindGeek announces these changes will take place across all of their sites (which is most of the free pornography websites)



December 16, 2020

40 survivors of sex trafficking sue Pornhub

## THE STORY SO FAR...

Fighting against the pornography and commercial sex industry can feel like an uphill battle, a hill so steep that sometimes it seems we haven't moved at all. But this year, the movement made incredible steps forward thanks to our cunning strategy and the brave survivors who used their voices to expose this exploitative and abusive industry—truly crippling online pornography forever.

After the *New York Times* published an expose on the horrific realities of Pornhub profiting off of child sexual abuse material in early December, the foundation Pornhub and its parent company MindGeek has built began to crumble.

Despite Pornhub's meager attempts at social justice branding and "relatable" marketing on social sites like Twitter, the online hardcore pornography site, according to the *Times* article, is "infested with rape videos monetizing child rape, revenge pornography, spy cam videos of women showering, racist and misogynist content, and footage of women being asphyxiated in plastic bags." Searching for terms indicating underage subjects, such as "14yo," yielded more than 100,000 videos alone.

The outrage against Pornhub grew steadily throughout 2020, with ally Exodus Cry's petition to shut down the site gaining monumental traction. Their #TraffickingHub petition was signed by over two million people. Protests were held globally on the United Nation's International Day of Non-Violence. Thanks to NCOSE advocacy, online payment processor PayPal and popular brand Kraft Heinz both cut ties with Pornhub over these very matters.

All of these tiny steps culminated in a massive victory when Visa and Mastercard, two major credit card companies, announced they would be pulling their cards from being used on Pornhub within hours of each other. Discover, another major credit card network, followed closely behind, marking a historic shift in corporations taking a stand against the abuse inherent to Pornhub and the pornography industry as a whole. All credit cards are now telling NCOSE they will cut ties with any pornography website with similar practices (we know that is all of them)!

This victory followed on the heels of years of hard work and advocacy by grassroots advocates, an international coalition of NGOs, and brave survivor leadership. We are so grateful for all the dedication and perseverance that was invested—often times behind the scenes—by so many tireless allies and advocates to make this possible. Many of you were a crucial part of the NCOSE-led effort that saw over 100,000 emails sent to Visa, Mastercard, and other international card companies in *early 2020*.

But perhaps (at the time of this writing) the biggest victory yet was Pornhub's decision to make sweeping changes across its platform—changes that resulted in millions of videos (nearly 75% of their content) depicting child abuse, rape, racism, incest, and more being removed from Pornhub and other MindGeek sites! In just a matter of hours, Pornhub's sinister library of harmful content went from around 13.8 million videos to just 2.9 million. And while that's still 2.9 million too many, we acknowledge the major win this is in the fight against sexual exploitation!

Pornhub even noted these developments were directly caused by the efforts spearheaded by The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (rightly calling us out as wanting to abolish pornography), as well as the #TraffickingHub campaign, in their announcement of the changes. You have been with us step-by-step as we fought our way up this hill. Raising your voice and demanding change has been worth it!

We also know this fight isn't over. Removing unverified content, banning downloads, and increasing content moderating is barely scratching the surface of meaningful retribution for the survivors of the abusive, degrading, and harmful content that Pornhub's very business model is based on.

NCOSE is looking for the view at the top of that hill—a world truly free from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, including pornography. We've taken some incredibly big steps, but we're not there yet. In 2021, we'll be fighting harder than ever to ensure the online pornography industry is taken down once and for all! Thank you for walking with us.

# HIGHLIGHTS & VICTORIES:

## FILING MULTIPLE LAWSUITS AGAINST THE KINGPINS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

To bring the pro-exploitation industry to its knees, the NCOSE Law Center is matching survivors 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. In 2020, our attorneys filed three lawsuits and helped facilitate dozens more.

## LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (ICOSE)

With new team members in England and Germany working to bolster the global abolitionist movement, we have been active at the governing bodies of the world and have coordinated worldwide advocacy campaigns leading to massive changes with social media giants and with all major credit card companies.



## 22,000 ADVOCATES FROM 112 COUNTRIES GATHERED UNDER NCOSE LEADERSHIP

In the wake of COVID-19, we held our annual Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit virtually this year spurring massive momentum for our movement and more connection and unity than ever achieved in the past. In addition to the CESE Summit, ICOSE organized the first Pan-African conference on the public health harms of pornography.



**16 STATES HAVE NOW  
PASSED RESOLUTIONS ON  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH HARMS  
OF PORNOGRAPHY**

#### **TIKTOK, NETFLIX, INSTAGRAM, SNAPCHAT, YOUTUBE IMPROVE SAFETY FEATURES THANKS TO NCOSE ADVOCACY**

These tech giants are used daily by most youth around the world and were severely lacking in their safety controls, leaving so many of our vulnerable children prey to predators and pornography-exposure abuse. After hundreds of thousands of messages from our army and many meetings, these three giants each made significant safety improvements giving parents much more power to protect their children online.

#### **SEEKING DATA DRIVEN RESULTS WITH NEW NCOSE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Our movement needs evidence-based solutions that move it from addressing immediate needs and basic research, to holistic solutions that prevent victimization before it begins. NCOSE formed a team of experts to harness the power of objective data and methods to not only inform, but to help impacted individuals, communities, and policymakers identify and advance the best evidence-based solutions to prevent and eradicate the web of sexual abuse and exploitation.

