

Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

April 2017 Vol. 15 No. 04

This issue reports on the 'Dirty Dozen List for 2017 and assists concerned citizens to take action to help curb sexual exploitation.



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2017 Dirty Dozen List Shaming Companies that Turn a Blind Eye to Sexual Exploitation



No corporation or organization should profit from or facilitate sexual exploitation. That is the rationale behind the National Center on Sexual Exploitation's (NCOSE) 'The Dirty Dozen List' — an annual project that names twelve mainstream entities that are major contributors to sexual exploitation. The disturbing truth is that many well-established brands, companies, and organizations in America are major perpetrators of sexual harm — whether that be through pornography, prostitution, or sex trafficking.

The NCOSE works for a world where the pornified vision of reality—with its raw, brutal, debasing, hate-filled themes—becomes intolerable to all those who have con-

cern for the well-being of humanity, who respect for human dignity, and affirm human rights. It works for a world where human beings are not bought and sold for sex, whether on seedy street corners or via the convenience of the Internet. It works for a world free from all forms of sexual exploitation.

The annual "Dirty Dozen List" names and shames a range of actors who contribute significantly to the normalization of pornography, prostitution, sex trafficking, and other forms of sexual exploitation. The groups, agencies, and businesses named to this list are among the nation's worst for masquerading as mainstream entities

Dirty Dozen *cont. pg. 2*



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Dirty Dozen *cont. from pg. 1*

with respectable reputations while facilitating access to, or pandering and profiting directly from pornography and or prostitution. Other entities on the list push policy agendas that seek to normalize egregious forms of sexual exploitation. This list ensures that their participation and collusion with the various aspects of the sex trade becomes public knowledge.

We live in an age where many consumers demand transparency from companies they trust. We want to know the working conditions of those who made our clothing. We want to know if pesticides were used to grow our food. With 'The Dirty Dozen List,' we can learn which well-known entities promote and profit from forms of sexual exploitation and, as consumers, have the information and tools to hold them accountable.

The NCOSE will continue naming and shaming until these mainstream contributors to the normalization of sexual exploitation no longer stand in allegiance with pornographers, sex traffickers, and sex buyers, and join us in fighting for the right of everyone to live 'sexploitation-free' lives.

For more information, go to:
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/category/blog/>

2017 'Dirty Dozen List'

Amazon:

Amazon.com, the world's largest online retailer, features thousands of pornography-related items in numerous categories. Items for sale on Amazon include hardcore pornographic films and magazines, books featuring collections of eroticized child nudity, sex dolls (many with childlike features), and more. From its Kindle e-reader, Amazon Prime, to Amazon Web Services, Amazon is profiting from pornography.

American Library Association (ALA):

The ALA zealously encourages public libraries to not install Internet filters on public-access computers, thereby granting patrons — including children — the opportunity to view obscene material. This has turned the once safe community setting of the public library into an XXX-space that fosters child sexual abuse, sexual assault, exhibitionism, stalking, and lewd behavior in libraries across the country.

Amnesty International:

Amnesty's support for the full decriminalization of prostitution prioritizes the special interests of pimps/sex traffickers and sex buyers over the human rights of people in prostitution. Full decriminalization of prostitution grants impunity to pimps and brothel-keepers by allowing them to carry out their activities as mere "sex business operators," and creates a de facto right for men to buy people for sex. Amnesty also views prostitution as "sex work," transforming the violence inherent to prostitution into an "on-the-job" requirement.

Backpage.com:

Backpage.com brings the seedy street corners of America's red-light districts to home computers. As a classified advertising website known as "the hub" for prostitution advertising, Backpage.com serves as a virtual auction block where sex buyers can shop for human beings for sex from the privacy of their home, office, hotel room, or cell phone. Many of those bought and sold via the website are sexually trafficked women and children. The website facilitates this activity by editing ads to conceal the illegality of underlying criminal activity.

Comcast:

Comcast profits from sexual exploitation. One way it does this is by providing access to hardcore pornography via its Xfinity television packages. Comcast has even defended its provision of teen, incest, and racist-themed pornography as a benefit to their customers. Additionally, as an Internet service provider, Comcast is not proactively filtering hardcore pornography, but shifts the burden of activating filters to their customers.

