

# Stop Trafficking !

## Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

March 2016 Vol. 14 No. 3

This issue highlights the negative impact of pornography in society, leading to the furthering of human trafficking. Help to stabilize the future for survivors is also featured.

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Over the course of decades, pornography has become increasingly available and normalized. Users, who often start out as teenagers, become adults who work as librarians, law enforcement officers, lawyers, judges, reporters, corporate executives, and Hollywood screen writers. The amount and type of pornography they consume eventually colors their judgment, values, and beliefs, which for some, becomes a perspective that ultimately affects the culture they serve. The evidence shows in fashion magazines, the offerings of cable television and Internet service providers, in popular entertainment, through the 'sexting' phenomenon, to the local grocery store checkout aisle. American culture is becoming 'porned.'



The **National Center on Sexual Exploitation** (NCOSE) is working to restore to the American culture respect for the dignity and well-being of humanity. A world where the pornified vision of reality, in which raw, brutal, debasing, violent and hate-filled themes exploit human beings for monetary gains and sexual debasement, is not tolerable.

One method the NCOSE uses to raise awareness is the annual "Dirty Dozen List," which names and shames a range of actors who contribute significantly to the normalization of pornography (as well as of prostitution and sex trafficking). The groups, agencies, and businesses named to this list are among the nation's worst for facilitating and protecting access to pornography, the pandering and profiting directly from it, or for pushing an agenda that normalizes pornography or other egregious forms of sexual exploitation. *To view the entire list for 2016, see pg. 2 and go to:* <http://endsexualexploitation.org/dirtydozen-2016/>



## Awareness

### Others on the 2016 Dirty Dozen List

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The world's largest online retailer, is known for

lightning-fast shipping, its Kindle e-reader, and selling virtually anything online. Regardless of their corporate policy, which prohibits pornography from being sold, Amazon is a world-wide facilitator of sexual exploitation.

They distribute pornography and sadomasochistic paraphernalia; their Kindle e-reader exposes children to sexually explicit images and content with incest, rape, and child themes; and Amazon Web Services hosts pornography and prostitution websites.

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/amazon/>



### American Library Association:

The ALA zealously continues to encourage public libraries to keep all public-access computers unfiltered, thereby allowing patrons, including children, to view illegal, obscene material. This has turned the once safe community setting of the public library into a XXX space that fosters child sexual abuse, sexual assault, exhibitionism, stalking, and lewd behavior in libraries across the country.

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/ala/>

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/cosmo/>



### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

has developed a policy document supporting full decriminalization of prostitution, one of the world's most disastrous approaches to the sex trade. It allows sex traffickers and sex buyers to carry out their activities as mere 'sex business operators' and 'customers.' It normalizes the sexual violence and exploitation inherent to prostitution as a form of 'work.'

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/noamnesty/>



Backpage.com is a classified advertising

website that serves as 'the hub' for prostitution advertising through its 'adult entertainment' section and provision of free basic posting of such ads. Facilitating such advertising enables sex traffickers to remain anonymous, while simultaneously granting them access to a wide audience in which to market adults and children for illegal commercial sex acts.

According to 51 State Attorneys General (including Guam and American Samoa), many cases of sexual trafficking involving children are directly related to the posting of these ads.

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/backpage/>



This staple of the supermarket checkout line is a porn magazine. Cosmo hyper-sexualizes fashion, and glamorizes things like public, anal and violent sex. It carries pornography in nearly all its issues and web content. As long as Cosmo persists in normalizing pornography and sexually risky behavior, it is time for it to be covered like all other pornography magazines in retail stores.

### Department of Justice:

The DOJ refuses to enforce existing federal obscenity laws against pornography, despite the fact that these laws were previously enforced and upheld by U.S. Courts. Since 2008, no enforcement actions against illegal obscenity have been initiated by DOJ. In 2011 former Attorney General Eric Holder dismantled the Obscenity Prosecution Task Force.



For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/doj/>



HBO, a division of Time Warner, is an American

premium cable television network. For years HBO has pushed boundaries in its programming, by providing increasingly graphic depictions of pornography and sexual violence as entertainment. Its popular series 'Game of Thrones' has pushed these boundaries to the extreme with copious amounts of gratuitous nudity and sexual violence.

