

## You're A Prude! And Other Pornogander - How To Counter the 'PMS'

The same arguments are put forward to justify all aspects of the **Porn/Sex** industry & **Media** objectification – or **PMS!** Whether you are talking about the 'soft end' of the spectrum, like Page 3, or the more extreme end, like prostitution. The arguments might become more powerful the further along the spectrum you go but essentially they are all the same.

What's more, If you think about, they consist either of **a) Soundbytes** or **b) Name Calling**. So it is good to be able to use Sound Bytes (although perhaps not name calling!) as well as in-depth arguments back. Here are some examples. If you can come up with some of your own send them in! [no@notbuyingit.org.uk](mailto:no@notbuyingit.org.uk)

### 'It's Empowering'

In a way, this is one of the hardest to answer because, well, what does this actually even *mean*? But here are some choice answers

"Funny how it's 'Power Dressing' and 'Empowerment Undressing'"

"But it's men who have the power in our society. And they sure didn't get it by getting their kit off"

"It's only empowering coz everyone keeps telling us it is!"

"How Come it isn't empowering for Men then?"

"We live in a society that basically tells little girls from the day they are born that women are empowered by taking off their clothes and wrapping their implants around the nearest available pole, so of course when a (slightly) older girl does do that it feels empowering to her. After all, she's been told that all her life"

"Why is it empowering to be bought for a few £ to 'sexually display' for a man?"

"It's funny how for every other species it is the males who put on a sexual show for the females. Odd how for humans the absolute opposite is apparently true"

"I think people actually think women 'have power over men' by 'using their sexuality', when they say 'its empowering'. But it's not really the woman who has the power is it? It's the billionaires who run the industries that she's a 'product' in (porn, lap dancing, prostitution) that have the real power, isn't it"

"Women don't have any real sexual *power over* men – 1 in 4 women are sexually assaulted. It's men who have power over women and who, sadly all too often, use it"

"What exactly about it is empowering for women? That a woman can get a man turned on? But aren't we told that men 'think about sex every 6 seconds' and 'get turned on by anything in a skirt', so how really is that much of an achievement?"

"What is empowering? That you can get a drunk man who's hoping for sex turned on when you're a half naked, very young woman, heavily made up and gyrating around a pole, exposing your genitals or grinding up and down on his crotch. Of course he's going to be turned on. So?"

**You could also try turning the tables and ask 'what do you mean empowering? How is it empowering? Can you explain?' And then pick one of the arguments above to answer with.**

It's Just a bit Of Harmless Fun

Again, if you start to break this down into *what* does this sound byte *actually means*, you can start to unpick the argument..

"Just fun. Is that all.. so not sexual at all? Are you gay?"

"It's a bit of fun, you mean she's a just bit of fun, a joke and by extrapolation so are all women"

"Just a bit of fun' yeah with the woman as the butt of the joke, no pun intended"

"If a young, attractive woman is getting her clothes off it's more than 'Just Fun' isn't it. It's obviously sexual as well"

**But Actually it isn't 'just harmless fun', It harms *the women in it*:**

"Don't be taken in by the Sound bytes. Even women who've done something as innocuous as Page 3 talk about how harmful it actually is - how they were treated like cattle, the eating disorders, the damage it did to their self confidence when their whole worth depended only on how they looked, how they offers came in from porn, all the time. How men acted like they owned them. If even Page 3 isn't harmless how can any of it be?"

**But Actually it isn't 'just harmless fun', It harms *all women*:**

"we all seem to accept that the fashion industry glamourizing extreme thinness is harmful for all women and girl's body image, so how on earth is Page 3 or stripping or porn suddenly *not* harmful. In fact, it's even more harmful as it's not just your body that has to look a certain way, you're also being highly sexualised and your 'sexiness' always has to be a certain way"

"But worst of all it harms all women because of the attitudes it creates and cements in men, in boys. That it is their absolute right to buy women sexually, often very cheaply. That women are silly, simpering, submissive and inferior. That the purpose of women is to sexually arouse men. The men have absolute rights over women. That 'no means yes' and yes means rape me'. **#HarveyWeinstein**

It's Freedom of Expression

"Fine go express yourself, for free in the privacy of your bedroom or whatever. The minute there's money and paying strangers involved it's no longer 'free' is it and it's no longer about 'freedom'. It's a commercial transaction that tells men they have sexual rights over women"

"It's not freedom of expression. Its Freedom of Profit"

"In the 1980's the porn/sex industry was carefully twisted into a form of 'free speech' by the powerful porn lobby. You're just being used by them"

Prude!

