

# **Porn is Violence Against Women**

## **Response to the APPG on Sexual Violence on Pornography**

**EXXXTRASMALL - STEP BROTHER TAKES ADVANTAGE OF  
LITTLE SISTER**

**anal tears**

**HORNY BOY FUCKED HIS STEPMOM  
HEAVILY PREGNANT TEEN IS USED BY MEN**

**Amateur gets her mounth pissed**

**Real teen Crying with  
Anal pain**

**Compilation of Japanese Daughters  
Banged in Family**

**AS ABUSIVE AS IT GETS**

**Black cunt gets degraded,  
humiliated, used and abused**

**HANGING PLAY**

**electro tit torture**

**Research by Suzzan Blac**  
**Submitted by Not Buying It**

Co-signed by: Suzzan Blac, Dr Heather Brunskill-Evans, Cambridge Women Rights Action Group, Dr Coral Stokes, Cheltenham Fems, Critical Sisters, Filia, Juries, Nordic Model Now, Object, Outspoken Education, Resist Porn Culture

Images are titles from Pornhub videos, many with millions of views

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## About Us

We are a consortium of women's organisations, academics and survivors with a wealth of experience on this issue. We welcome the opportunity to speak to you about these issues in particular \*, alongside everything else in this document.

## Recommendations

### 1. Preventing Underage Access to Porn

- Ensure Age Verification is successful in the UK.
- Lobby urgently for age verification at the Global Level.
- Do not allow Mindgeek, the company behind the world's largest porn sites, Pornhub, Redtube and YouPorn, to be part of the age verification process.

### 2. Ending Access to Abuse Porn

- Ensure *all* porn currently non-R18 classifiable (*ie over 90% of porn*) is prohibited under BBFC guidelines and blocked by ISPS.
- Urgently instigate a large scale, long term public awareness campaign to expose the abusive reality of porn and why it must be banned and to counter the porn lobby 'arguments'.
- This to include urging the mainstream media to stop acting as a 'mouthpiece' for the porn industry.
- Work with women's rights groups and pressure groups, with decades of experience of this.
- Work at the global level to end access to (and production of) abuse porn.

### 3. The Sex Industry

- Adopt the Nordic Model.
- Relook at current legislation around the soft end of the sex trade, lap dancing, which is failing women in clubs, failing local communities and failing wider social attitudes towards all women. \*

### 4. In Addition

- Use the #TimesUp and similar movements for prolonged public awareness over the harm of the objectification/pornification of women and girls and work towards its universal end (from the music industry to the press through to porn) because without this *it will never be* times up.
- Properly resource NGOs who challenge objectification and the porn and sex trade, who typically have to fight against the might of these industries with little or no resources.
- Use equality law (such as the Public Sector Equality Duty, PSED) to ensure media regulators (who are public bodies, legally bound by the PSED) comply to end excessive sexualisation, the advertising of the porn and sex trade and the distribution of all abuse porn.
- This includes the ASA (who currently allow sex ads in newspapers), IPSO (with an appalling track record on the portrayal of women and ethnic minorities), the BBFC (if it does not end access to all abusive porn) and, we would suggest, *all 'self regulatory' internet giants*. \*