#### **RESOLUTIONS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH HARMS OF PORNOGRAPHY PASSED BY 16 STATES**

The momentum continues as more states consider this resolution and we work to pass other helpful bills to tie down the pornography industry, such as the “porn-warning label bill” which passed unanimously in Utah and forces pornography websites to have a warning up about the public health harms to children should they be exposed to pornography.



Over 2,000 cities and counties in the U.S. have combatted demand for commercial sex.

# HIGHLIGHTS & VICTORIES CONT'D:

## **NCOSE ACQUIRES DEMAND FORUM—A KEY RESOURCE TO COMBAT PROSTITUTION AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

Demand Forum is a website that has been used by law enforcement agencies, task forces, and collaborating institutions from all 50 states and 175+ countries to design, improve, and sustain programs to combat sex buying behavior (demand), as well as a resource for state and federal legislatures to help craft human trafficking and prostitution statutes.

## **UNITED AIRLINES INTRODUCES NEW TRAINING ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Thousands joined to demand United Airlines—which employs over 85,000 people worldwide and flies over 150 million customers a year—make changes to combat in-flight sexual harassment and pornography-use. United agreed and has now improved training for flight attendants emphasizing a zero tolerance policy for hardcore pornography (and anything over an R-rating) on personal devices.

## **CUTTING THE REVENUE STREAM FOR THE PORNOGRAPHY INDUSTRY**

This year, NCOSE got Mastercard, Visa, and Discover to stop processing payments for Pornhub and each is strongly considering severing ties with all pornography companies. We also got American Express, who made one exception for one pornography conglomerate, to remove their partnership with them! We even got Kraft Heinz to stop running ads on pornography websites with a promise that they will never do so again. One of our strategies to dismantle the online exploitation industry is to hurt their revenue streams. It is working!



## CRITICAL LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE

In the face of rising levels of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) being distributed and consumed online, the NCOSE-backed EARN IT Act is new legislation that would allow survivors and state attorneys general to sue technology companies. This is pretty much the only legislation in Washington D.C. with overwhelming bipartisan support!

## AMPLIFYING THESE ISSUES FOR THE PUBLIC

With the addition of a passionate and dedicated communications team, NCOSE was featured in the media over 1,200 times this year! The media plays a powerful strategic role in getting the message of our movement to the public. Not only are we energizing our supporters, but we're reaching new people and placing NCOSE as a key player in the fight against exploitation.

## CHANGING THE GIG ECONOMY TO PROTECT USERS WITH INSTACART AND DOORDASH

After direct service providers began to reach out to NCOSE over a concerning pandemic trend where traffickers and pimps forced their victims to participate in the gig economy, we reached out to several delivery companies in order to provide exit services to these individuals. Instacart and DoorDash! collaborated with NCOSE to provide resources and hotlines for victims of sexual abuses and exploitation on their apps, placing a needed priority on an overlooked population affected by the pandemic.



# THE SEAMLESS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

While the National Center on Sexual Exploitation carries on in the tradition of those who pioneered before us, today our mission is decidedly larger. Our nearly 60 year history has given us a unique, panoramic perspective that has enabled us to see that sexual exploitation is not one issue—it is many issues, overlapping and feeding into one another with devastating results.

Social problems like sex trafficking, sexual assaults, child abuse, pornography addiction, and dissolutions of marriages do not occur in a vacuum, and are not limited by partisan lines. In order to dismantle the tangled web of sexual exploitation, we must understand this intersectionality to create holistic solutions to end exploitation and change our cultural narrative around sexuality and relationships to respect the human dignity of every individual.

*WE WORK FOR A WORLD FREE FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN ALL ITS FORMS.*

## **PORNOGRAPHY:**

erotic material depicting nudity or sex acts intended to excite, which often corrodes relationships, hijacks the brain, fosters sexual violence and exploitation, and fuels a public health crisis.

## **SEXUALIZATION OF CHILDREN:**

a trend in society and pornography to eroticize minors, to label sexually exploited minors as “child/teen prostitutes,” and to normalize statutory rape.

## **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE:**

a broad term encompassing any sexual contact between an adult and a child, the exposure of children to pornography, and child-on-child sexual abuse.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:**

an outgrowth of male sexual entitlement, sexual harassment and abuses occur in all sectors of society and are normalized by pop culture.



**SEXTING:**

the sending or receiving of sexual messages, images, or videos via technology, practiced by minors and adults alike, which inherently causes vulnerability to sexual extortion, “revenge” pornography, and has spurred the rise of self-produced child pornography.

**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL (CHILD PORNOGRAPHY):**

a form of pornography that amounts to crime scene evidence of child sexual abuse, fuels the demand for child abuse, and normalizes predatory attitudes towards children.

**IMAGE-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE:**

a range of abusive practices that involve the non-consensual creation and/or distribution of sexual images such as “upskirting,” “sexualized photoshopping,” “spy-camming,” often involving sexual extortion or other forms of abuse.

