

# PORNOGRAPHY & THE SEX TRADE

**Porn fuels the demand for paid sex—at the core of sex trafficking—and raises boys to be misogynistic, sexually violent, and ultimately, sex buyers.**

We can't address sex trafficking and sexual exploitation without confronting pornography. The screen between the sex acts and the viewer doesn't protect performers from industry violence, nor does it shield viewers and society from its effects. Vulnerable people are groomed into the industry and exploited on set. Traffickers also use porn to normalize abuse in prostitution. Survivors report buyers mimicking violent acts seen in porn, and links exist between porn addiction and buying sex. Porn—often misogynistic and violent—teaches boys that sex is a product and a mode of relieving emotional distress leading consumers to treat girls as sex objects and receptacles for anger and aggression.

## Exploitation Behind the Screen

**#1**

In 2020, pornography was the the number 1 venue where trafficking cases were reported within the US.<sup>1</sup>

- Men who buy sex are more likely to masturbate to pornography, imitate it with partners, and receive their sex education from it.<sup>2</sup>
- 80% of prostitution survivors said sex buyers used pornography to show sexual activities they wanted to engage in, and 52% said it taught them what was expected in the sex trade.<sup>3</sup>

## Normalizing Violence Outside the Industry

**79%**

of teens who have viewed porn said they have learned how to have sex from it.<sup>4</sup>

- A majority of teens who viewed pornography have been exposed to aggression/violence including rape.<sup>4</sup>
- A history of exposure to violent pornography among teenage boys was associated with dating violence against their partners.<sup>5</sup>
- Adolescent boys who watch porn are more likely to value girls/women only for appearance & willingness to satisfy men's desires, and believe women should obey men.<sup>6</sup>

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