# Stop Trafficking Newsl Awareness Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter

#### Sponsors: Sisters of the Divine Savior

#### **Co-Sponsors:**

 Adorers of the Blood of Christ ·Benedictine Sisters of Chicago ·Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica Capacitar International, Inc. ·Cenacle Sisters, N. Amer. Prov. •Congregation of Notre Dame ·Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes •Daughters of Charity, East Central Prov. •Daughters of Charity, West Central Prov. •Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg Prov. •Daughters of the Holy Spirit Daughters of Wisdom •Dominican Sisters of Adrian, MI •Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose •Dominican Sisters of San Rafael Felician Sisters Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY •Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart •Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters •Holv Union Sisters •Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary ·San Jose CA Police Department Vice Unit, Human Trafficking Task Force ·School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mankato Prov. •Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, USA Province ·Servants of Mary, Ladysmith, WI Sisters of Bon Secours USA Sisters of Charity of Halifax ·Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston ·Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY •Sisters of Christian Charity, Mendham NJ & Wilmette, IL Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus ·Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont, CA Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary •Sisters of the Humility of Mary Sisters of Notre Dame, CA Province Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur ·Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Prov. •Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Canada ·Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother Sisters of St. Anne, U.S., Canada & Chile Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs ·Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City •Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles ·Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA ·Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA •Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union USA **For Practical Action** 

See pgs. 7

## Misogyny: The Fuel of Human Trafficking

promote human trafficking.

May 2010 Vol. 8 No. 5 *This issue highlights how technology & porn* escalate misogyny in our culture and thereby

### 'Amy': Abuse Lives On in Porn

In 2009 a 20-year-old woman filed to get restitution from anyone convicted of possessing copies of pornographic images of her. Those images were the result of the horrific sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of her uncle when she was 8 years old. He also photographed the acts and distributed them on the Internet in what is now called 'The Misty Series.' The images continue to circulate 12 years later.

The woman, known now as 'Amy,' protects her real identity. She was 17 when she became aware that videos of her abuse had become Internet child porn 'classics'. She lives in fear that her friends will discover her secret. "I don't want to be (on the Internet). but I am there and it's never going away — that's a scary thought," she said. (http://www.upi.com/Top\_News/ US/2009/10/25/Child-porn-victim-seeks-restitution/UPI-79761256509369/)

### **Tiger Woods:** Addicted to Porn

Dr. Jackson Katz, an educator, author, filmmaker and social theorist who has long been recognized as one of America's leading anti-sexist male activists, commented in a recent Huffington Post blog that, "due to Tiger Woods' worldwide fame and iconic status, the publication of Woods' porn messages provides educators, parents, and anti-violence activists with a teachable moment about: pornography and its impact on contemporary American masculinity: the difference between a person's public image and their private behavior: the limits of privacy in the digital age; the importance of integrity and leadership both on and off the course/court/field; and the need for men who claim to care about their wives, girlfriends, daughters and mothers to treat them - and all women - with respect and dignity."

Amy cont. pg. 2

Woods cont. pg. 2

### Japanese Mothers Arrested for Selling Child Porn

Eight Japanese mothers in their 20s and 30s were arrested for distributing and selling pornographic images of their daughters, ages 1 through 12. The mothers sent the images to men with whom they had become acquainted through dating and other online sites.

Some of the mothers let men take pictures of their daughters and received tens of thousands of yen per session, the police said. One mother made a total of ¥3 million (\$32,000) for 60 photography sessions over a 10-year span.

The police confiscated more than 10,000 images of girls and are trying to identify all of the victims. (http://search.japantimes.co.jp/rss/nn20091230a4.html)

Editor's Note: This issue contains graphic content, used solely for the purpose of highlighting how porn has led to growing violence towards women and children.

**Amy** cont. from pg. 1 Amy's uncle is now in prison, but she is regularly reminded of his abuse whenever the government notifies her that her photos have turned up in vet another prosecution. More than 800 notices, mandated by the Crime Victims Rights Act and sent out by the federal victim notification system, have reached and retraumatized Amy since 2005.