**OBJECTIFICATION:**

an act of perceiving/treating a person as a mere instrument which can be used, manipulated, or controlled for sexual pleasure, often occurring visually through pop culture, magazines, advertisements, movies, and pornography.

**SEX TRAFFICKING:**

severe forms involve commercial sexual exploitation by means of force, fraud or coercion, where anything of value (e.g. money, clothes, shelter, food, drugs, etc) is given to any person in exchange for sexual acts.

**PROSTITUTION:**

a form of commercial sexual exploitation, often spurred by childhood sexual abuse and saturated in sexual predation and violence.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AND VIOLENCE:**

a broad term used to encompass experiences of rape, sexual coercion, assault, harassment, abuse, and more, of both females and males.

**SEXUAL ADDICTIONS AND COMPULSIVITY:**

a debilitating failure to control repetitive sexual impulses/behavior, often of pornography use, impacting men, women, boys, and girls and resulting in significant impairment of personal, family, social, and other areas of functioning.

# NCOSE EXPANDS OUR TEAM, OUR MESSAGE, AND OUR IMPACT

Despite the onset of a global pandemic grinding much of the world to a halt this year, our momentum has absolutely surged in 2020—and beyond! NCOSE is constantly growing to meet the demands of the movement. We've tripled our staff size in just the last two years and as a result our impact has more than tripled as well. Thanks to your critical partnership, we have been able to grow and meet goals we thought would take three years to accomplish in just 2020 alone! We are so excited to introduce you to three major areas of development at NCOSE.

## WORKING TO BOLSTER THE GLOBAL ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT.

**Why:** The global community is reaching a tipping point on the matter of sexual abuse and exploitation. Less than a generation after the proliferation of the Internet and smartphones, the marketplace for sexual exploitation and abuse has boomed worldwide. Pornography's public health harms, including rising child-on-child sexual abuse, are impacting millions across the globe. Pornography is being normalized and promoted through mainstream multinational corporations and is being funneled into developing countries through technology giveaways. Pro-prostitution lobbyists, funded by mega-donor organizations, are also working around the world and in global bodies of power like the United Nations to either legalize or fully decriminalize prostitution, which research shows would result in increased sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. And tragically, even when one sex trafficking victim is rescued, two more take their place in exploitation, because there has been no international plan to combat and prevent the root cause of the sex trafficking marketplace: sex buying (aka the demand.)

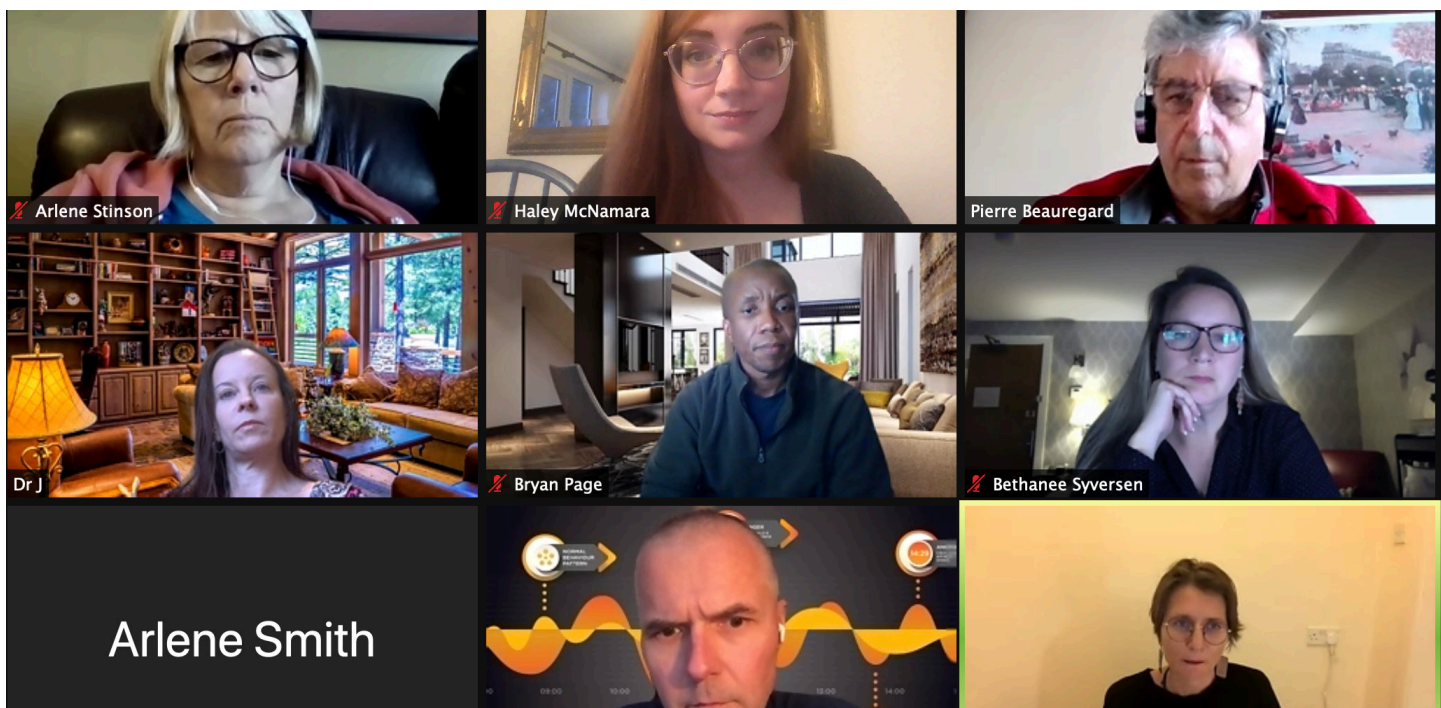
**What:** NCOSE went global this year with the International Centre on Sexual Exploitation (ICOSE). It is a response to a need—the reality that no other organization is leading the international approach to connect the dots between all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse and guide unified coalition-based action to improve private and public policies. ICOSE conducts joint international advocacy campaigns targeting private and public entities, and educates governments, NGOs, and citizens worldwide regarding the intersectionality of sexual abuse and exploitation issues. These actions are critical to achieving our vision of a world free of sexual abuse and exploitation.

