



## **TOPIC 1:**

**Resolving the problem of sex trafficking and the  
impact of the pornographic industry on how society  
perceives women**

Committee: **UN women**

Written by: **Viktorie Voříšková**

## ***Introduction:***

Sex trafficking is a type of human trafficking and is a form of modern-day slavery. It occurs when a trafficker exploits an individual with force, fraud, or coercion to make them perform commercial sex or work. Sex trafficking is defined by the “Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000” as the *“recruitment, harboring, transformation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of commercial sex acts”*. Any type of sexual activity, even without force, fraud, or coercion, with minors involved is considered sex-trafficking.

There are grave risks and consequences when it comes to this type of sexual violence. Most victims are women and children, although men and boys are also impacted. Victims include all races, ethnicities and all income levels. They are often trapped and controlled through assault, threats, false promises, perceived sense of pretension, isolation, shaming and debt. Furthermore, victims do not have to be physically transported between locations to be victimized. Consequences of sexual violence are similar of these to sexual trafficking – physical relationship problems, psychological concerns, negative chronic outcomes and severe PTSD.

Pornographic industry plays a majorly significant role in the way society perceives women. Exposure to pornographic content is often claimed to lead to different attitudes towards women – viewing them as sex-objects rather than human beings, having unrealistic sexual-expectations and a severe ignorance of women’s pleasure. Numerous studies claim that this premise is false however, with the lack of quality research, which is caused mainly by the complexity of this issue and the vast amount of variables, such as age, race, religiosity, type of pornographic content and the way the viewer got access to it, it is difficult to be certain of the real effects that viewing pornographic content has on sexual expectations and on treatment of women (from heterosexual men specifically).

The common feminist view of pornography calls the industry demeaning to women and accuses it of contribution to violence against women, both in its production and in its consumption. Many feminists, including Andrea Dworkin and Catharina MacKinnon, argue that production of pornography entails the physical, psychological, or economic coercion on the women who perform in and further claim that the abuse and exploitation of women is rampant. They claim that pornography eroticizes the domination, humiliation and coercion of women and that it reinforces sexual and cultural attitude that are complicit in rape and sexual harassment.

On the other hand, feminists ranging from Betty Friedan, Kate Millett, Karen DeCrow, Wendy Kaminer to Jamaica Kincaid supported the right to consume pornography. Tristan Taormino, for example, claims that porn is “all about creating a fair working environment and empowering everyone involved” and that pornography can be a way to challenge

representations of men and women, as well as providing sexually empowering imagery that features many kinds of bodies.

Religious views on pornography are overwhelmingly negative. Many religious authorities claim that pornography should be prohibited. In the United States religious beliefs affect the formation of political beliefs that concert pornography.

The easy access to pornographic content via internet is an additional problem that arises with the existence of pornographic sites. Due to no or very weak restrictions children can very easily encounter pornographic materials.

### ***Facts:***

- Countries with the highest pornography rates:
  - USA
  - United Kingdom
  - Germany
  - Brazil
  - India
  - France
  - Japan
  
- Countries with the highest sex trafficking rates:
  - India
  - China
  - Pakistan
  - Cambodia
  - Eritrea
  
- California is the most trafficked state in the US.
  
- The biggest pornography companies:
  - PornHub
  - PornX
  
- Project Polaris is leading a data-driven social justice movement to fight sex and labour trafficking and the massive scale of the problem – situated in the US.
  
- The common age a child is most likely to encounter sex-trafficking is 14-16 years.

- The United Nations established the *Blue Heart Campaign*, *UNODC* and *United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking* for combating with sex and human trafficking.
- The United Nations help countries draft, develop and review laws, policies and action plans for effective fight with human and sex trafficking.
- The United Nations train and mentor people who prosecute the convicted traffickers and protect and support the victims.
- The United Nations supply studies, toolkits and model laws for training, research and policy reform purposes that provide evidence-based and up-to-date knowledge.
- Pornography is prohibited in vast majority of Asian and African countries, despite a lack of data that causes incomplete information.
- In majority of European states pornography is legal. The exemptions are:
  - Belarus
  - Bulgaria
  - Iceland
  - Lithuania
  - Ukraine
  - Vatican City
  - Russia (*only restricted*)
- There are no data on any South American country regarding legality of pornography.
- Pornography is legal in the USA and Canada, while there is a lack of data in the rest of the countries of North America.
- Australia is the only country in Oceania with legalised pornography.
- An estimate 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year, although the true scope might be much larger.

### ***Definition of key terms:***

- *Sex trafficking*: The use of force, fraud or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult or causes a minor to commit a commercial sex act.
- *Commercial sex act*: prostitution, pornography and sexual performance done in exchange for any item of value, such as money, drugs, shelter, food, or clothes.
- *Pornographic content*: portrayal of sexual subject matter for the exclusive purpose of sexual arousal.

- *UNODC* – body established by the United Nations that assists countries to ratify and implement the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

## ***Major parties and their views:***

### *Sex trafficking:*

- **USA**
  - Human and sex trafficking are illegal in the United States from October 2000 when the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* has been signed.
  - Measures against trafficking of women focus on harsher criminal legislation and punishments, and improving international police cooperation.
  - Vast campaigns and projects are designed to be informative to the public, as well as policy makers and potential victims – such as *Shared Hope International, Girls Education and Mentoring Services*.
  - 2/3 of trafficking victims in the United States are US citizens – most victims are foreign-born into the US legally.
  - Estimates say that between 15,000 to 50,000 women and girls are trafficked into the US every year.
- **China**
  - Has the second highest number of human trafficking victims in the world.
  - According to Human Rights Watch, Chinese law enforcement officers in certain jurisdictions make little effort to save sex trafficking victims.
  - *Agape International Missions* and *Blue Dragon Children's Foundation* save victims of sex trafficking in China.
- **Russia**
  - Under *Article 127 Russian Criminal Code* prohibits both trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour.
  - Many officials share a lack of initiative with respect to instigating and investigation.
  - The Russian government demonstrated very limited efforts to protect and assist victims during the reporting period. It also showed inadequate efforts

to identify victims, most assisted victims continue to be identified by NGOs or international organisations.

- The federal government did not demonstrate significant efforts to raise awareness and prevent trafficking.

- **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

- UK's government fully complies with *The Trafficking Victims Protection Act* (ranked as a Tier 1 country by the US).
- UK's authorities launched aggressive anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts to uncover trafficking and identify victims in 2009.
- Created the *National Vigilance Association* with the purpose of undertaking private prosecutions for human trafficking and alert police of those that broke the new *passee Criminal Law Amendment act* (offense to hold a woman under 21 as a prostitute).

- **French Republic**

- The government of France fully complies with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking – it continues to train prosecutors and judges to make better use of France's anti-trafficking law.
- Continual prosecution on prostitution and forced labor offenders takes place in France.
- France also increased public-private partnerships to prevent trafficking.
- However, in February 2022 *Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (GREATA)* called on the French authorities to take additional steps to facilitate and guarantee access to justice for all trafficking victims and to set up a national victim identification and referral mechanism.

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