Her lawyer decided to intervene in federal prosecutions and demand restitution. He had Amy write a victim-impact statement and hired a psychologist to evaluate her. Economists developed a tally of damages that included counseling, diminished wages and lawyer fees. The total came to \$3,367,854. To date she has filed requests in nearly 400 criminal cases asking that she receive restitution from any defendant convicted of viewing those pictures. Under the requests for restitution, once Amy receives the \$3.2 million she is seeking, she will no longer file any new claims.

The case has created a legal debate. The idea of restitution is to make crime victims whole. But in Amy's cases the question is whether the act of simply 'possessing' or looking at the illegal, pornographic images in which she appeared is directly responsible for the harm she has suffered and will continue to suffer in the future.

Amy's lawyer and most federal prosecutors agree that it is. But defense attorneys argue that the 'proximate cause' of harm to Amy and other victims of child pornography occurred at the time of the actual sexual abuse.

Though the issue has been litigated in several district courts with disparate results, it has not been decided by any appeals court. Until then individual

district judges have no binding legal guidance on which to base opinions.

District courts in California, Virginia and Alabama have fully denied restitution requests by Amy, while in Connecticut a federal judge ordered a man guilty of possession of child pornography to pay \$500 in restitution.

In the Northern District of Florida, a judge awarded Amy the full amount of her request to cover lost wages and the costs for lifetime counseling, as well as expert and attorney fees. That case, along with another, is on appeal to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Analysts for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children encountered photographs of Amy in more than 3,227 evidence reviews in child pornography investigations.

In one case, investigators found 14 desktop computers, three laptop computers, 60 hard drives, more than 4,000 compact discs and digital versatile discs, more than 3,000 floppy disks, 8 thumb drives and 36 zip disks.

In addition, they found 33 pairs of young girls' underwear, which the defendant told officers he had taken from the homes of friends and acquaintances. Because of the thousands of images found in his home the defendant is likely to be sentenced to 30 years to life in prison. He also could be held accountable for the \$3.2 million sought by Amy. The U.S. District Judge in Pittsburgh has not yet ruled.

"Every day I live in constant fear that someone will see my pictures and recognize me and that I will be humiliated all over again," Amy wrote in her victim impact statement.

"It hurts me to know someone is looking at them -- at me -- when I was just a little girl being abused for the camera. I did not choose to be there, but now I am there forever in pictures that people are using to do sick things." (Excerpted http://www.postgazette.com/pg/10101/1049563-455.stm)

### Woods cont. from pg. 1

A significant portion of Katz' work focuses on media culture and its role in the production and reproduction of social norms of masculinity. Because there has been so little discussion of the porn angle in the Tiger Woods' scandal, Katz interviewed a leading cultural theorist, author and scholar of pornography, Dr. Gail Dines. Dines' new book, Pornland: How the Pornography Industry is Hijacking Our Sexuality, is scheduled to be released by Beacon Press in July.

JK: People who are familiar with contemporary porn culture immediately recognized the language Woods was using in his sex messages to one of his 'lovers' - including his reference to DP (double penetration) and his allusion to ATM (ass-to-mouth). Yet there has been very little reference to porn in the media analysis of Woods' scandal. It's as if the influence of porn in Woods' life is hidden in plain sight. Why so little discussion of its role?

**GD:** As soon as I read the Tiger Woods' texts I knew this was a guy who liked porn. Acts like DP, ATM and choking are now commonplace, while a decade ago they would have been on the fringes of the porn industry.

I think one of the main reasons porn was never referenced in Woods' case is that many people, especially those over age 35, are really unaware of just how violent and brutal porn has become. I am always surprised in my presentations when people have an image of porn that is at least 20 years out-of-date - 'a naked young woman on a beach smiling couly at the camera.' Today, in place of coy smiles are sex acts that are violent and cruel and that push the woman's body to the limits of human endurance. Called "gonzo" by the industry, this genre gets right down to the business of hardcore sex, scene after scene.