**Progress this year:** ICOSE has already made incredible strides in establishing key connections with global allies and pushing our issues forward.

- ICOSE was instrumental in demanding major credit card companies cut ties with the online pornography industry, spearheading the campaign and letter signed by 13 different countries calling for change.
- ICOSE Director Haley McNamara won a debate on the harms of pornography while speaking before the prestigious Cambridge Union Society, changing the previously 50/50 vote on the issue to be 75/25. In a day and age where many attempt to normalize the abuse and exploitation that are inherent to pornography, this is an encouraging development that shows that people around the world are waking up to the science and research about pornography's inherent harms!
- ICOSE submitted a letter to the Danish Parliament's Children and Education Committee, urging Denmark schools to both recognize the harms of pornography and take action against it by implementing WiFi and device filters on a large scale to protect children and create a safe environment for learning.



- ICOSE sent a report to the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls at the United Nations in response to their call for submissions, working to educate the UN on the inherent harms of the sex trade.
- ICOSE played a key role in uniting leaders from around the world. This year, the official Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Africa was launched! In November, leaders from four African nations spoke out during the first multi-national online event to address the harms of pornography there.
- ICOSE connected and worked with over a dozen countries including Rwanda, Israel, Ukraine, Liberia, Denmark, and the United Kingdom in 2020!



*Strategic meeting with leaders from four continents*



NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

# Research Institute

*Harnessing the power of data to create a world  
free from sexual abuse and exploitation.*

## USING DATA TO TELL STORIES, SOLVE PROBLEMS, AND LOOK TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE.

**Why:** We believe that effective efforts that successfully respond to widespread sexual abuse and exploitation—in all its forms—require specialized knowledge that doesn't look away from the problem. These efforts are also not satisfied with only understanding the how and why people and institutions behave in ways that inflict sexual harm. The movement to end sexual abuse and exploitation needs evidence-based solutions that move us from addressing immediate needs and basic research, to holistic solutions that prevent victimization before it begins.

**What:** NCOSE has always been focused on utilizing key research to highlight the interconnected web of harm left behind by pornography, trafficking, and more. In 2020, we formed an official team of experts under the NCOSE Research Institute to harness the power of objective data and methods to not only to inform, but to help impacted individuals, communities, and policymakers identify and advance the best evidence-based solutions. We conduct analysis, develop educational programs and resources, as well as design and collaborate in empirical, applied research projects to build individual, institutional, and public policy solutions to eradicate the web of sexual abuse and exploitation.



***Progress this year:*** The Research Institute has been hard at work finding the latest data, compiling reports, and bringing stakeholders key resources to combat sexual abuse and exploitation.

- NCOSE is dedicated to abolishing all forms of sexual exploitation, including the commercial sex industry. With the Research Institute’s 2020 acquisition of Demand Forum, a key tool used by law enforcement agencies, task forces, and collaborating institutions to combat demand for paid sex, we are one step closer to that goal! Demand Forum is a website documenting the criminal justice strategies and collaborative programs that have been developed to focus on deterring demand, and has been used by more than 250,000 people from all 50 states and 175+ other countries, and we have big plans to improve its features in 2021!
- The Research Institute spent 2020 looking at the latest research on a wide range of topics, including child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and assault, compulsive sexual behavior, prostitution, sex trafficking, and the harms of pornography on both the public at large and on the individual brain—to name a few. We are rolling out a comprehensive library on these issues and more!
- NCOSE applied for a federal research grant early this year to further study the role of demand in the web of sexual exploitation. We are so excited to announce that we were awarded our very first federal grant as a result of the efforts of our research team, which will help us in our efforts to expose demand as the key driving factor in sex trafficking and prostitution.

## REPRESENTING THE VOICE FOR HUMAN DIGNITY IN OUR COURTS AND LEGISLATURES.

**Why:** Until now, there has been no voice in the courts and legislatures advocating for human dignity against all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. In the vacuum of a national legal strategy on these issues, pro-sexual exploitation lobbyists have stepped in to promote radical and damaging legislation and establish legal precedents in favor of pornography, prostitution, sexual grooming of children for abuse, sex trafficking, and more. NCOSE believes it's time for a national legal strategy to defend human dignity.

