

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.



Recent Developments:

Other countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, France, and multiple U.S. states are seeking to restrict online pornography, particularly by blocking children's access and removing illegal content. In Canada, legislators are debating ways to limit pornography access for minors and ensure pornography sites verify the age and consent of those shown in pornographic images and videos.

Questions to ask:



- #1 Did you know that pornography has been shown to be as addictive and harmful to users as other hard drugs?
- #2 How will you seek to protect vulnerable Canadians, especially women and children, from the harm and exploitation of pornography?
- #3 In what ways can Canada limit online pornography?

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