What is astonishing today is how successful the porn industry has been in linking porn with sex to such a degree that to criticize porn is to get

#### Woods cont. from pg. 2

labeled 'anti-sex.' But sex in porn is not just sex — it's a particular representation of a type of sex that is debased, dehumanized, formulaic and generic, a sex based not on individual fantasy, play or imagination, but one that is the result of an industrial product created by (mostly) corporations.

It is bizarre to collapse a critique of pornography into a critique of sex. Think for a minute if someone was criticizing McDonald's for its exploitive labor practices, its destruction of the environment, and its impact on our diet and health. Would anyone accuse the critic of being 'anti-eating' or 'anti-food'? I suspect that most people would separate the firm (McDonald's) and the industrial product (hamburgers) from the act of eating. They would understand that the critique was focused on the large-scale impact of the fast food industry and not the human need, experience, and joy of eating.

We need to develop a critique of porn that sees it as a major form of sex education in a society awash with misogyny and violence against women. Above all, we need to stop letting the pornographers define our sexuality in ways that serve their industry but undermine our human capacity for connection and intimacy.

JK: The sex messages that Tiger Woods sent to one of the women with whom he had an affair have been reprinted in countless media outlets. Several of the messages contain openly violent and degrading language - "I want to treat you rough, throw you around, spank and slap you." "You are my #\*% whore. I want to hold you down while I choke you." "(I will) slap your face and pull your hair for making noise." It might come as a shock to

some people that this sort of language comes straight out of mainstream pornography. When did porn get so brutal and openly misogynist?

**GD:** Previous generations of boys would most likely find their father's *Playboy*, or perhaps *Penthouse*, and use these images as masturbatory tools. As much as these images sexualized and objectified women, they are nothing like those of today. Now boys' first experience is with hardcore porn images that include gagging, DP and very rough anal sex. The more men and boys use porn, the more they become desensitized and bored, and hence the harder the images need to be to keep them interested. The average age of first time viewing is eleven, so by the time they enter their early twenty's, the guys are going to be pretty jaded. *Playboy*-like images are simply not going to get much of a response if you have been brought up on 'gonzo'.

Couple this with the intense competition on the Internet for consumers and what you have is an industry always on the lookout for some new twist to add that extra sizzle. This is why we are seeing an explosion in niche markets such as 'teen porn', *black porn', 'gagging porn', and* 'bondage porn'. The goal in all of these is to heighten the debasement of the women since the more debased she is, the hotter the porn. The big question for the pornographers is what to do next. They have done practically everything that can be done to the female short of killing her.... (Excerpted: http:// www.huffingtonpost.com/jackson-katz/interview-with-porn-schol\_b\_530909.html)

Note: Katz will cover the topic of porn culture more extensively in his blog in July 2010 when Dr. Dines' book, Pornland, is released.

### What Is 'Gonzo' Porn?

Pornographic films are of two types: 'features' and 'gonzo'. Features have a story line; gonzo does not.

Gonzo's style arose from that of amateur filming where participants take turns filming and performing. Gonzo often uses close-up shots of genitalia, rather than full body shots of the feature films.

Gonzo is always hardcore pornography. Due to the explosive growth in its popularity since the mid-1990s, gonzo has attained mainstream popularity, lowering the cost of entry into the market for producers, and making it easier for amateur performers to become famous.

One trait that all gonzo films share is a much greater emphasis on intense, almost hyperactive, sexual performance. Modern gonzo is evolving toward hardcore, violent sex acts.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Gonzo\_pornography)

### Porn Films & the Internet

Pornmakers today are filming more short scenes that can be easily uploaded to Web sites and sold in severalminute chunks.

In 2006 most porn films were feature-length with story lines. In 2009, nearly half were a series of sex scenes able to be presented separately online. "On the Internet, the average attention span is three to five minutes. We have to cater to that." said a representative of a prominent porn studio.