**What:** The NCOSE Law Center serves as advocate for those who don't have a voice, by intervening in key, precedent-setting cases and speaking up in state and federal legislatures to impact policy. The NCOSE Law Center also empowers citizens to improve their states and communities through model legislation on issues like pornography, illicit massage parlors, combating the demand for sex trafficking and prostitution, and more. Finally, the NCOSE Law Center mentors and equips future lawyers and trains prosecutors to ensure a future generation of legal advocates who know how to best help victims and shape legislation that respects human dignity and flourishing.

**Progress this year:** This year, the NCOSE Law Center took the first steps of many towards a world free from sexual exploitation by bringing the fight directly to the doorsteps of many industries and players profiting from the abuse and exploitation of the vulnerable.

- Last year, the NCOSE Law Center launched a project to match survivors 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. In 2020, our attorneys filed three different lawsuits intended to cripple the pro-exploitation industry and bring it to its knees. In addition to the suits already filed, we have several more pending that we are so excited to share with you!

- o *Jane Doe v. Cissy Steele*

Jane (name changed to protect her identity) was a young and impressionable young woman—the perfect target to be lured into the world of sex trafficking. Approached by a female sex trafficker, who employed typical grooming tactics such as promising Jane a successful modeling and acting career, she fell prey to her trafficker's deceptive tactics. The trafficker convinced Jane to move into her home in order to “further” her modeling career. Jane quickly found herself subjected to physical violence, as well as threats against her and her family, in order to get her to comply with the trafficker's demands – demands that included being sex trafficked in and out of hotels, engaging in mandatory drug use, and having pornography filmed of her abuse – all against Jane's will. The videos of her abuse were then knowingly distributed to an online porn production company who had an ongoing deal with the trafficker's operation. This company was fully aware that Jane and other women in her situation were sex trafficking victims.


These videos are still online and continue to depict Jane's exploitation and abuse, perpetuating her torture for public consumption, even after Jane escaped and requested her videos be removed from numerous websites.

Accordingly, Jane Doe has now sued her trafficker, the pornography production companies, and the online pornography providers who continue to show and sell videos of her sexual abuse and exploitation against her will. The case, filed on September 24, 2020, is in federal district court in San Diego, California.

- o *B.M. v. Wyndham Hotels and Resorts Inc., et al.*

In January 2020, the Law Center filed its first official lawsuit against Wyndham Hotels for knowingly facilitating and profiting from the sex trafficking of a 16-year-old girl, taking a significant step forward in bringing a measure of justice to survivors of sex trafficking. Our pleadings allege that for years, the girl was trafficked in and out of several hotels owned by Wyndham and other chains in Santa Clara County, California where she was forced to perform commercial sex acts with 10 to 15 men a day. Wyndham financially benefited from the sex



The logo for the National Center on Sexual Exploitation Law Center is displayed on a dark blue, textured background. It features a stylized icon of a classical building with columns on the left. To the right of the icon, the text "NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "Law Center" are written in a large, white, serif font.

# NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION Law Center

trafficking of this young woman, and other victims like her, developing and maintaining business models that attract and foster the commercial sex market for traffickers and buyers alike. In recent months, many other lawsuits have been filed against Wyndham Hotels for facilitating and profiting from the sex trafficking/prostitution of dozens of women and girls.

o *Charleston v. State of Nevada*

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to review arguments in a groundbreaking case, *Charleston v. State of Nevada* which threatens to hold Nevada responsible for enabling the sexual abuse and slavery of countless women because of their prostitution laws. One plaintiff, Bekah Charleston, was a 17-year-old runaway who came under the control of her trafficker who swiftly brought her from Texas to Nevada to be sold in Las Vegas and into brothels. She was held in virtual captivity in a Nevada brothel, regularly raped, and forced to perform sex acts upon fear of beatings and other abuse. The other plaintiff is Angela Delgado-Williams, a survivor who has a similar story of being preyed upon, lured, abused, controlled, and then eventually sex trafficked in Las Vegas.

These survivors have sued the state of Nevada for creating the sex trade environment that makes this abuse not only possible, but virtually certain. Nevada's sex tourism industry, bolstered by the unquenchable demand, requires more and even younger girls each year. These girls are brought to Nevada across state lines to be prostituted and trafficked, in violation of federal law.

On December 10, 2020, the 9th Circuit issued a decision, affirming the district court's decision to dismiss the case. While the 9th Circuit decided it could not enjoin Nevada's existing legal scheme on behalf of people not actively being trafficked, it suggested the plaintiffs may be able to bring the case on behalf of others. The plaintiffs are considering the next steps in light of the ruling, including re-filing the lawsuit.

- The Law Center filed 10 major motions and briefs in courts across the country this year. One highlight was an Amicus Curiae Letter in support of the plaintiff in *Valerie Haney v. Superior Court* for the State of California, County of Los Angeles. The amicus letter urges an appellate court to reverse a trial judge's order compelling that all of Ms. Haney's claims be tried before a panel made up of members of the very institution she alleges abused her.
- We worked with several incredible, brave survivors of exploitation this year to bring their stories to light and fight for justice. Several plaintiffs we worked with were featured in the *New York Times* article that exposed Pornhub as the world's largest collector of online child pornography, a story that became the catalyst to the pornography titan crumbling before our eyes!



