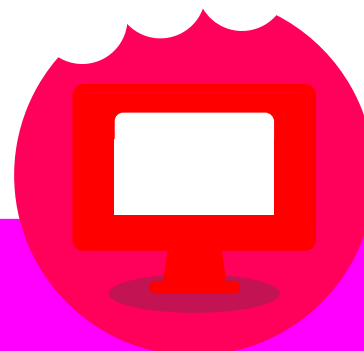


Pornography

Pornography has become incredibly accessible, anonymous, and affordable in recent decades. It's widespread use is affecting individuals, families, and society as a whole. How should the government respond?



Starting Point:

God created every human being in his image. This gives humans inherent dignity and worth which separates human beings from all other creatures. Pornography is inherently degrading and dehumanizing to individuals. Pornography and sexual exploitation harm vulnerable people and reduce a beautiful and unique person to a commercial object.



Harms of pornography:

- > Pornography destroys relationships and marriages, creating positive attitudes towards extramarital sex and causing a decrease in relational affection and intimacy.
- > Pornography is addictive, causing similar changes to the brain as other addictive drugs.
- > Pornography is increasingly dominated by violent, degrading, and deviant themes. Habitual users become less excited by the same type of images and need more shocking and extreme images or narratives to continue to satisfy their desire.
- > Pornography is closely linked to sex trafficking. Women are often trafficked for the purpose of pornography.
- > Online sites used as a platform for pornographic content are highly susceptible to abuse and exploitation.

Current law:

Canada's *Criminal Code* only mentions pornography in the context of child pornography. However, obscene publications are also prohibited, meaning any publication featuring sexual exploitation, cruelty, or violence. This law is not adequately enforced and should be applied to much of the violent and degrading pornography available to Canadians today.



For more information on this issue, check out ARPA Canada's policy report on Pornography!



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