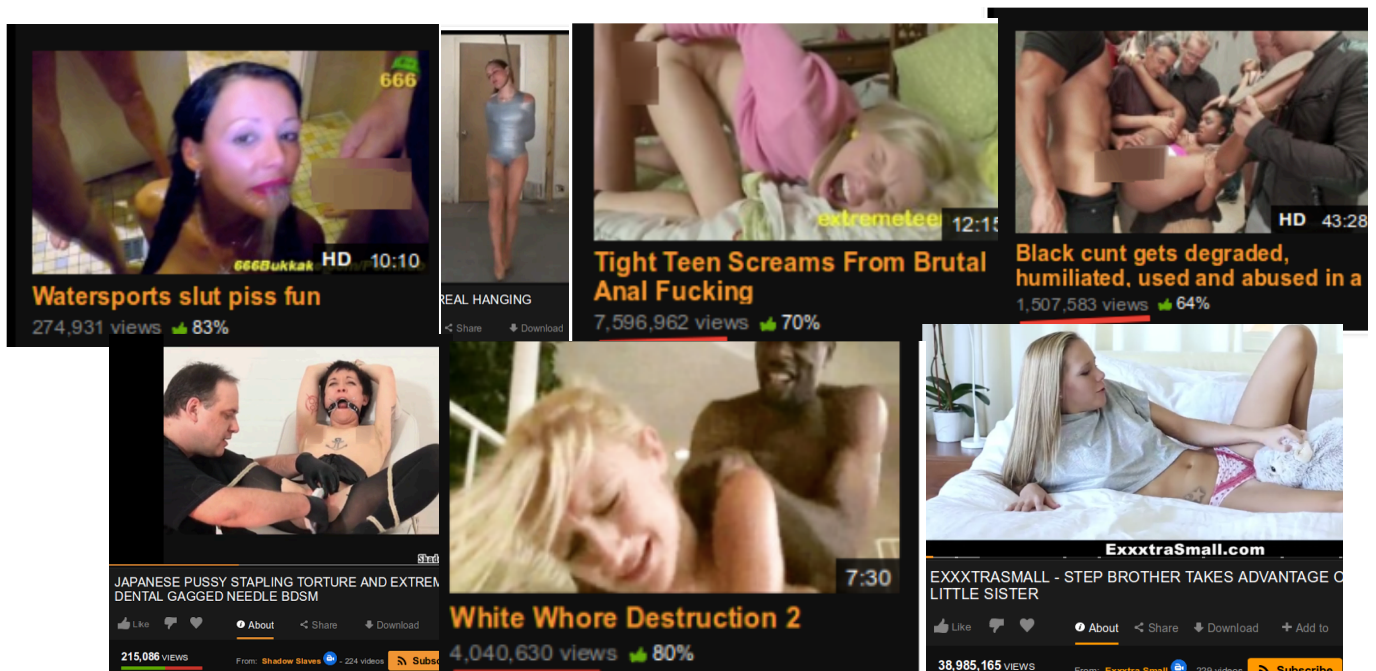
## 1. Porn *is* Sexual Abuse – Will this now be Blocked in the UK?

It has been illegal to possess and distribute extreme violent porn and child porn for many years. In 2014 the Communications Act was extended to bring on-demand internet porn in line with the R18 classification applied to porn in videos or sex cinemas<sup>1</sup>. This means that on-demand online porn considered too abusive to be given an R18 certificate includes:

- Actual or simulated urolagnia, clear and deliberate restriction of a person's ability to breathe<sup>1</sup>
- Acts that depict and encourage rape, including gang rape; depict non-consensual violent abuse against women; promote an interest in incestuous behaviour; and promote an interest in sex with children.<sup>2</sup>
- Material which is in breach of the criminal law, including material judged to be obscene under the current interpretation of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 (see Annexe)<sup>1</sup>
- Material (including dialogue) likely to encourage an interest in sexually abusive activity which may include adults role-playing as non-adults<sup>1</sup>
- The portrayal of sexual activity which involves real or apparent lack of consent. Any form of physical restraint which prevents participants from indicating a withdrawal of consent<sup>1</sup>
- The infliction of pain or acts which may cause lasting physical harm, whether real or (in a sexual context) simulated. Some allowance may be made for moderate, non-abusive, consensual activity<sup>1</sup>
- Penetration by any object associated with violence or likely to cause physical harm<sup>1</sup>
- Sexual threats, humiliation or abuse which do not form part of a clearly consenting role-playing game. Strong physical or verbal abuse, even if consensual, is unlikely to be acceptable<sup>1</sup>
- Underpinning the BBFC Guidelines is a specific requirement of the Video Recordings Act to have special regard to any harm that may be caused to potential viewers, or, through their behaviour, to society<sup>3</sup>

### i. Violence Against Women in the *Production* of Porn

At least 90% of internet porn *is* abuse<sup>4,5</sup> of exactly the nature outlined above and clearly in breach of the Communications Act 2014 and the R18 certificate:



