

Motion M-47

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M-47 - That the Standing Committee on Health be instructed to examine the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men, recognizing and respecting the provincial and territorial jurisdictions in this regard, and that the said Committee report its findings to the House no later than July 2017.

Key Issues

- Easily accessible violent and degrading sexually explicit material is both a **public health issue** and a **women's equality issue**.
- Child and adolescent exposure to violent sexually explicit material is a **form of child abuse**.
- **40 years of academic research** has revealed that exposure to violent sexually explicit material is harmful to physical and mental health, especially to adolescents.
- Almost **90% of mainstream sexually explicit content** feature violence towards women.
- **78% of women** surveyed believe that sexually explicit material encourages society to see women as sex objects.
- Adolescents who viewed violent sexually explicit material were **six times more likely to self-report engaging in sexually aggressive behaviour**.

Purpose of M-47

- Combat violence against women and girls.
- Increase child protection online by reducing accessibility of violent sexually explicit material.

M-47 – Supporting Organizations

- Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
- Rehtaeh Parsons Society
- Native Women's Association of Canada
- Hope for the Sold
- Beyond Borders ECPAT Canada
- National Center on Sexual Exploitation
- London Abused Women's Centre
- Persons Against Non State Torture
- Canadian Coalition to Empower Women
- Ratanak International
- [free-them]
- Child Pornography Hurts
- Joy Smith Foundation
- Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
- Defend Dignity
- Fortress Foundation
- ARPA Canada
- Signal Hill



M-47 – Meta-Analysis Research

A 2010 meta-analysis¹ of over 40 academic studies published in the Journal of Aggressive Behaviour on sexually explicit material and the impact on violence against women found:

'In contrast to the earlier meta-analysis, the current results showed an overall significant positive association between pornography use and attitudes supporting violence against women in nonexperimental studies. In addition, such attitudes were found to correlate significantly higher with the use of sexually violent pornography than with the use of nonviolent pornography, although the latter relationship was also found to be significant.'

A 2012 meta-analysis² published in the Journal of Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity of over 70 academic studies found:

On violent sexually explicit material

'...the risk of harm that is evident in the literature has led researchers to investigate adolescent exposure to online pornography in an effort to elucidate these relationships.'

'... consistent findings have emerged linking adolescent use of pornography that depicts violence with increased degrees of sexually aggressive behavior.'

On mental health:

'The literature does indicate some correlation between adolescents' use of pornography and self-concept. Girls report feeling physically inferior to the women they view in pornographic material, while boys fear they may not be as virile or able to perform as the men in these media.'

'Adolescents also report that their use of pornography decreased as their self-confidence and social development increase.'

'Additionally, research suggests that adolescents who use pornography, especially that found on the Internet, have lower degrees of social integration, increases in conduct problems, higher levels of delinquent behavior, higher incidence of depressive symptoms, and decreased emotional bonding with caregivers.'

¹ Hald, G.M., Malamuth, N.M., & Yuen, C. (2010) Pornography and attitudes supporting violence against women: Revisiting the relationship in nonexperimental studies, *Aggressive Behavior*, 36, 14-20.

² Owens, E.W., Behun, R.J., Manning, J.C., & Reid, R.C. (2012). The impact of internet pornography on adolescents: A review of the research. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 19, 99-122.