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/hbo/>



These coffee stands originated in Seattle with a business model based on sexual objectification. Young women wearing only panties, thong underwear, other lingerie, or bikinis ostensibly serve coffee. However, the pornified working conditions result in frequent sexual harassment of staff; have been associated with indecent exposure and prostitution; and are an affront to public decency and health. Sexpreso cafes bring the strip club atmosphere to the neighborhood coffee shop.

For ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/sexpressocafes/>



## Awareness

### Others on the 2016 Dirty Dozen List

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Verizon Communications, the largest U.S. wireless communication

s service provider, profits from sexual exploitation each year through pay-per-view movies and dedicated pornography channels on its Fios TV services, as an Internet service provider, and wireless carrier. Verizon has defended their decision to offer incest, child, and trafficking-themed pornography as a benefit to their customers.

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/verizon/>



The most-popular video-sharing site in the world has become a place

where pornography and other explicit content is easily accessed and often promoted, despite YouTube's strict terms of use.

Google's YouTube does little to monitor or restrict this content and makes it very difficult for users to report it.

For examples of the problem, as well as ways to take action, go to: <http://endsexualexploitation.org/youtube/>

### 'Snapchat' & 'Snapcash' What is 'Snapchat'?



'Snapchat' is a mobile app that allows users to send and receive photos and videos, which will disappear after a few seconds of the recipient viewing them. Photos and videos taken with the app are called 'Snaps'. Users can also share 'Stories'. 'Stories' string 'Snaps' together to create a narrative that lasts for 24 hours. To create a 'Story', a user chooses to add their 'Snaps' to their 'Story'. Depending on their privacy settings, the photos and videos added to a 'Story' can be viewed by either all 'Snapchatters', just the user's friends, or a customized group, whereas 'Snaps' are viewed only by a user who is personally sent the 'Snap' by the sender.

Parents should learn about this app and prepare kids with digital safety guidelines. Parents need to understand the tools their kids are using and use these tools together with their kids.

### What is 'Snapcash'?

'Snapchat' partnered with payment processor, 'Square', in November 2014, to develop 'Snapcash', a way to easily send money to a user on 'Snapchat'.

'Snapcash' allows users to send each other quick payments for pictures and videos that allegedly disappear shortly after they are opened. Transactions range around \$1 to \$5, but 'donations' or payment for personalized 'sex shows' can delve into the double digits.

Users' debit cards must be linked to 'Square', a partner with 'Snapchat', for 'Snapcash' to work. Despite Square's terms of use, 'Square' is no stranger to commercial sex. The company has served as the payment platform for persons in prostitution primarily in the Silicon Valley area for years.

### Why is 'Snapchat' on the Dirty Dozen List?

Founded in May 2011, 'Snapchat' is one of the most popular social media tools with 100 million daily active users, 65% of users upload content – 'Snaps' or 'Stories'. 71% of users are under age 25. A survey of 2014 high school seniors revealed that 46% of them were using 'Snapchat' daily and 77% of college students use the app daily. There are approximately 6 billion daily 'Snapchat' video views (compare that to Facebook, which has 8 billion video views per day).

NCOSE recognizes that the founder and executives of 'Snapchat' claim the site was not made for the purpose of sending 'sexts' (or nude 'selfies'), though this is disputed by some. Their current terms of use (TOU) technically prohibit the sending of pornographic content, a condition added in 2014 after much controversy. Surveys show that a majority of users use the app most often for innocent picture conversations.

However, tech experts and social media users share a different view from the 'Snapchat' PR team about how thousands (mostly young people) are using the app. Since the app's launch in 2011, thousands of media and tech safety articles (15,000 in Google News Search on 2/22/16) explain that the app is used to send explicit material. Many of the pornographic images on 'Snapchat' are created and distributed by children and many of these images end up on third party websites. Many falsely believe their 'Snaps' will remain private. However, 'Snaps' have been hacked and recipients can easily take screenshots to save and further distribute.

The New York Times recently reported that many porn performers and strip club employees are using 'Snapcash' to earn money from nude videos and photos of themselves. In addition many individuals, including teenagers, who do not routinely engage in the sex trade, have used 'Snapchat' for 'sexting' and 'Snapcash' for selling self 'Snapchat' cont. pg. 4

### How 'Snapchat' works:

<https://support.Snapchat.com/ca/howto>  
<http://www.verizonwireless.com/mobile-living/tech-smarts/what-is-Snapchat-how-to-use-new-features/>  
<http://mashable.com/2014/08/04/Snapchat-for-beginners/>



## Awareness

### 'Snapchat' *cont. from pg. 3*

made pornography. In fact, minors have been criminally charged with distributing or creating child pornography through 'Snapchat' over the last several years.

