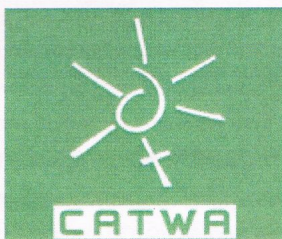




# ANTI-PORN SURVIVAL KIT



Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Australia  
[www.catwa.org.au](http://www.catwa.org.au)

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## WHO ARE WE?

CATWA is the Australian branch of CATW International, a Non Governmental Organisation having Category II consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It works locally and internationally to end all forms of sexual exploitation of women, especially the violence of prostitution, trafficking and pornography.

## WHY ARE WE AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY?

Pornography is an industry which makes its ever increasing profits from the sexual exploitation of women and girls. Women in the pornography industry suffer terrible psychological trauma, abuse and violence. Despite this grim reality, tolerance for pornography is increasing in Australia and many other Western nations. Through the 'mainstreaming of pornography' or 'pornification,' pornography is gaining legitimacy and even a degree of glamour and cultural chic. The mainstreaming of pornography is also changing our sexuality. Women are increasingly becoming required to perform sex acts straight from pornography in their everyday heterosexual relationships and the pornographic model of sexuality has been found to harm girls' and women's concepts of self. As pornography becomes more 'mainstreamed' we become accustomed to living in a pornified world in which it is acceptable that women and girls can be bought and sold.

## GOT A QUESTION ABOUT PORN?

*Pornography FAQs...*

### **Shouldn't pornography be protected as free speech?**

It is important to understand that pornography is not 'speech'. It is filmed acts of prostitution. Pornography is not merely the *representation* of sex acts, it involves the filming of *real* sex acts, performed by *real* people. Arguing that pornography is speech, ignores the realities of how pornography is actually produced and also ignores the harm to women that pornography both generates and reinforces.

### **Isn't porn just harmless sex?**

No pornography is harmless. Many people believe pornography to simply be sex between 'consenting adults' rather than understanding pornography as a multi-billion dollar industry. Pornography is not 'just sex'; it is a particular construction of sex which involves the commercial sexual exploitation of women for the purpose of (primarily) men's sexual pleasure. Pornography harms both the women who are directly abused in the making of it, and also women as a group more generally. It promotes a model of sexuality which is incompatible with women's equality.

### **Isn't pornography a good sexual outlet for men?**

The idea that pornography creates a useful sexual release for men, assumes that men have uncontrollable sexual 'urges' which require an outlet. It also assumes that pornography use is acceptable and healthy. Neither is the case. Pornography use is harmful to the women used in creating it and pornography creates and reinforces harmful ideas about women, sex and sexuality - for example - that women enjoy or welcome unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault. Rather than reducing the likelihood that men will act out, it creates a culture in which women are increasingly objectified and viewed as commodities. Such a culture helps to fuel, rather than prevent, acts of sexual violence.

### **Doesn't opposing pornography make you a prude?**

Many people assume that the only reason to oppose pornography is because you find it personally 'offensive' or are 'anti-sex'. Opposing pornography means that you oppose abusive sexual practices that harm women, not that you oppose all sex. Nor does opposing pornography have to be about arguing that its content personally offends you. From a feminist perspective, it is not necessarily explicitness or the depiction of sex which is the problem with pornography. It is not about offence and decency, but about harm.



### **How is pornography related to prostitution?**

Pornography and prostitution are often thought of as completely separate entities. In many parts of the world, this is even reflected in law where pornography and prostitution hold very different positions. Pornography is often privileged as a form of 'representation'. Pornography, however, is simply filmed prostitution. Both pornography and prostitution involve the sexual use of women in exchange for money. Often, the only difference between the two is the presence of a camera. Pornography can also be seen to increase the legitimacy of prostitution by depicting the commercial sexual exploitation and abuse of women as entertaining, glamorous and acceptable. In addition, pornography is frequently used by pimps to 'season' or train women for prostitution and women used in prostitution are often also used in pornography. The industries are intimately interlinked.