Pornographic DVD sales and rentals in the U.S. generated \$3.62 billion in 2006. Since then sales have fallen, so big studios have turned to a subscription model, charging monthly fees for access to their Web sites and advertising the frequency with which they add new clips. (http://www.nytimes. com/2009/07/08/business/media/ o8porn.html)

## **Misogyny in Popular Music**

In 2009 Eminem released a new album, 'Relapse', which sold 608,000 copies in its first week. 'Relapse' entered the charts at #1 and was the best selling rap album of 2009. Eminem is considered the biggest selling artist of 2000-2009; Neilsen SoundScan named him 'Artist of the Decade'.

Jackson Katz writes, "The success of Eminem forces us to confront the disturbing reality that our society remains in deep denial about misogyny and its myriad manifestations in the art and commerce of everyday life. Is it truly possible that women's lives have been so thoroughly devalued that a multi-platinum musical artist with nine Grammy awards to his name can sing multiple songs about raping and mutilating women and hip sophisticates can't even bring themselves to utter the words 'woman-hating?'

Popular art succeeds, at least commercially, precisely because it resonates with a certain audience - for whatever reason - in a given cultural and historical context. In discussions of Eminem's choice to feature on his 2009 album a number of songs that explore the sadism of his misogynous would derive a twisted sort of pleasure from singing along with a first-person narrator, *Slim Shady*, who delights in terrifying, degrading, raping and murdering them? And while the reality of rape is not funny anywhere, the global reach of the U.S. entertainment industry means that boys and men can listen and laugh along to Eminem's songs in countries where the rape and mutilation of women and girls are even more common and less socially stigmatized than they are here.

Consider the tragic case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the rape and murder of women are beyond pandemic and are closer in scope to genocide. For years Dr. Denis Mukwege, a gynecologist, has operated daily on dozens of women and girls as young as two and three-years-old whose insides have been ripped apart by men who brutally gang rape them, shove sticks and bottles into their vaginas, and sadistically mutilate their sexual organs in unimaginable ways, causing the ones who survive a lifetime of excruciating pain, incontinence, disease and loneliness. In a New York Times article in 2007 Dr. Mukwege said, "We don't know why these rapes are happening, but one thing is clear. They are done to destroy women."

Is it going too far to suggest that when wealthy nations such as ours export music by the likes of Eminem to countries with that level of misogynous violence that we are practicing what might be considered a particularly insidious form of cultural imperialism?

Desensitization is one of the key effects of exposure to violence, both in media and real life. An Alternet article entitled "Torture Chic: Why Is the Media Glorifying Inhumane, Sadistic Behavior?," suggests that the increasing presence of torture in entertainment media has helped to desensitize Americans to real torture done in our name, such as in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. What does it say about our culture that Eminem's lyrics resonate with millions of American men, and even many women?

Those of us, who take seriously the feminist idea that rapists teach us something about the society that produced them, have no choice but to pay attention to Eminem - both the content and context of his 'art' – and how critics and others describe and make sense of it. With rare exceptions, men who rape are not anomalous monsters. They are products of their socialization and the deeply misogynist norms that prevail in their societies. In the long term, the only way to reduce dramatically the incidence of men's violence against women is to change the social norms that help to produce abusive men - which includes critically examining what sort of 'art' we choose to celebrate, and why.

In domestic violence advocacy, there is a term used to describe a situation where people contribute to an abusive man's behavior by their conscious actions, by their minimization of his crimes, or by their silence. It is called *'colluding with the batterer.'* It is hard to avoid the conclusion that a society where radio stations continue to play Eminem's records, people continue to buy them, and critics continue to write about them while leaving out

serial killer alter ego, *Slim Shady*, is it not relevant to mention the ongoing pandemic of men's violence against women, including the outrage of serial murder? Is it not relevant to ask why some men are so angry at women that they