### What Are the Harms of 'Snapchat'?

'Snapchat' is not safe. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) estimates that 88% of self-made sexually explicit images are 'stolen' from their original upload locations, such as laptop webcams or phones. 'Snaps' from those under age 18 are legally considered self-produced soft-core/hard-core child pornography, depending on what is depicted, and is therefore liable to criminal or civil prosecution.

It is important to recognize that tweens and teens do not have fully developed psychosocial skills, such as the ability to weigh risks. Also, individuals are frequently enticed, pressured, and even bullied by their peers to create and send 'Snaps. Predatory adults groom minors by seeking sexual images of and even sexual encounters with children. Many 'Snapchat' images find their way onto 'revenge' porn sites.

### 'Snapchat' and 'Snapcash' Used for Explicit Material:

(+) For references, as well as ways to take action, go to:  
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/'Snapchat'/>

"According to a report in The Register, 'Snapchat's 'Snapcash' feature has spawned a new business sector for amateur porn artists and those who want to enter into the porn industry.

The Register found examples of aspiring porn actors, who simply asked for donations in return for flashing their nude bodies and sex acts. The money is then transferred by 'Snapcash.'

'Snapchat' was built on a concept of making 'sexting' less risky, despite numerous revelations that the photos shared to the 'ephemeral' service might not actually disappear. While the company has tried to crack down on adult content on the app, including banning several high-profile 'Snapchatters' last fall, 'sexting' still runs rampant. And for many people, snapping with strangers is an outlet, and a way to express themselves without any strings attached. Of all the forums that exist to facilitate sharing sexy content on 'Snapchat', 'r/DirtySnapchat' is probably the most legitimate and least graphic. Others boast tens of thousands of responses in threads bursting with graphic photos and promises of lascivious content associated with a 'Snapchat' handle. Often these threads contain demographic information, and, somewhat troubling, descriptions of 'Snapchatters' who are in their teens." (+)

"...Unlike social media, which unfolds in public, Company X (so referenced by NCOSE) is limited both in terms of people and availability of content. Company X uses 'Snapchat,' but caps the number of people that can sign up per performer (what Stone calls the "theater") at 3,000, adding a sense of exclusivity to the already ephemeral product...Initially, Company X considered using 'Vine' as well, but given Twitter's recent porn ban on its video clip-sharing service, it looks like Company X will be limited to 'Snapchat' use only. According to 'Snapchat's

community guidelines, which ban 'Nudity or sexually suggestive content involving minors (people under the age of 18),' the 18 and over Company X is within bounds and free to operate." (+)

A scan of the hashtags #Snapcash and #Snapchat on other social media sites like Instagram and Twitter reveal thousands of posts cross promoting 'Snapchat' users who regularly post sexually explicit content. NCOSE documented 7, 552 posts on Instagram on 2/17/2016 using the hashtag #Snapcash. A majority of these posts encouraged followers to find them on 'Snapchat' and send 'Snapcash' to receive more explicit photos and video.

### Why Was 'Snapchat' Not on Prior Lists?

While NCOSE warned of the dangers of 'Snapchat' it felt with the launch of 'Snapcash' and surveys indicating that its development is commonly used to monetize sexually exploitive messages, 'Snapchat' now belongs on the Dirty Dozen List of leading contributors to sexual exploitation in America.

'Snapchat', along with 'Square', is now profiting handsomely from the distribution of pornographic messages through its app, which went from reported revenue of \$3 million in 2014 to a projected revenue of \$50 million in 2015. A major contributor to this growth is the development of the feature 'Snapcash'.

While not all 'Snapchat' users engage in sending or receiving sexually explicit content, it is a growing market as the demand for pornography reacts to the 'Snapchat' supply. 'Snapchat' should enforce its policies against pornography and provide easy ways for users to report sexually exploitive content for removal.