# TO REALLY STOP SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION, WE MUST END DEMAND FOR PAID SEX

*Written by Lisa L. Thompson, Vice President and Director of NCOSE Research Institute*

The concepts of supply and demand are fundamental building blocks in capitalist economies. Supply represents how much of a particular product the market can offer, and demand refers to how much of a product is desired by potential buyers.[1]

When these concepts are applied to the phenomenon of prostitution, those who are bought and sold for sex constitute the “supply.” Thus, prostitution renders human beings—predominantly women and children, but also men—into becoming public sexual commodities sold in the prostitution marketplace.[2]

In contrast, those who make up the “demand” are the individuals with the desire, along with the ability and willingness, to purchase people within that marketplace to use for sex. Their decision to buy someone for sex is a choice. As the driving force fueling the prostitution marketplace, sex buyers have been described as the “primary” level of demand. “Without them making the decision to buy sex acts, prostitution [and, ergo, sex trafficking] would not exist.”[3] Those who comprise the demand are overwhelmingly male. They buy sex acts from prostituted persons but subcontract the intimidation and violence necessary to sexually access them to others—the pimps.[4] Men who solicit and buy people for sex are often referred as “customers,” and “clients.”[5] These terms normalize and obscure the harm of their behavior.[6]

Sex trafficking exists because the male demand for people in prostitution outstrips the supply of people in the prostitution marketplace. Because few people wish to be bought in exchanges of sex for money, pimps and sex traffickers (i.e., distributors of people used for prostitution) step in to provide the supply. To secure people they can sell in the prostitution marketplace, pimps engage in recruitment, transportation, harboring, provisioning and obtaining individuals through means such as force, fraud, and coercion.[7] Such actions comprise the legal definition of sex trafficking. Thus, pimps are, by definition, functional equivalents of sex traffickers and any pimp-controlled person, whether a minor or an adult, is a victim of sex trafficking.

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## GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The prostitution marketplace has an innate predatory dependence on vulnerable persons to obtain its supply. Runaway and foster care children, racial minorities, displaced persons and refugees, the sexually abused, the learning disabled, the homeless, widows, orphans, and drug addicted persons provide ideal targets.

Numerous modalities are used as means of providing male sex buyers—“the demand”—opportunities to purchase people supplied for prostitution. These include pornography production[8] and distribution companies, strip clubs (as well as venues featuring table and lap dancing), live-sex shows, peep shows, Internet-based (i.e., “virtual”) prostitution, escort or outcall services, prostitution/sex tour operators, brothels (frequently operating behind fronts such as massage parlors, saunas, bathhouses, bars, cabarets, clubs, cinemas, beauty salons, barber shops and restaurants), as well as pimp-facilitated, street-level prostitution.[9]

A wide range of other industries and enterprises support and profit from the commerce in humans sold for sex. These include the tourism industry,[10] restaurant owners, taxi drivers, security firms, accountants, lawyers, doctors, advertisers, portions of the public health sector, and interactive computer service providers.[11] So, while the entities that comprise the prostitution marketplace may appear to be limited to the small-time operators of back alley brothels, sleazy bars, and seedy red-light districts, when one considers the wide range of financial beneficiaries in the aggregate, we find powerful corporations and interest groups, as well as multinational, multifaceted “sex sectors.”[12] These sectors can be so substantial in size that they contribute significantly to the GDPs of national governments.[13]

Collectively, the operators of prostitution marketplaces and the ancillary enterprises supporting and profiting from their activities constitute the “global supply chain of sexual exploitation.”[14] They have also been described as the “secondary” level of demand.[15] This global supply chain of enterprises constructed to meet the demands of the prostitution marketplace generates robust profits for those who own, manage, or work for businesses linked to these enterprises. For instance, a study of San Diego County’s illicit sex economy in 2013 was estimated to have generated \$810 million dollars.[16]



## PROSTITUTION: THE SEX TRAFFICKING CONTEXT

The industry context in which any form of exploitation takes place is of prime importance to understanding how and why the phenomenon occurs. Understanding the underlying market and its dynamics allows us to develop effective strategies for combating abuse and exploitation.

Prostitution and all the modalities by which it is made available in the sex trade marketplace are the context in which sex trafficking occurs. No serious effort to abate sex trafficking can be undertaken without a critical investigation of the bedrock industry on which in whichon which sex trafficking is built—the prostitution marketplace. In other words, strategies to combat sex trafficking must take into consideration the entirety of commercial sex trade, especially demand.

This is why the National Center on Sexual Exploitation has devoted considerable effort and is launching new initiatives in 2021 to combat the demand for prostitution. Among these new initiatives, we are especially honored that we have been entrusted to carry on the legacy of the organization Demand Abolition, which for a decade pioneered efforts to combat demand for prostitution. We will proudly carry on in the trail blazed by Demand Abolition.

Like Demand Abolition's founder Swanee Hunt, we believe no one has a right to buy sexual access to another person and know from survivors that prostitution markets are highways to abuse and exploitation. By confronting the demand for prostitution we seek to use market dynamics to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking before it happens.



Massage

# BRIGHT LIGHT O N T H E RED LIGHT

[1] See: <https://www.investopedia.com/university/economics/economics3.asp> (accessed May 30, 2018).