Cosmopolitan:

This staple of the supermarket check-out lane is a visually hyper-sexualized and verbally pornographic magazine. With inexhaustible predictability, Cosmopolitan accosts shoppers with covers that pronounce dozens of recycled "sex tricks" and flaunts an endless supply of hypersexualized cover models. As for Cosmo's content, it relentlessly glamorizes things like public, anal, group, and violent sex to its young female readership.

Dirty Dozen *cont. pg. 3*



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Dirty Dozen *cont. from pg. 2*

EBSCO Information Services:

EBSCO offers online library resources to public and private schools (K-12), colleges and universities, public libraries, and more. In its advertising for schools, it promises “fast access to curriculum-appropriate content.” However, its Explora, Science Reference Center, Literary Reference Center, and other products, provide easy access to hardcore pornography sites and extremely graphic sexual content. Innocent searches provide pornographic results. Via a system that bypasses school Internet filters, EBSCO brings the dark world of XXX to America’s elementary, middle, and high school children.

HBO:

Home Box Office Inc. (HBO) is a premium cable and satellite television network owned by Time Warner. Since the early 2000s, HBO has produced a string of original programs that incorporate graphic sex scenes. Examples include *G String Divas*, *CatHouse: The Series*, *Hung*, and *Girls*. Graphic depictions of sex, rape, and brutal sexual violence are also commonplace in *Game of Thrones* and *Westworld*. HBO has reached a new low as it turns torture porn into popular entertainment.

Roku:

A leading manufacturer of digital media streaming devices, Roku profits from and facilitates access to hardcore pornography via hundreds of downloadable private and hidden channels. This stands in stark contrast to other

streaming device industry leaders such as Apple TV or Amazon Fire TV, which have rightly kept hardcore pornography off of their systems.

Snapchat and Snapcash:

Snapchat, the photo-sharing app popular among Millennials and teens, has been criticized for its facilitation of sexting and the sharing of child sexual abuse images (i.e. child pornography,) as well as enabling the monetization of sexual content through “Snapcash.” Snapchat recently made welcome improvements to allow “Discover” publishers to age-gate some sexually graphic content, but there is still much more Snapchat must do to create a safe, sexexploitation-free, user environment.

Twitter:

Famed for “Tweets” which condense news and messages into 140 characters or less, Twitter is a major source of breaking news and boasts more than 300 million monthly, active users. It also serves as a major platform to disseminate hardcore pornography and facilitate prostitution. The site is riddled with sexually explicit Tweets and images, many of which serve as advertisements for pornography websites or online prostitution.

YouTube:

Google’s YouTube is an Internet conduit to user-generated videos where the latest cute kitten videos share a platform with hardcore pornography and rape videos. In spite of its terms of use, it has become a major pornography portal. YouTube users may easily stumble across pornographic content via YouTube’s “up next” queue, which frequently included recommendations for sexually explicit material. (<http://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/2017-dirty-dozen-list-announced/>)

Seven Internet Dangers

1. Pornography—Warping the minds of youth

Repeatedly viewing pornography, especially from a young age, can radically shape one’s sexual attitudes and beliefs. Frequent exposures to sexually explicit material is closely linked to more permissive attitudes about sex, such as having multiple sexual partners, “one night stands,” cynicism about the need for affection between sexual partners, casual sexual relations with friends, and even mimicking behaviors seen in pornography.

- More than 1 in 8 web searches are for erotic content.
- 79% of youth’s unwanted exposures to Internet porn take place in the home.
- Before the age of 18, 83% of boys and 57% of girls have seen group sex online.

2. Sexting—The unsafe ‘safe sex’

Sexting is sending or receiving nude or partially nude photos or videos through the Internet or cell phones. When teens engage in this risky behavior, many things can go wrong. These images are easy to forward on to others. At times, these images can be considered ‘child pornography,’ and some teens have already been given felony charges.

- Nearly 1 in 5 teens who receive a sext share it with someone else.
- 20% of teens have sent or posted a nude or semi-nude image of themselves.
- Of those who have sent sexts, 76% of girls and 57% of guys sent it to get someone else to like them.

3. Cyberbullying—The mean way kids treat each other online

Bullying happens on both the playground and in the digital world. Hurtful words are exchanged. Rumors start easily and spread quickly. Profiles and e-mails are hacked. And these types of activities are common today:

- 20% of teens say their peers are “mostly unkind” to each other on social networks.