## Advocacy

### Seizure of Sex-Trafficking Websites & Resulting Felony Charges Against Accused Sex Buyers

In January 2016 felony charges were brought against a Seattle-area network of 12 sex buyers. The investigation by the King County Sheriff's Office and Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Bellevue Police Department, and the FBI centered on a group of high-frequency sex buyers who used the Internet and social media to build and perpetuate a market for prostituted women in the Pacific Northwest.

Organizers used the 'TheReviewBoard.net' website and two other sites as platforms for sex buyers to share their experiences buying prostituted people, provide information on how to access secret brothels, and encourage members to visit specific prostituted persons—actions that law enforcement officials recognize as 'promotion of prostitution,' a felony charge usually reserved for pimps and traffickers. Officials also closed 12 brothels and freed 12 women, trafficked from South Korea and forced into prostitution.

(<http://www.kingcounty.gov/Prosecutor/news/2016/january/raid.aspx>)

**Demand Abolition** is committed to eradicating illegal commercial sex in the U.S. by focusing on the buyers who fuel the sex trade. Working with a vast network of stakeholders, **Demand Abolition** is catalyzing a cultural shift to one that holds sex buyers accountable for fueling the sex trade, and provides vulnerable people opportunities beyond paid sexual exploitation.

*"This is the first time that sex buyers who use these notorious online review sites are being charged with the felony offense of promoting prostitution," said Lina Nealon, founding director of Demand Abolition. "The severity of the charges underscores the central role buyers play in causing so much harm to vulnerable people who are being sold for sex in cities and suburbs across this country. Without the buyers' money, pimps and traffickers would have no incentive to prey on women and children," Nealon added. "When you increase the risks for the buyers, you deter more of them and shrink this vicious market."*

Leaders of the Seattle-based **Organization for Prostitution Survivors** (OPS) stated, "It all comes down to demand. If you want to end commercial sexual exploitation and its harms you have to go after the guys who buy." (<https://www.demandabolition.org/press-release/seizure-of-sex-trafficking-websites/>)

### A Look Back at 'Dirty Dozen' History

#### Dirty Dozen 2013

Eric Holder, Attorney General	Comcast	Facebook	Google Play
LodgeNet	Hilton	Twitter	American Library Association
Wikipedia	Cosmopolitan	Barnes & Noble	Dept.of Defense

<http://endsexualexploitation.org/dirtydozen-2013>

#### Dirty Dozen 2014

Eric Holder, Attorney General	Verizon	Sex week	Playstation
Facebook	Barnes & Noble	Hilton	American Library Association
Google	Tumblr	Fifty Shades of Grey	Cosmopolitan

<http://endsexualexploitation.org/dirtydozen-2014>

#### Dirty Dozen 2015

American Apparel	CKE Restaurants	Facebook	Fifty Shades of Grey
Hilton	Sex Week	American Library Association	Backpage
Cosmopolitan	Dept. of Justice	Verizon	YouTube

<http://endsexualexploitation.org/dirtydozen-2015>



## Advocacy

### Victories: Off Dirty Dozen List

U.S. Government Departments, businesses and media companies listed on the Dirty Dozen List over the years were judged remiss in not using their influence and power to prevent the spread of pornography in the culture.

They need to be challenged by concerned citizens who understand the relationship between sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

In some cases, businesses did realize their complicity and took steps to correct that. The following are examples:

- **American Apparel** stopped using nudity and blatant sexual acts in its advertising for clothing and took extensive measures to remove these types of ads from its online and print catalogues.

- **Comcast** improved usability and tightened the parental control settings for cable users.

- **The 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 work spaces take place for all military branches.

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

- **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.

- **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 our 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 is expected to be in full-force by July 2016.

- **Hyatt Hotels** revised their brand standard to stop profiting from all in-room pornography film offerings and has demanded that all of their properties comply in 2016.

- **InterContinental Hotel Group** will perform an audit of their more than 4,800 properties around the world and is insisting 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.

- **Verizon** removed the child-themed and slavery-themed movie titles they were offering through their FIOS TV.

- **Walmart, RiteAid, Food Lion** and other retailers moved 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.

(<http://endsexualexploitation.org/dirtydozen-2016/>)





## Advocacy

# Challenges for Trafficking Survivors: Financial Stability and Housing

## The Challenge of Financial Stability

In December 2015 the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a division of the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) conducted a webinar on the financial challenges facing human trafficking victims.