"Actually it's the sex industry that's pretty prudish .. on the one hand 'the girls' are 'dirty' and 'filthy' on the other hand they have to be immaculately clean, scrubbed to an inch of their lives - no sweat or body hair here, thank you very much!"

**Women  
Choose It**

The minute someone says those 3 little words 'freedom of choice' or 'freedom of expression, you've got 'em. Genuine 'Choice' has to be *genuinely* 'freely made' and 'properly informed'. The PMS has worked exceedingly hard to make sure neither of these are the case

**What Free Choice do women really have?**

'What Choice? We groom our little girls literally from the day they are born on page 3, women's mags, TV ads, MTV and even porn – bombard them with the message that their entire worth as human beings is about looking good, getting your clothes off and putting on a sex show for men. How then can any woman NOT 'choose' to do porn/Page 3/ stripping etc. How is THAT a real choice'

'How Many women would chose it if it wasn't constantly glamourized to them and held up as 'empowering'

'There is no *free* choice in a society that literally grooms our girls for the soft end of the porn industry'

aw the 'Choice Card'. But how much free choice to any of us have? You can get someone to 'choose' anything through social pressure especially when that starts from the day they are born:

**How Can anyone Genuinely 'Choose' something if it is not an *Informed* Choice?**

'Women, usually teenage girls let's not forget, can't make an informed choice when they are not told about the realities and harms of the industry can they? Instead it is constantly glamourised to them'

'How many young women would *choose* porn if they knew they were likely to get anal tears, Hep B (from eating faeces) and a host of other STDs and be 'used up', broken, drug addicted and wrecked within a few years'

**It's Women's  
Right to do it**

**We've already talked about why women might 'choose to do it' which very much weakens the 'it's their right argument'.**

'But it's not just about the women who do this is it? It's about all women and how the supposed 'right' of a few has a devastating effect on the rights of others in the industry who are horrifically harmed by it and on *all* women'

**You're Anti Sex !**

"It's Porn that's anti sex"

"Love Sex. Hate Porn!"

"But Porn isn't about sex, it's about sexual violence - 90% of porn shows violence against women (hitting, choking, strangulation alongside having sexual insults screamed at you non stop). Sexy huh"

**It's Women Expressing  
their Sexuality**

"er..You mean it's women expressing *men's* sexuality"

" Convenient how women's sexuality is, and only ever is, getting your kit off and putting on a sex show for men!"

**It's Men's  
Right**

.. To use porn/go to strip clubs/buy sex etc

"Is it? Really? You won't find the 'right to porn' anywhere in any human rights conventions!"

"Why do we think it is a *right* to watch 'people having sex' or to ogle over naked young women in our newspapers?"

**Women Get Loaded from it**

**Actually they don't**

"Actually it's usually pretty hard to even make ends meet but of course the PMS likes to hold up a few (probably carefully placed examples like Jordan) to make us think that all women do really well out of it"

"It's funny how the PMS is the only industry with no real 'career progression' for nearly all the young women in it. After a couple of years you're 'too old', old hat or burned out"

"Take Porn: The absolutely overwhelming majority of women in porn, that's 10,000s maybe 100,000s of women around the world every year get 'burned out' within a couple of years. Having to do more and more abusive porn, double anals, fistings, arse to mouth, gang bangs until they are a washed out shell and cannot work in porn or anything else any more.

"Page 3 girls' make a just few £100s per photoshoot. Doesn't seem a lot to me for a 'career' that's only going to last a few years until you're 'over the hill'

**So?**

"and even if some women do make lots of money from it, it doesn't make it all ok"

"Funny how a capitalist argument is used to justify what we are also told is the height of 'free speech', 'sexual expression' and 'liberalism'. Seems like the industry is trying to have it both ways"

"Even if women do well out of it, so what? That doesn't justify the PMS. Slave owners did very well out of slavery thank you very much, that doesn't make slavery 'A OK' then does it?"

"What about all the many, many who don't do well? What about the effect on men's attitudes towards all women? You can't put a price on that"

**Censor!**

'Really? Aren't you the censor by trying to shout me down and make me shut up?'

'Actually the only censor here seems to be the porn/sex industry screaming 'censorship' at anyone who dares try to talk about this in order to shut them up'

'So you think none of this should be controlled then? And if you do at one point to we draw the line? At what point is it OK to objectify women (or worse, much, much worse)'