## **PORNOGRAPHY FAST FACTS**

- The US pornography industry produces more than 10,000 titles a year.  
*(Compared to 400 a year – approx. – produced by Hollywood).*
- Worldwide, the pornography industry grosses in excess of (US) \$57 billion annually. *(Similar to the GDP of Slovenia, Luxembourg or Qatar).*
- In Australia, pornography is thought to be worth more than (AUS) \$1 billion annually.
- There are more than 700 million rentals of pornographic films every year in the United States alone.
- 59% of Australian pornography consumers report having mimicked something from pornography in their own sex lives.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women has recognised pornography as a form of violence against women.

## WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH PORNOGRAPHY?

*Some pointers which may help you articulate to a partner why you find pornography harmful and offensive...*

1. Pornography degrades and dehumanises women and girls.  
(*"Sperm Receptacles 4"*, *"Junkyard Cumholes"*)
2. Pornography glamorises rape and abuse.  
(*"Forced Entry Club 1"*, *"Smothered Covered 7"*)
3. Pornography lies about women, depicting them as sexually insatiable.  
(*"Addicted to C\*ck"*, *"Gang Bang Junkies"*)
4. Pornography glamorises sexual slavery.  
(*"Bound for Brutality"*, *"Indentured Sex Slaves"*)
5. Pornography encourages child sexualization.  
(*"Bring 'Um Young 28"*, *"Barely Legal 90"*)
6. Pornography tolerates racism that is not acceptable in other media.  
(*"My Daughter's F\*cking Blackzilla 17"*, *"Racial Violations 2"*)

All pornography titles taken from March 2009 AVN.com  
top sales and rentals charts.



Adapted from: Anti-Pornography Activist  
<<http://antipornographyactivist.wordpress.com/faq>>

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

*Useful resources on pornography and its harms...*

Kathleen Barry (1995). *The Prostitution of Sexuality*. New York University Press, New York.

Gail Dines, Robert Jensen and Ann Russo (1998). *Pornography: the Production and Consumption of Inequality*. Routledge, New York.

David E. Guinn and Julie DiCaro (eds.) (2007). *Pornography: Driving the Demand in International Sex Trafficking*. Captive Daughters Media.

*\*Includes a chapter by Chyng Sun, director of The Price of Pleasure.*

Sheila Jeffreys (2005). *Beauty and Misogyny: Harmful Cultural Practices in the West*. Routledge, London and New York.

Linda Lovelace, with Mike McGrady (1980). *Ordeal: The truth behind "Deep Throat."* Citadel Press, Secaucus, NJ.

Catharine A. MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin (eds) (1997). *In Harm's Way: The Pornography Civil Rights Hearings*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

Pamela Paul (2005). *Pornified: How pornography is transforming our lives, our relationships and our families*. Times Books: New York.

Diana E. H. Russell (ed.) (1993). *Making Violence Sexy: Feminist Views on Pornography*. Teachers College Press, New York.

Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant (eds) (2004), *Not for Sale: Feminists Resisting Prostitution and Pornography*. Spinifex, Melbourne.



## ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY RESOURCES FOR MEN

Robert Jensen (2007). *Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity*. South End Press, Cambridge, MA.

Jackson Katz (2006). *The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help*. Source Books, Naperville, IL.

Michael S. Kimmel (ed.) (1990). *Men confront Pornography*. Crown Publishers, New York.

John Stoltenberg (1989). *Refusing to Be a Man: Essays on Sex and Justice*, Breitenbush Books. Portland, OR.

## JOIN THE FIGHT! ANTI-PORN ACTIVISM ONLINE



*Stop the spread of porn culture – visit the following sites for ideas and resources...*

Anti-Porn Activist Network: [www.antipornactivist.com](http://www.antipornactivist.com)

Bin the Bunny: [www.binthebunny.wordpress.com](http://www.binthebunny.wordpress.com)

One Angry Girl: [www.oneangrygirl.net](http://www.oneangrygirl.net)

Stop Porn Culture: [www.stoppornculture.org/home](http://www.stoppornculture.org/home)

Anti-Pornography Activist Blog: <http://antipornographyactivist.wordpress.com>

Object: [www.object.org.uk](http://www.object.org.uk)

\*Image from: Anti-Porn Activist Network, <[www.antipornactivist.com](http://www.antipornactivist.com)>

You can purchase 'Destroy your porn collection' stickers and stamps at their online store.



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or by cheque made payable to:

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[www.catwainternational.org](http://www.catwainternational.org)