#### Lyrics from Eminem's song, 'Stay Wide Awake' Fe Fi Fo Fum

I think I smell the scent of a placenta I enter central park, it's dark, it's winter in December I see my target with my car, and park and approach her tender Young girl by the name of Brenda and I pretend to befriend her Sit down beside her like a spider, hi there girl you mighta Heard of me before, see whore you're the kinda girl that I'da Assault and rape and figure why not try to make your pussy wider Fuck you with an umbrella then open it up while that shits inside ya any condemnation of their vicious sexism, is a society that is in profound collusion with the batterer. (Excerpted from Jackson Katz, http:// www.huffingtonpost. com/jackson-katz/eminem-misogyny-and-thes\_b\_211677.html)

## Antí-Human Trafficking Newsletter Awareness 8/5



## 'Empire of Illusion'

Pulitzer prize-winner, Chris Hedges, in his 2009 book, Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle, discusses the dramatic and disturbing rise of a post-literate society that craves fantasy, ecstasy, illusion and violence. Hedges argues that we now live in two societies: One, the minority, functions in a print-based, literate world, that can cope with complexity and can separate illusion from truth. The other, a growing majority, is retreating from a reality-based world into one of false certainty and illusion. In this 'other society,' serious film and theatre, as well as newspapers and books, are being pushed to the margins.

Hedges' book exposes the mechanisms used to divert us from confronting the economic, political, and moral collapse around us, including the complicity of large corporations that feed porn to those living within fantasy.

"The largest users of Internet porn, which is slowly draining

EMPIRE OF ILLUSION	
THE END OF LITERACY AND THE TRIUMPH OF SPECTACLE	
CHRIS HEDGES Passe of the Palmare Area	

away profits from magazines and DVD sales because so much of it is free, are between the ages of 12 and 17. And porn producers know their market is increasingly underage. 'The age demographic has moved downwards, especially in the UK and Europe,' explained the European director of production for Bluebird Films. 'Porn is the new rock and roll. Young people and women are embracing porn and making purchases. Porn targets the mid-teens to the mid-twenties and up.' "

"There are some 13,000 porn films made in the United States a year. According to the Internet Filter Review, worldwide porn revenues, including in-room movies at hotels, sex clubs and the ever-expanding E-sex world, topped \$97 billion in 2006. That's more than the revenues of the leading technology companies combined: Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo!, Apple, Netflix and EarthLink. Annual sales in the United States are estimated at \$ 10 billion or higher. There is no agency that does precise monitoring of the porn industry. And porn is very lucrative to some of the nation's largest corporations. General Motors, for example, owns DirectTV, which distributes over forty million streams of porn into American homes every month. AT&T Broadband and Comcast Cable are the currently biggest American companies accommodating porn users with The Hot Network, Adult Pay-Per-View and similarly themed services. AT&T and GM rake in approximately 80% of all porn dollars spent by consumers. ..." (Excerpt from Ch.2, http://www.alternet.org/ story/141675/)

### **Child Porn Statistics** Offenders

During 2006, 3,661 suspects were referred to U.S. Attorneys for child sex exploitation offenses. Of those 69% involved child pornography, followed by sex abuse at 16%. (Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/ascii/fpcseo06.txt)

#### Juvenile victims in porn crimes

- 62% female
- · 25% members of the offender's family
- •59% teens (12-17)
- 28% elementary age (6-11)
- 13% preschoolers (younger than 6)
- (From 2009 statistics, US Dept. of Justice)

(http://www.startribune.com/local/70081652.html)

### **Stages in Porn Addiction**

A clinical psychologist, who treated 350 sex addicts, sex offenders, and others (96% male) with sexual illnesses, found that pornography contributed to their addiction. As they continued to watch porn they experienced an *addiction-effect*. Once addicted, they could not throw off their dependence on the material by themselves, despite many negative consequences such as divorce, loss of family, problems with the law, etc.