[2] The prostitution marketplace is more commonly referred as “the sex trade” or “commercial sex industry. However, these terms obscure the nature of activity at the core of market, and because the later lends a sheen of normalcy and legitimacy to an inherently exploitive trade, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation advocates for use of prostitution marketplace instead.

[3] Donna M. Hughes, “Best Practices to Address the Demand Side of Sex Trafficking,” (2004), pg. 2. [http://www.popcenter.org/problems/trafficked\\_women/PDFs/Hughes\\_2004a.pdf](http://www.popcenter.org/problems/trafficked_women/PDFs/Hughes_2004a.pdf) (accessed May 30, 2018).

[4] Joe Parker, “How Prostitution Works,” 1998, <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/How%20prostitution%20works.pdf> (accessed July 6, 2018).

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid.

[7] The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defined a “severe form of sex trafficking” as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provisioning and obtaining, of a person for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, by means of force, fraud, or coercion.

[8] Pornography is prostitution—prostitution for mass consumption.

[9] Thompson, *ibid.*

[10] For instance, in Germany “Travel agencies offer tours to German brothels lasting up to eight days . . . Prospective customers are promised up to 100 “totally nude women” wearing nothing by heels.” See Spiegel Online, “How Legalizing Prostitution Has Failed,” May 30, 2013, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/human-trafficking-persists-despite-legality-of-prostitution-in-germany-a-902533.html> (accessed March 18, 2017).

[11] Thompson, *ibid.*

[12] Lin Lean Lim, “The Economic and Social Bases of Prostitution in Southeast Asia.” In *The Sex Sector: The Economic and Social Bases of Prostitution in Southeast Asia*, ed. Lin Lean Lim (Geneva: International Labour Office, 1998), 1–28.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Thompson, *ibid.*

[15] Hughes, *ibid.*

[16] Ami Carpenter and Jamie Gates, “The Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego County,” NIJ-2012-R2-CX-0028, April 2016, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249857.pdf> (accessed March 18, 2017).

# STUDY SHOWS PORN PROFITS FROM AND PROMOTES RACISM

ORIGINALLY POSTED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES

*Written by Sommer Porter, Executive Liaison, National Center on Sexual Exploitation*

It may be tempting to think that watching online pornography is an innocent activity. But the reality is that today's online pornography is much darker and more exploitative than ever. It's also rife with racist stereotypes.

Despite attempts to capitalize on hot-button social issues, popular pornography websites that host billions of hours of pornography continually host videos with violent and overtly racist titles such as:

- "Black Slave Punished by White Master"
- "White Cops Force Black Chick, Force Boyfriend to Watch"
- "Gang Banged by Blacks"
- "Black Slave Girl Brutalized"

And that's just scratching the surface of the truly horrific collection of racist content that mainstream pornography regularly condones and promotes. Some videos also have the N-word in their title.

With 42 billion online visits per year, Pornhub's algorithm actually gives search suggestions such as "black slave" and "African slave" to some users. In addition, many videos portray racist themes, racial stereotypes, and violence and abuse toward black women. And shortly after the killing of George Floyd, Pornhub monetized his death by partnering with and promoting a website called "BLACK PATROL," hosting pornography themed on police brutality.

Despite the blatant evidence of racism in pornography and the commercial sex industry in general, online pornography continues to fly under the radar of the public's usually critical eye, and research tends to ignore the issue altogether.

However, a new study published by researchers at Indiana University Bloomington looked into how black men and women are portrayed in online pornography. The study, which examined 1,741 pornographic scenes from two of the largest global online porn streaming sites, found that black women were consistently more likely to be the target of aggression when compared to white women, while black men were significantly more likely to be shown perpetrating acts of aggression compared to white men. The researchers also pointed out that "depictions of aggression towards women are highest in scenes featuring Black couples compared to all other racial pairings including interracial pairings."





The study takes care to point out the effect of social learning theory: that we learn behavior and habits from the society around us and especially from the media we consume (including online pornography). Research has consistently linked negative attitudes about women, body image issues, objectification, and risky/harmful sexual behavior with the consumption of pornography. So, what exactly are people learning about race and sex when they consume online pornography?

It is abundantly clear that pornography profits from (and even revels in) disgusting and harmful racist stereotypes wherein black women are treated as sexual objects to be beaten, while black men are depicted as aggressive and dangerous. If white women are portrayed as mere objects, black women are portrayed as animals or aggressive sexual sirens.

And these stereotypes are evident even at increasingly young ages for black women. The controversial Netflix film *Cuties*, which centers on a young black girl who goes through a transformation of hypersexualization at the tender age of 11, is a recent case in point.

These stereotypes and depictions are not harmless or innocent. They should not be waved away as fantasy or dismissed because “sex sells.” Pornography is rife with racist material that celebrates the degradation of black women, men, and children. Commercial sex buyers are predominantly white men, while victims of sex trafficking are disproportionately women and girls of color. Predators prey upon the people that society has marginalized, meaning that minority communities are a prime target.