Dangers *cont. pg. 4*



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Dangers *cont. from pg. 3*

- 24% of teens and young adults say someone has written something about them online that wasn't true.
- 9% say someone has threatened to use electronic communication (Facebook, e-mail, text messages, etc.) to tell others private things about them as a form of blackmail.

4. **Predators—Those seeking to ensnare our children**

The Internet is a perfect forum to meet new people, but some with malicious intent can use it to “befriend” your child. Internet predators are expert manipulators, able to foster a relationship of dependence with a teenager. Most prey on a teen’s desire to be liked, their desire for romance, or their sexual curiosity. Often a predator “grooms” a child through flattery, sympathy, and by investing time in their online relationship. These can then turn into offline relationships or, in extreme cases, opportunities for kidnapping or abduction.

- 76% of predators are 26 or older.
- 47% of offenders are 20 years old than their victims.
- 83% of victims who met their offender face-to-face willingly went somewhere with them.

5. **Gaming—More risks of exposure to sexual media and interactions**

While online and console games can be very fun, educational, and interactive, there are also hidden dangers. Much of the content of some games include sexual content, violence, and crude language. Plus, Internet-connected games enable kids to interact with strangers, some of which can be bad influences or mean your kids harm.

- 82% of children say they are current gamers.
- One-third of teen gamers (ages 15-17) report playing games with people they first met online.
- 13% of underage teenagers were able to buy Mature-rated games between November 2010 and January 2011.

6. **Social Networks—Redefining privacy**

Social networks like Facebook are very popular online activities. But parents should be aware of the image their teens are projecting as well as the influences they are absorbing online.

- Despite the 13-year-old minimum, over half of parents of 12-year-olds say their child has a Facebook account, and three-quarters of these helped their child create the account.
- 40% of teens have seen pictures on social networks of their peers getting drunk, passed out, or using drugs, and half of these first saw these pictures when they were 13 or younger.
- More than 11% of teens are “hyper-networkers,” spending more than three hours per school day on social network sites.

7. **YouTube—‘Broadcast yourself culture means anything goes**

YouTube is the world’s largest video sharing website. But because anyone can upload anything to YouTube, often videos can break the Community Guidelines for YouTube, and even those that do not can still be full of sexual innuendo, provocative content, and foul language.

- 48 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute (about 8 years of content uploaded every day).
- Over 3 billion videos are viewed every day on YouTube.
- Users upload the equivalent of 240,000 full length films every week.

(<http://www.covenanteyes.com/2012/01/03/7-dangers-of-the-internet-for-kids/>)



Porn By the Numbers

“It is not an overstatement to say that in today’s world, porn has become the norm.

“About 20 years ago, the U.S. Department of Justice stated, “*Never before in the history of telecommunications media in the United States has so much indecent (and obscene) material been so easily accessible by so many minors in so many American homes with so few restrictions.*” Remarkably, this was said before the iPhone, before the advent of 4G networks, and before the term “Wi-Fi” was even trademarked. Only a few years after the invention of the web browser, porn had become a noted problem among young people.

“The statistics are bleak and are trending in a disturbing direction—unless, of course, a massive culture shift begins soon. Just ask the Millennial generation—the first to grow up with Internet technologies in the home. Today, 79% of men in that generation say they watch pornography at least once a month (and most of these watch porn several times a week); 64% of women say they watch porn at least once a month.

“Watching porn is, quite literally, the norm. About 90% of boys and 70% of girls, ages 13 to 14, have reported accessing porn at least once.

Porn Numbers *cont. pg. 7*



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2017 'Dirty Dozen' Watch List

The 'Dirty Dozen Watch List' serves dual purposes. In some instances, it puts entities on notice that they may soon find themselves named as a major contributor to sexual exploitation unless they demonstrate significant and sustained efforts to address their role in fueling sexual exploitation. In other cases, by placing an organization on the Watch List, NCOSE is affirming an entity's positive step towards addressing its role in sexual exploitation. However, because some such steps represent only small progress in terms of the entity's total contribution to sexual exploitation, or because NCOSE may have concerns about the entity's intent to carry through with its pledge, placement on the Watch List also signals lingering concerns about their commitment to ending sexual exploitation.

Hyatt Hotels Corporation

In 2015, Hyatt Hotels Corporation followed other major hotel chains in pledging to remove all on-demand hardcore pornography offerings from its hotels. But some of its hotels are still offering hardcore pornography. Will Hyatt carry through with its pledge to remove this material from all its properties?