Speakers were Colleen Owens, of the Urban Institute and one of the authors of the study, *“Understanding the Organization, Operation and Victimization Process of Labor Trafficking in the United States and Identifying Challenges to Improve the Investigation and Prosecution of State and Local Human Trafficking Cases.”* The other speaker, Jon Vosper, Deputy Director in Phoenix, AZ of the International Rescue Committee, represented the organization that assists labor trafficking victims with financial needs.

During the webinar they explained the consequences of chronic financial instability, which causes high degrees of day-to-day stress and limits any person’s ability to save and invest money so as to build a secure future.

Human trafficking survivors face even more challenges. Besides suffering from hopelessness, fear and a sense of being overwhelmed, trafficked survivors may experience poor literacy, lack of resources, job instability, insecure housing, or even homelessness. They may be working under the table, lack any kind of employment benefits, find difficulty in navigating the health care system, lack understanding of banking requirements, and be unsure where to find trustworthy social services.

Sex trafficked survivors may also suffer the consequences of having criminal records, be in some type of debt bondage because perpetrators used their identity and credit cards. They may be struggling with mental trauma and be discriminated against because of sexual orientation, race or ethnicity.

Back wages are rarely awarded in labor trafficking cases. Therefore, labor trafficked survivors most probably lack funding for legal aid, in addition to lack of job experience and low levels of formal education. They cannot qualify for education loans or for starting a small business. These people may be forced to undertake further low wage jobs or be tempted to try at-risk jobs.

Agency advocates for these clients must identify what their financial inadequacies are, define concrete outcomes to

Guide cont. pg. 8

## The Challenge of Finding Housing

In February 2016 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) hosted a national joint listening session to address the intersection of trafficking and the need for housing and social services for survivors. The listening session was conducted in order to:

- Understand the challenges facing housing and social service providers in meeting the needs of adult survivors of human trafficking and those at risk of trafficking for safe and appropriate housing and support services,
- Recognize best practices in housing and supportive services for trafficking survivors, and
- Help identify potential changes in policy, technical assistance, outreach, or other areas to better assist housing and social service providers to effectively meet the needs of this population.

## ‘Safe Shelter Collaborative’

When a survivor needs urgent help, finding available emergency shelter can often include phone calls to find available beds, white boards to track responses, and survivors reliving the trauma with each re-telling of their story.

The Safe Shelter Collaborative increases the number of available beds and streamlines the process for finding them. It provides:

- Training and support to organizations that may be in a position to provide shelter but do not have expertise working with survivors of human trafficking.
- Technology tools to help those searching for shelter on behalf of survivors to more quickly find available beds in appropriate shelters.
- A service to access funding for hotel nights when traditional shelter is not available.

Increasing the number of knowledgeable agencies that can provide client-centered care is key to decreasing the time it takes to find available shelter for survivors of human trafficking. Agencies interested in expanding their services to support survivors of human trafficking will have opportunities to attend trainings offered by professionals in the anti-trafficking field.

Collaborative cont. pg. 8



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### Guide *cont. from pg. 7*

clients so they achieve financial stability.

Even with a wide array of available, high-quality social services, individuals with limited financial capability — defined as the capacity, based on knowledge, skills, and access, to manage financial resources effectively — struggle to succeed in self-help programs that translate progress into lasting economic change.

In response, innovative organizations have begun integrating financial capability services into their other programs. The initial results have been promising: clients not only show gains around financial capability itself, but they also achieve better outcomes in the programs into which the services have been integrated. Across the U.S. and in diverse programs — workforce development training, community college, health programs — clients who received integrated financial capability services were more likely to stick with, and succeed in, their other programs.

Although financial capability integration into other services is a relatively recent innovation, its early successes have generated growing interest among many practitioners.

The ACF has made available a tool for agencies dealing with such clients. Entitled 'Building Financial Capability: A Planning Guide for Integrated Services,' the Guide is aimed at community-based organizations that serve low- and moderate-income clients, including trafficked survivors.

It is not a resource to give clients. Its core audiences are directors and managers who have responsibility for strategic planning and program design. The Guide walks the reader, step by step, through the process of building such clients' financial capability by integrating financial capability services into existing programs (e.g., housing, workforce development, family services) that clients are already using. For best results organizations should create a planning team to lead the process.