Later they experienced an *escalation-effect*, in which they required rougher, more explicit, more deviant kinds of sexual material to get the desired effect. This led to desensitization wherein material (books, magazines, or films/videos) originally perceived as shocking, taboo-breaking, illegal, repulsive, or immoral eventually came to be seen as acceptable and commonplace.

Finally there was an *increasing tendency to* sexually act out the behaviors they viewed in the pornography, including compulsive promiscuity, exhibitionism, group sex, voyeurism, frequenting massage parlors, etc.. (Excerpted from Dr. Victor B. Cline, "Pornography's Effects on Adults and Children," Morality in Media (2001) published at: http://www. obscenitycrimes.org/cline\_unabridged.pdf)

### Book Resource on Cybersex

"The many personal cases make the issues vivid and help the reader grasp how serious the problems with cybersex and Internet pornography can become." Christian Perring, PhD in a review of 'Untangling the Web: Sex, Porn, and Fantasy Obsession in the Internet Age.' by Robert Weiss LCSW, CAS & Jennifer Schneider, MD, PhD. Pub. Alyson Books, 2006.

### Advocacy

### Advocate Against Porn Use

"Porn today can easily be downloaded and watched on iPhones, laptops, travel DVD players, and other mobile devices; it is in the public sphere. No generation in history has had access to so much sexually explicit and often violent material at such a young age as today's children. No one yet knows what the effects of a mobile porn culture will be on teens trying to discover sexuality for themselves."

"Mainstream pornography is created for men, and it centers around the commodification of women as sex objects and tools of male pleasure. Porn is a conversation between men about women, and it's often violent, derogatory, and sexist. The porn industry makes money off the idea of female pleasure and sexuality as a commodity, not an experience for a woman or a mutual act between two people. When women become nothing more than tools for male



pleasure, then it's ok to buy them, sell them, use them, enslave them, rape them, and traffic them. And now female sexuality is objectified and commodified to the extent that people in an airport lounge can casually watch a film of a woman being coerced into sex."

Maybe he should be asked how he thinks the women in the film are feeling, and whether or not they chose to be there. Does he know that one in five pornographic images on the Internet are of children? Does he know whether or not the people in his movie were kids when they were first filmed or photographed sexually? Does he

know about human trafficking — about the millions of women and girls, forced into the sex industry against their will each year, raped, and enslaved? Is there someone willing to talk to him? (Adapted from Amanda Kloer's blog: http://humantrafficking.change.org/blog/view/want\_to\_watch\_porn\_on\_a\_plane\_theres\_an\_app\_ for\_that)

### Advocate for Women's Equality

"One of the most 'sex-positive' things we can do is make sure men cannot buy sex, because it is violence against women and a direct deterrent to women's equality. Prostitution commodifies women's bodies; this is sexual and social subordination, wherein all women are seen as a subclass of being. Tolerating prostitution affects everyone, because the inherent inequality in prostitution becomes a reference point for sexual and social relations, which are not rooted in equality, fairness, or respect."

"I remember working indoors and men calling in and ordering a woman: 'I want brunette, small boobs, will do xxx'; or 'Asian, round face, petite.' How is it equality if women can be reduced to what amounts to ordering a pizza and picking the toppings? How are those men respecting, honoring, and valuing women?" (Adapted from Trisha Baptie, founding member of EVE - Exploited Voices Educating) (http://captivedaughters.org/2009/05/essay-trisha-baptie-former-prostitute.html)

### UN Report: Stem Global Crime

Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall victim to traffickers in their home countries and abroad. Through coercion, deceit or force, they are exploited for their labor, sex or even their organs. Almost every country in the world is affected by this crime, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. The perpetrators of human trafficking are often linked to organized crime. Yet very few traffickers are convicted and most victims are probably never identified or assisted.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime recently issued its UNODC 2010 Report. The Report highlights efforts over the past year to promote health, security, integrity and justice as the



most effective means to counteract the threats of drugs, crime and terrorism. Human trafficking is linked with many of these crimes throughout the world.