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

For the past eight years, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) refused to enforce existing federal obscenity laws (hardcore pornography) despite the fact that these laws have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court and previously enforced. This gross negligence gave a free pass to producers and distributors of pornography and enabled the culture of sexual exploitation to flourish. Will the new leadership at DOJ take robust action against the purveyors of obscenity?

Verizon

Verizon profits from sexual exploitation by providing hardcore pornography as an Internet service provider, through its FiOS television packages,

and as a wireless carrier. They have even defended child, rape, incest, and racist-themed pornography as a benefit to their customers.

However, Verizon has taken a step toward curbing its participation in sexual exploitation by creating an opt-in system for new subscribers to FiOS IPTV services. This policy change symbolizes important progress in the technology, media and telecommunications industry's approach to pornography.

Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam has informed NCOSE that beginning in early 2017 the display of pornography for new customers of FiOS IPTV will be automatically disabled. In other words, new FiOS IPTV customers must opt-in to view pornography, rather than those who do not want such material having to opt-out. This is significant because new Verizon customers will no longer be bombarded with hardcore pornography channels that objectify women and men and that often feature themes of abuse, incest, and misogyny.

While Verizon continues to profit from the distribution and sale of pornography, NCOSE acknowledged Verizon's leadership in adopting a positive change and therefore removed Verizon from the 2017 Dirty Dozen List, by placing it on the Watch List.

The Watch List tracks potential contenders for future Dirty Dozen Lists depending on their follow through on commitments and next actions. Will Verizon become a sexploitation-free corporation?

Past NCOSE Victories



See past victories by the NCOSE, pg. 6



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'Dirty Dozen List' Victories

American Apparel stopped using nudity and sexually explicit advertising for its clothing line and took extensive measures to remove these types of ads from its online and print catalogues.

Backpage.com, a large classified ad website notorious for facilitating prostitution and sex trafficking, recently blocked its prostitution ads in the U.S. While arguably a publicity stunt, this move was taken due to intense pressure for its role as a facilitator of sex trafficking. However, the site continues to operate and is arguably the largest facilitator of sexual exploitation in the world. For these reasons Backpage remains on the Dirty Dozen list for a third consecutive year.

Comcast improved usability and tightened the parental control settings for cable users. However Comcast is still distributing hardcore pornography, which is why it is on the 2017 Dirty Dozen List.

The **U.S. Department of Defense** stopped the sale of pornography in all Army and Air Force base exchanges. The DOD also ordered regular search and removals of all sexual materials in public and workspaces take place for all military branches.

Facebook has taken steps to improve efforts to block and report child pornography on its site.

The **Fifty Shades of Grey film** release was met with substantial opposition, including a viral social media campaign and hundreds of PR

interviews to highlight how the series and film normalizes sexual violence. NCOSE's 2017 social media campaign against the cinematic sequel, *Fifty Shades Darker*, reached more than 1 million individuals with the message that #FiftyShadesIsAbuse.

Google adopted a policy to prohibit pornographic ads and any ads that link to websites with sexually explicit content.

GooglePlay instituted policies that prohibit pornographic apps in their app store after the first year on the NCOSE list, though lax enforcement of this policy followed. After a second year on the list, GooglePlay removed all apps in violation.

Hilton Hotels Worldwide publicly announced it would stop selling pornography and issued orders to implement this policy in all of its brand contracts around the world. It was expected to be in full-force by July 2016.

Hyatt Hotels & Resorts revised their brand standard to stop profiting from all in-room pornography film offerings and has demanded that all of their properties comply. However, NCOSE learned that some Hyatt Hotels are still providing pornography through on-demand offerings. This is why Hyatt Hotels and Resorts in on NCOSE's 2017 Dirty Dozen Watch List.

InterContinental Hotel Group performed an audit of their more than 4,800 properties around

the world and insisted that all hotels immediately cease selling porn films or face the risk of losing good standing as an IGH brand. IHG made this move without having to be publicly named to the Dirty Dozen List.

Marsh Supermarkets, a chain of produce markets and convenience stores in Indiana and Ohio, removed *Cosmopolitan* magazine from its checkout lanes. As a result, Marsh customers can enjoy a sexploitation free checkout experience.