If we are to embrace the mission of fully combating racism in our modern societies, the pornography industry must be held to account. Through the #Traffickinghub campaign, more than 2 million people have united in a call to shut down Pornhub for hosting videos of sex-trafficked individuals, child sexual abuse victims, non-consensually shared images, and extremely racist content.

Online pornography is far from innocent. It exemplifies the worst of humanity.

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The National Center on Sexual Exploitation, “Pornhub’s Darkly Ironic Claims About Racism and Social Injustice” (June 2020) <https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/pornhubs-darkly-ironic-claims-about-racism-and-social-injustice/>

Carolyn West, “Let Me Tell Ya’ll About Black Chicks: Images of Black Women In Pornography” (2020) <http://drccarolynwest.com/documentary/>

See: [https://twitter.com/Christen\\_P5/status/1267919413963042816](https://twitter.com/Christen_P5/status/1267919413963042816)

Christen Price, “The Long Racism of the Sex Industry” (June 2020) <https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/the-long-racism-of-the-sex-industry/>

Niki Fritz, Bryant Paul, Yanyan Zhou, and Vinny Malic, “Worse Than Objects: The Depiction of Black Women and Men and Their Sexual Relationship in Pornography,” *Gender Issues* (April 2020) [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341354859\\_Worse\\_Than\\_Objects\\_The\\_Depiction\\_of\\_Black\\_Women\\_and\\_Men\\_and\\_Their\\_Sexual\\_Relationship\\_in\\_Pornography](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341354859_Worse_Than_Objects_The_Depiction_of_Black_Women_and_Men_and_Their_Sexual_Relationship_in_Pornography) (Accessed October 2020).

See: <https://endsexualexploitation.org/publichealth/>

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation, “Netflix Promotes Sexualization of Children, Racist Stereotypes with New Film *Cuties*,” (August 2020) <https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/netflix-promotes-sexualization-of-children-racist-stereotypes-with-new-film-cuties/>

Demand Abolition, “Who Buys Sex? Understanding and Disrupting Illicit Market Demand,” (November 2018) <https://www.demandabolition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Demand-Buyer-Report-July-2019.pdf>

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE TO THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

1. Since 1962, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation has been working as an organization on the social and public harm issues relating to pornography, and has a track record of success in dealing with online challenges and activity. We have a plan that is working.
2. NCOSE is the only organization that specifically targets the suite of activity and behavior that is the connected world of sexual exploitation: Violence against Women, Child Sexual Abuse, Prostitution, Sex Trafficking, Sexual Assault and Pornography. You can't focus just on one of these issues – they are symbiotic.
3. The NCOSE Law Center is about to launch a series of cases against the leaders of the online sexual exploitation industries, and needs all the financial help it can get! Our plan is that these lawsuits will start a wave of activity that could bring the industry down, in the same way that Big Tobacco was hurt through legal processes.
4. NCOSE works in partnership alongside more than 600 coalition partners active in this area and is recognized as a leader of the movement. Our recent Global Summit conference had 22,000 participants from 112 countries and territories. Pornography and Trafficking are global problems and need global solutions.
5. NCOSE is an efficient organization, allocating 9% for admin and overhead costs, and 9% for fundraising and communications. All other expenses (82%) are directly connected to mission objectives. We have a 100% rating on Charity Navigator.

## HOW CAN I HELP THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

1. Make a monthly contribution that will sustain our work over many years.
2. Make a single investment in activity that you care about and recognize as needed and important. Organize a fundraising event in your community.
3. Take an advocacy action — sign a petition, add your voice online, be a part of our political legislation or international policy activity.
4. Stay up-to-date on news by subscribing to our events, blogs and online newsletters. Share what you are passionate about with your family and friends.
5. Use your voice—share what you are passionate about with your network — friends and family, workplace, sports and community groups. Or invite us in to share the news.





## WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

### PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

	2021	2022
The Law Center	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,500,000
The Research Institute & publications	600,000	800,000
The Coalition to end sexual exploitation	250,000	300,000
Public education and engagement	200,000	250,000
Legislative Policy	100,000	150,000
Social and public health harms of pornography	300,000	350,000
Faith outreach	25,000	50,000
Child Sexual abuse prevention	150,000	300,000
Combatting sex trafficking and prostituion	400,000	500,000
Dirty Dozen	200,000	200,000
International Centre	200,000	250,000

### SUPPORTING SERVICES:

Fundraising	300,000	400,000
General and administrative expenses	250,000	300,000
	\$ 4,975,000	\$ 6,350,000



# THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US

THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN THE FIGHT TO DEFEND HUMAN DIGNITY.

THE EXPLOITATION INDUSTRY AND THEIR SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE, PROCESSING AND MARKETING ENGINES, ARE WELL-FUNDED AND RELENTLESS IN PURSUIT OF PROFIT OFF THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF THE MILLIONS OF VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES. WITHOUT YOUR FUNDING, YOUR PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT, AND YOUR EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THAT WE HAVE THIS YEAR. AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

THANK YOU FOR STANDING ALONGSIDE US AS WE RELENTLESSLY BUILD ON THESE INCREDIBLE VICTORIES AND CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM WE HAVE GOING INTO 2021. TOGETHER WE ARE CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH THE SEISMIC POSITIVE SHIFT IN CORPORATE AND PUBLIC OPINION.




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