The Report reviews some of the U.N.'s efforts to stem human trafficking (pgs. 22-23) As of March 2010 the Report indicates that 137 States have ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

### Learn About the Harm of Porn & How to Fight It

Because pornographic content is easily accessible on the Internet, it reinforces the idea in children's minds that viewing pornography is commonplace, with no disadvantages or problems. New studies show otherwise. To access this information go to: http:// www.socialcostsofpornography.org/ videos.php Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter 8/5

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1.888.3737.888

Action

### **Child Porn: What Can Be Done?**

The *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* identifies child pornography as being among the fastest-growing Internet businesses. Internet pornography is a multibillion-dollar industry, and child porn accounts for 20 percent of all porn traded on the Internet. Children, consumers, families and communities all are harmed by child pornography.

The primary victims, of course, are the children who have been exploited to produce this pornography and their families, who often suffer effects for decades.

Also, the consumers of child pornography, and even those who view adult Internet porn, can develop a compulsive behavior, spending hundreds of dollars and 30 or more hours per week on the computer. Their families, work, relationships and lives are undermined by this private cyberworld as they compulsively view staggering amounts of images for a *"high"* or *"escape,"* often downloading, collecting or printing thousands of files. This is not a harmless addiction; the money paid to view child sexual abuse images fuels the sexual exploitation of children around the world.

Additionally, communities are harmed because such sites "*pornify*" childhood and sexuality. In the absence of comprehensive sexual education in the homes, churches, synagogues, mosques and schools, a young person's natural interest in sexuality is hijacked by Internet pornography.

People need to get involved.

- Go to the *CyberTipline* (www.cybertipline.com) or call 800-843-5678 for information or help regarding child sexual abuse on the Internet or otherwise. The congressionally mandated *CyberTipline* is a means for reporting crimes against children, including the possession, manufacture and distribution of child pornography and more.
- If you know someone who was exploited by having sexual images taken of them as a child or teen, have them talk to someone who can help, such as the police investigators and sexual abuse therapists who have had specialized training in such sex crimes.
- Victims of child sexual exploitation on the Internet can make a civil claim in U.S. District Court for \$150,000 per download. Called *'Masha's Law'*, this provides some recourse and justice beyond making a criminal report. Identities remain confidential. Civil attorneys who specialize in such cases are emerging.
- If you know someone who is involved in child pornography, keep in mind that it is illegal and report them to authorities.
- If you know someone who has a problem with their use of Internet pornography, help that person by referring him or her to therapists or professionals who have expertise in such potentially destructive behavior. The virtual world of compulsive adult pornography viewing can lead to the viewing of child pornography. Addiction, by definition, interferes with the ability to work, relate and love in the real world. Walter Bera, founder & director of the Kenwood Therapy Center in Minneapolis. (www.startribune.com/opinion/commentary/75287852.html)

#### Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information

related to human trafficking)

Anti-Porn website http://www.antipornactivist.com/ index.php

Jackson Katz http://www.jacksonkatz.com

Dr. Gail Dines 2007 Lecture http://video.google.com/videoplay? docid=5003155114018800220#

*The UNODC 2010 Report* http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/ about-unodc/annual-report.html

## Craigslist Profits from Selling Sex

Craigslist, the popular U.S. web site, is on track to increase its revenue 22% this year (\$36.3 million), largely from its controversial sex advertisements. That financial success is reviving scrutiny from law-enforcement since the ads are still being used for illegal ends.

Law-enforcement officials have been fighting a mostly losing battle to get Craigslist to rein in the sex ads. Officials of organizations that oppose human trafficking say the site remains the biggest online hub for selling women against their will. (http://www.nytimes. com/2010/04/26/technology/26craigslist.html)

Tell James Buckmaster, CEO of Craigslist, *"The sex ads should go!"* 1381 9th Ave. San Francisco, CA 94122 Tel: 415-566-6394; Fax: 415-504-6394; Toll Free: 800-664-0633.

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: <u>jeansds2010@yahoo.com</u>

Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS