

Human Trafficking and Exploitation takes on many forms. This criminal enterprise is not one that is easily defined. We are constantly researching and adapting to make sure we are staying relevant and current in order to educate on and combat human trafficking in an effective manner.

Others, outside of our organization, have also sought to become more aware of the issue and have delved into more research. While these articles are not the sole ownership or the explicit views of **Salvare Care Centre**, we greatly appreciate the work done by Dr. Zachary Rhone and his students, to further shine a light on the problem of human trafficking. We encourage you to check out these articles and read them for yourselves in hopes that you will wrestle with the material the way the students have, and encourage you to continue learning and researching along with us.

Pornography and Human Trafficking

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This article discusses the relationship between child pornography and human trafficking. Some quotes from the article:

“What viewers may not think about is that they may be watching—and, as a result, exploiting—victims of sex trafficking.”

“A trafficker can make money by selling videos of their victims to porn sites and porn sites make money by selling the videos to consumers. The more violent the video, the more money can be made from it, and the less likely a willing person would do it.”

Salvare Care Centre works hard to **investigate human trafficking**, but in some cases human trafficking occurs in the most obvious places.

Just north of Hollywood, the San Fernando Valley is known as the pornography capital of the world. “Porn Valley” made the majority of pornography through the early 2000s, and much is still made there today. Its geographical location makes it a convenient pipeline with Hollywood for aspiring, struggling, and even successful actors.

America’s pornography rage began in the San Fernando Valley, but the world has shifted dramatically from theaters, VHS, and DVDs to consumers’ fingertips. Orlando may be dubbed “The Smuttiest City” as the **largest consumer of pornography** in 2012, but people everywhere

view pornography. What viewers may not think about is that they may be watching—and, as a result, exploiting—victims of sex trafficking.

Sexual Exploitation, Pornography, and Human Trafficking

According to the **International Labour Organization's** (ILO) 2017 report, more than 4.8 billion people are sexually exploited globally, and THORN's *Survivor Insights* found that, of 260 **survivors of child sexual exploitation**, 75% of them were advertised online. In 2014, the ILO reported sex trafficking is a **\$99 billion business**, totaling about two-thirds of the global profits for forced labor. Similarly, Polaris's **Human Trafficking Hotline** reports sex trafficking (7,648 cases) as the leading type of trafficking with a combined sex and labor category ranking fourth (334 cases).

These statistics are about sexual exploitation and human trafficking, especially children. What does sexual exploitation and human trafficking have to do with pornography? The Human Trafficking Hotline identifies pornography (939 cases) as the top-ranked industry for sex trafficking, and the online ads and unknown venues category (447 cases) takes fifth place. Pornography's industry, like others, preys upon people with some of the same characteristics of trafficking victims.

The Link between Pornography and Sex Trafficking

Like any industry, legitimate or not, human trafficking relies on supply and demand. If there is demand for a product, then business owners produce a supply. From here, value of the product is determined by factors such as the cost of production and the amount of demand for the amount of supply. Viewers of pornography help to create the demand for sex trafficking, and sex trafficking provides supply for pornography.

Pornography Drives Sex Trafficking

Pornography sets the stage for what the customer wants. As *Fight the New Drug* reports from research, porn viewers can become **desensitized toward sexual violence** and, as a result, become more willing to purchase sex. A demand to purchase sex drives supply, so much so that sex traffickers can make between one to ten times a **trafficker's investment in trafficking victims**.

Sex Trafficking Feeds Pornography

A trafficker can make money by selling videos of their victims to porn sites and porn sites make money by selling the videos to consumers. The more violent the video, the more money can be made from it, and the less likely a willing person would do it.

For instance, a popular website getting millions of views as recently as January 2020 was taken down because of proven sex trafficking claims. *GirlsDoPorn* **tricked young women** into thinking that they were getting involved in a modeling video and physically forced their victims to record a pornographic video with them before letting them go. This pattern continued for eleven years before a total of \$12.8 million was ordered to be paid back to traumatized victims. **Some of the models had become suicidal**, however, for no amount of money will undo the life-changing rape and shame from the video of them being posted on the internet.

Stopping the Demand for Sex Trafficking

In essence, sex traffickers profit from pornography viewers in two ways: their trafficking victims are sold for sex acts, and their sex acts are recorded for pornography.

Many people fail to realize the true definition of sex trafficking as it applies to the porn industry. *Fight the New Drug* explains that even “professional porn performers who are tricked, forced, or coerced into performing a sex act on their ‘no’ list, or having sex with a performer on their ‘no’ list are then—by legal definition—victims of sex trafficking.” With an industry where exploiting victims makes money, the consumer is responsible for making the change. In connection to pornography and human trafficking, read about the relationship between mainstream entertainment industries and human trafficking.

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