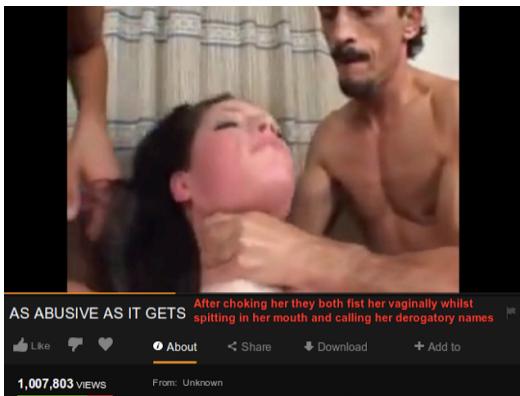
<sup>1</sup> Age Ratings You Trust pg 24 BBFC Age Ratings You Trust:

<sup>2</sup> Press statement by BBFC: [http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/murray-perkins/digital-economy-bill-the\\_b\\_13581312.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/murray-perkins/digital-economy-bill-the_b_13581312.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bbfc.co.uk/about-bbfc/faqs>

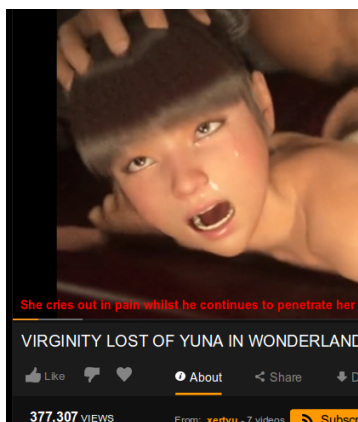
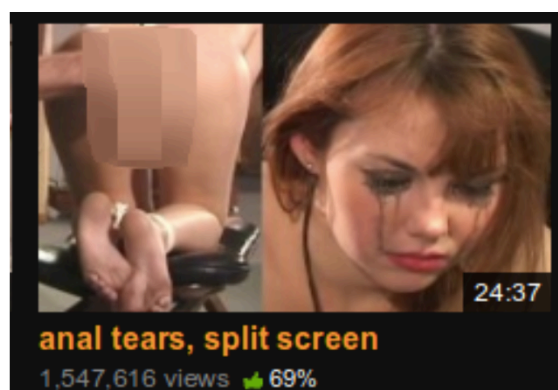
<sup>4</sup> The level of abuse in mainstream porn is exposed here. Warning disturbing: <http://theviolenceofpornography.blogspot.co.uk>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20980228>



Essentially *all porn* shows the sexual abuse of women with women screaming and sobbing in pain during brutal and clearly non-consensual sex often by groups of men (aka gang rape). Those who are not reacting in this manner have often dissociated. Breath restriction (whether manual strangulation, including to the point of asphyxiation; gagging, choking, vomiting on penises and other objects or by 'cling film' or 'vacuum sex') is commonplace and clearly not carried out to enhance the experience of the woman but as an abusive power trip for the men involved. The entire purpose of the porn is to abuse the victims (often teenage girls). **All of this is non-R18 compliant.**

The titles of the porn alone demonstrate the abuse involved: 'extreme anal abuse', 'every hole wrecked', 'anal tears' means exactly that; 'hear her scream and cry' means 'hear her scream in pain', not with pleasure. In fact it is hard to find a video on the world's largest porn site, Pornhub, that is *not* described in this manner. And from the posts of the men who watch and are aroused by this, it is obvious that it is the victim's pain and fear and the physical and emotional damage done to her that provides the stimulation. The sex is secondary. **All of this is non-R18 compliant.**



'Incest porn' is some of the most popular porn, with individual videos viewed 50, 60 or 70 million times. Urination ('water sports') is rife. **All of this is, by definition, non-R18 compliant.**

A significant volume even depicts (very realistic) computer generated child porn, young women posing as children and, we believe, many videos of real child abuse (with viewing figures in the millions). Extreme BDSM and even on-demand torture is also freely available. This includes interactive, 'Insex' porn – on demand torture, deemed so abusive that it was banned by the FBI<sup>6</sup>. **All of this is, by definition, non-R18 compliant or clearly qualifies as extreme porn.**

As with prostitution, teen girls enter the industry through a lack of choice, often from a background of abuse. And where women from the industry can speak out, the extreme physical and emotional trauma of what they have been put through is harrowing. If they are still alive to speak their truth that is, since the average life expectancy of women in the industry is 37<sup>7</sup>.