Snapchat recently announced that it will prohibit sensitive content, including overly sexualized content, within *Discover*, the publisher section of the app. However, given the extremely pornified atmosphere of *Discover*, which Snapchat allowed to flourish, and other serious concerns about sexual exploitation on Snapchat, the company remains on the Dirty Dozen list.

Walmart, RiteAid, Food Lion and other retailers mandated policies to put the sexually explicit *Cosmopolitan* magazine behind blinders in their retail shops.

YouTube launched the much safer YouTube Kids app, which gives kids a better protected space to watch age-appropriate videos without risk of being exposed to the violent and sexual content on the official YouTube site. However, YouTube still needs to make significant improvements to its monitoring and reporting systems.



Action

May 11-13, 2017 Event

Conference for women religious working with survivors of human trafficking. Held at Bon Secours Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD 21104. Cost: \$199.00

Contact:

mross@thesamaritanwomen.org

Consumers & Citizens Can Take Action

The 'Dirty Dozen List' gives individuals the ability to make a difference. For each company or institution on the list, there are direct actions the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) makes available. From signing petitions to emailing executives, the 'Dirty Dozen List' empowers individuals to take action and to promote a marketplace that respects human dignity.

Additional projects the NCOSE sponsors include the following:

- Porn Harms
- Law Center
- Stop Trafficking Demand
- Sexual Exploitation Watch
- Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation
- Action Center
- Porn Harms Research
- FCC Watch on Decency
- City Blitz Campaign
- War on Illegal Pornography
- White Ribbon Against Porn (WRAP) Week
- Pentagon Watch
- Cosmo Harms Minors
- 50 Shades is Abuse
- Safe Schools, Safe Libraries

View more information about each at:
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/projects/>

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
 National Human Trafficking
 Resource Center
 1.888.3737.888
 Text 'Help' at: BeFree
 (233733)

Porn Numbers *cont. from pg. 4*

- 35% of boys reported viewing porn online "too many times to count."
- 70% of boys and nearly a quarter of girls say they have spent at least 30 consecutive minutes viewing Internet porn on at least one occasion.

"Among youth, watching porn is not only common, becoming porn is also on the rise.

"Social media has become a display case for common teenage insecurities. Girls post videos on YouTube asking random millions if they are pretty or not. Instagram shows an endless number of provocative tween and teen bikini photos to attract the attention and jealousies of their peers. Boy-friends and girlfriends masturbate for each other on Skype. Teens use Snapchat and other apps to send nude images and videos of themselves to one another, believing it will disappear.

"For many teens, sexting is the modern day version of safe sex or flirting, a way to proudly display their sexuality to someone they love.

"Disgruntled ex-boy or ex-girl friends post sexual images of their former lover online—a phenomenon called 'revenge porn.' Sexual images like this are often the catalyst for 'slut shaming,' a vicious form of cyberbullying.

- 30% of 17-year-olds received a sext.
- 60% of teens in the UK say they have been asked for an explicit photo or video of themselves.
- 22% of young adults aged 18-24 consider porn to be good for society, and 8% of that age group actually think it is 'very good for society'.
- When used to prioritize what people consider immoral, teens and young adults consider "not recycling" to be more immoral than viewing pornography.

"Study after study shows the more

Informative Web Sites:
 (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

National Center on Sexual Exploitation
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/>
Internet Accountability and Filtering

<http://www.covenanteyes.com/e-books/>

Parenting the Internet Generation

<http://www.covenanteyes.com/parenting-the-internet-generation/>

often young people seek out and consume online porn, the more likely they are to have a 'recreational' attitude toward sex, see premarital sex in a positive light, and have sexual intercourse with a friend.

"In a study of youth between the ages of 10 and 17, researchers found a significant relationship between frequent porn use and feelings of loneliness and major depression.

"Exposure to pornography is probably unavoidable for most people, but pornography problems are preventable. Be encouraged. As a parent, there are many steps you can take to not just protect kids but prepare them for a world without filters.

"According to Dr. Patricia M. Greenfield, a researcher in the area of sexual media at UCLA, *"The most important factor in reducing porn usage among teens is a warm and communicative parent-child relationship."*

(Excerpts from 'Parenting the Internet Generation' pg. 8-10)

Download the book and learn more about that dialogue:

<http://www.covenanteyes.com/parenting-the-internet-generation/>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/>

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