See the Guide at:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocs/afi\\_resource\\_guide\\_building\\_financial\\_capability\\_final.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocs/afi_resource_guide_building_financial_capability_final.pdf)

Survivors, when interviewed, indicated that financial help to meet their short term basic needs was available.

However, what they felt they really needed, that was not available, were ESL classes; scholarships for school, especially vocational/technical school; mentoring programs and apprenticeships; career counseling; and resumé building and job search assistance.

### Collaborative *cont. from pg. 7*

When an individual needs shelter, a professional responsible for placing survivors sends one notice that reaches participating regional agencies. The notice includes enough non-identifying case information so an agency can respond with a placement.

When there is no available shelter and the agency has protocols in place to use hotels as emergency alternative housing, a case manager can send an alert to potential donors via SafeNight, a free downloadable mobile app, to pay for a hotel stay.

*"SafeNight allows us to place people whom we would not normally shelter and it allows our clients space and time so we can serve as many people as possible. As a smaller organization that does not have 24/7 staffing, SafeNight helps expand our resources."*

Jeanne Spurr, Alternatives to Violence, Red Bluff, CA

The Safe Shelter Collaborative creates a responsive, community-based network of support that deploys existing shelter resources and unlocks new funding streams. Member agencies have access to tools and resources that streamline services, provide funding, and expand the capacity of participating agencies to serve survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Support for work in the anti-trafficking arena comes from the Partnership for Freedom and collaboration with Polaris. Through training, advising, and ongoing technical assistance, Sanar builds the capacity of organizations participating in the Safe Shelter Collaborative to provide trauma-informed and survivor-centered support to survivors of human trafficking.

Support for our work with domestic violence organizations is from Microsoft Citizenship, Blue Shield of California Foundation, and Vodafone Americas Foundation. In Texas, the work has been supported by United Way of Metropolitan Dallas and AdvanceNet Labs. (<http://www.safesheltercollaborative.org/>)





## Action

### Starwood & ICH Hotels Will Remove Pay-Per-View Pornography

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) has been working to get the hotel industry out of the business of selling pornography. Omni, Drury, Ritz-Carlton, and Marriott Hotels have long been out of pornography distribution. NCOSE thanks them for their leadership.

Hilton Worldwide was listed on NCOSE's 2015 Dirty Dozen List for their sale of on-demand pornography included as part of their guest room television offerings. In 2015, Hilton Worldwide met with NCOSE and announced that they were changing their policies and would no longer seek profits from sexual exploitation. Following this development, NCOSE contacted Hyatt Hotels which quickly agreed to also change their policy.

NCOSE then alerted Starwood Hotels (Westin, Sheraton, Four Points, Aloft, Le Meridien,) and InterContinental Hotels (ICH) Group (Holiday Inn & Crowne Plaza) they were a target for the 2016 Dirty Dozen List, noting that many other hotels had already gotten out of the business of distributing hardcore pornography.

Starwood executives replied:

*"Thank you for raising your concerns to us. As you may already know, Starwood is deeply committed to enriching the communities in which we work and live by being a respon-*

*sible corporate citizen. Like you, we condemn all forms of exploitation of men, women and children, and our Human Rights Policy acknowledges and respects the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This policy is publicly available, and reflects Starwood's commitment to conduct its business in a manner consistent with these principles and to protect human rights within the company's sphere of influence. We are already taking actions to eliminate adult video content from in-room entertainment offerings, by working with our video content providers and our hotel owners."*

Starwood alerted NCOSE on February 10, 2016 that they officially changed their policies regarding their distribution of pornography on January 1, 2016. They are currently working to remove pornography offerings from all existing cable vendor contracts worldwide on all 1,270 properties. InterContinental Hotels Group also changed their policy recently. It is now a growing taboo in the hotel industry to profit from sexual exploitation.



## Thank Major Hotels for Getting Rid of Pornography

Use the convenient form on the following link:  
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/starwood-promised-to-change/>

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

**National Center on Sexual Exploitation**  
<http://endsexualexploitation.org/>

**Demand Abolition**  
<https://www.demandabolition.org/>

### Did You Know?

Existing federal law prohibits the distribution of obscene material (hard core adult pornography) on the Internet, on cable/satellite TV, hotel/motel TV, in retail shops, through the U.S. Mail, and by common carrier. Most state laws also prohibit the distribution of obscene pornography.

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

**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!*

[www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm](http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm)

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