#### Pornstar statistics

**The average life expectancy for a porn star is thirty seven.** Many die from drug overdoses, alcohol complications, suicide and AID's.

**More than a dozen porn performers under the age of 55 died over the course of 2013.**

**Last weekend, the industry was faced with another death** as Amber Rayne was found dead in her Los Angeles home. She was only 31 years old.

**Dead porn stars**

**Dead playboy playmates**

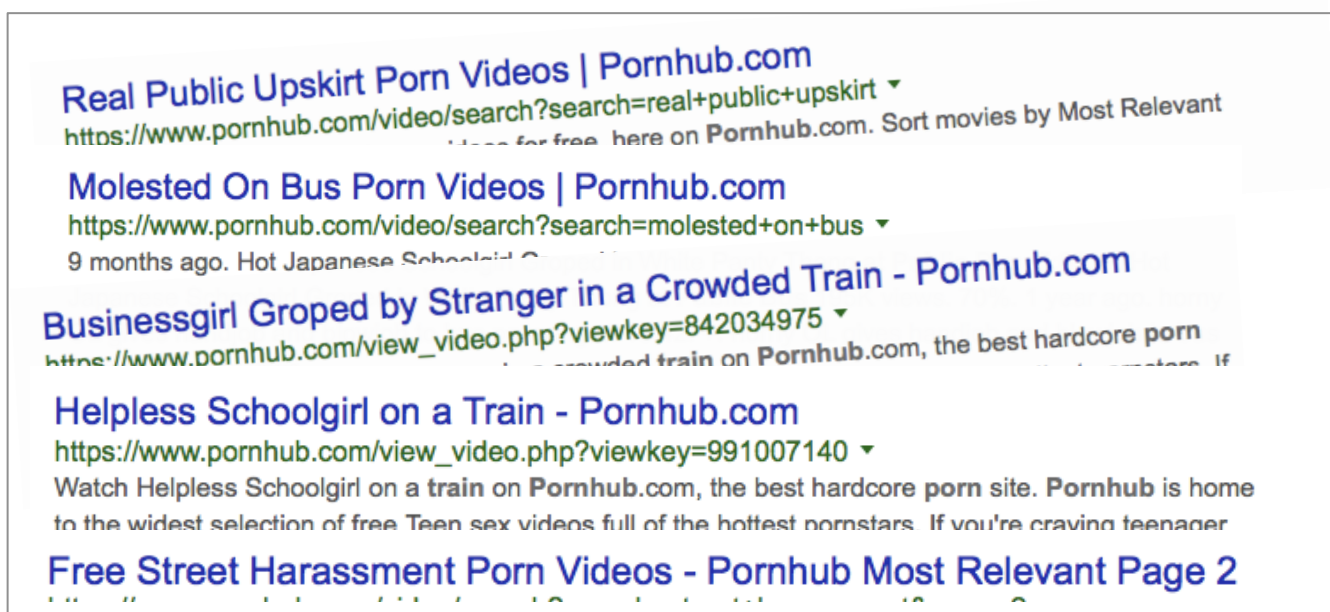
<sup>6</sup> The (Live Streaming) Torture of Women blog at <http://theviolenceofpornography.blogspot.co.uk>

<sup>7</sup> The coercion, exploitation, psychological & sexual abuse of women in pornography: <http://theviolenceofpornography.blogspot.co.uk>

## ii. Violence against Women in the *Consumption* of Porn

The harm of pornography is not just 'limited' to the millions of women and girls being abused in its production every day globally. Its consumption is having a drastic impact on real-life behavior – from a substantive increase in men's demand for painful, coerced anal sex<sup>8</sup> to women refusing to get smear tests because their pubic hairs are not shaved or their vulva does not resemble those of 'porn stars'<sup>9</sup> to an upsurge in unnecessary breast enlargement and even genital surgery requested by girls as young as 9<sup>10</sup> to resemble those of porn workers.

Against a backdrop of copious porn of 'real life' sexual harassment and assault in public spaces, at schools, at work of women and girls being groped, fingered, upskirted, ejaculated on or penetrated it becomes absolutely meaningless to talk about Times Up for sexual harassment. In fact many of the Harvey Weinstein scenarios themselves are direct 'takes' from popular pornography themes<sup>11</sup>.

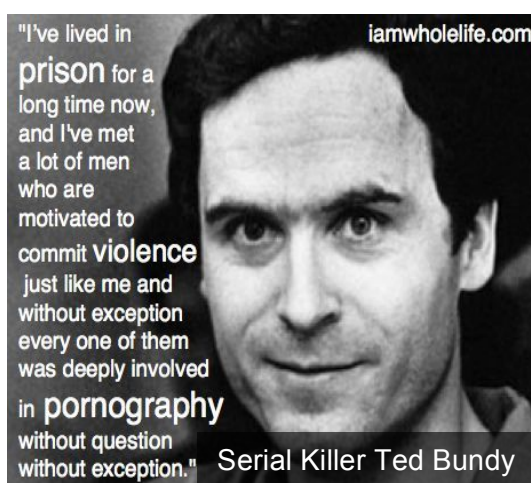


A small selection of search results when terms such as 'harassment Pornhub' are googled

There is also ample evidence that jailed sex offenders copy violent porn – indeed you would be hard pressed to find one that did not say porn had heavily influenced his crime<sup>12</sup>.

There are over 4 decades of research exposing the extraordinarily harmful impact of porn consumption on men's attitudes towards women, including its link to rape and sexual assaults. This is summarised in this submission to the Women and Equalities Committee<sup>13</sup>.

Since men are physically (and typically socially) stronger than women, *any man* is capable of harming a woman. *The only thing that stops men from abusing women is their attitudes*. That is why anything that undermines - or



<sup>8</sup> Medical Institute for Sexual Health: <https://www.medinstitute.org/2016/08/the-consequences-of-heterosexual-anal-sex-for-women/>

<sup>9</sup> BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-42747892>

<sup>10</sup> BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40410459>

<sup>11</sup> Warning Disturbing Contents: <http://theviolenceofpornography.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/pornhub-eroticises-incites-real-sexual.html>

<sup>12</sup> Violent Pornography Incites Sexually Motivated Murders and other posts at: <http://theviolenceofpornography.blogspot.co.uk>

<sup>13</sup> Porn & Harassment in Public Spaces: Response to Women and Equalities Committee (2018) [http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Porn Harms.pdf](http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Porn%20Harms.pdf)

potentially undermines - those attitudes is unacceptable. And porn clearly does just that.

In fact, as has been pointed out by renowned psychologist, Mary Anne Layden <sup>14</sup>, pornography has a far more powerful impact *than any other medium* as a shaper of behaviour. It is not only stimulating visually, it is not only stimulating sexually but men orgasm from it, making it almost indelibly inscribed into the viewer's mind. And what are men 'learning' in this way? The abuse of women. The abuse of women who have 'consented', of teenagers who are 'smiling' and if they are not that there is absolutely no need to heed her cries or screams to stop because 'she does not really mean it'.

We do not accept such abuse and its promotion of abuse against *any other group of people*. We do not accept 'pseudo' child porn or sexualised images of children because of the paedophilic attitudes they *might* promote and condone. And we do not require evidence of a direct, causal link with abuse for any other form of hate speech whether racism or transphobia. Why then is visual, sexually arousing abuse accepted when carried out by men against women? And why does it require decades of evidence of its harmful consequences to justify ending it?

Pornography, like the sex trade, has its roots in organised crime (much of the industry still does). It is a tragedy and a dereliction of all human rights treaties that its flimsy 'free speech', 'sexual liberation', 'rights' and 'empowerment' arguments were ever given credence and that porn was ever decriminalised. The predictable consequence is what we see now - the mass global abuse of women in the industry and the most potent promoter of abuse of all women.

### **iii. Regulation**

The violence in porn and its effect on attitudes are both clearly in breach of the BBFC R18 certificate for video works and thus prohibited. Our understanding is that, in 2014, BBFC certification was extended to apply to on-demand online porn. However porn too abusive for an R18 certificate has remained *the norm* for online porn.

Our understanding also is that the Digital Economy Act <sup>15</sup>, about to come into effect, means that the BBFC has powers to instruct ISPs to block 'extreme porn' in the UK.

- 1. What is the definition of 'extreme porn' under the Digital Economy Act? Does it include anything too abusive to be given an R18 classification?**
- 2. If so, is the BBFC aware that this accounts for the overwhelming majority of internet pornography?**
- 3. Will the BBFC therefore be working to ensure that all such porn is blocked in the UK by ISPs and what might be the timeframe for this?**
- 4. If 'extreme porn' does not mean 'non R18 classifiable', then how will online porn, that is clearly too abusive to be deemed R18, be regulated?**
- 5. Will all these regulatory powers also be applied to so-called 'non commercial' porn (the majority of porn on the largest porn site on the world, Pornhub, is free-to-view home made videos uploaded by men of filmed sexual abuse)?**
- 6. It should be noted that there is no such thing as 'non commercial' porn. Porn that is free-to-view clearly has considerable commercial value since the net worth of Pornhub is an estimated \$4 billion.**
- 7. If all these controls are fully enacted, is the BBFC and the UK Government prepared for the extraordinary backlash that is likely and, as academics, lobbyists and campaigners how can we be of support.**

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14 Mary Anne Layden Pornography and Violence: A New Look at Research  
[http://www.socialcostsofpornography.com/Layden\\_Pornography\\_and\\_Violence.pdf](http://www.socialcostsofpornography.com/Layden_Pornography_and_Violence.pdf)

15 The Digital Economy Act: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/30/part/3/enacted>

## 2. Do not let Industry Players be Involved in the Regulation of Pornography

### The 'Codes'

pornhub

The following types of content is not permitted on Pornhub:

- Post any Content that depicts any person under 18 years of age (or older in any other location in which 18 is not the minimum age of majority);
- Post any Content for which you have not maintained written documentation sufficient to confirm that all subjects of your posts are, in fact, over 18 years of age (or older in any other location in which 18 is not the minimum age of majority);
- Post any Content depicting child pornography, rape, snuff, torture, death, violence, or incest, racial slurs or hate speech, (either aurally or via the written word);
- Post any Content that contains falsehoods or misrepresentations that could damage the Website or any third party;
- Post any Content that is obscene, illegal, unlawful, defamatory, libelous, harassing, hateful, racially or ethnically offensive, or

### The Videos

anal tears.

Compilation of Japanese Daughters Banged in Family

HEAVILY PREGNANT TEEN IS USED BY MEN

Amateur gets her mouth pissed

HORNY BOY FUCKED HIS STEPMOM

AS ABUSIVE AS IT GETS

HANGING PLAY

Black cunt gets degraded, humiliated, used and abused

Pornhub 'Codes' are risible when every video it hosts breaches them

There is considerable speculation that Mindgeek (owner of Pornhub and other pornography giants, YouPorn and Redtube) may be involved in the age verification of porn. However:

1. It is totally unacceptable, morally, practically and in principle for any organisation involved in porn to be associated with the regulation of it.
2. The majority of porn on Pornhub is illegal, making it even more unacceptable for this company to be involved in the regulation of pornography.
3. Pornhub operates by allowing men to upload porn (filmed sexual abuse). It makes no effort whatsoever to regulate or moderate the porn that is uploaded. Hence almost every video breaches its 'codes of conduct'. 'Rape' porn is simply labeled as 'forced', 'unwanted', 'ambush' and 'surprise sex'. The 'code word' for child porn is 'Hentai' or 'Lolicon'. Incest porn is amongst the most viewed and openly described as 'daddy crush', 'step dad', 'family strokes', 'sister' etc. The graphic descriptions of the porn alone ('severe abuse', 'gagging and choking', 'brutal') indicate the abuse that is courted by the hub. And the written and oral descriptions of women are consistent with hate speech - 'sluts, whores, bitches' often with a racial hate slur. This can be readily seen on even a casual visit to the site.
4. The integrity of the BBFC and Age Verification would be totally undermined, as would public confidence in it, if any organisation related to Pornhub or any other industry player had any role whatsoever in its implementation.
5. Indeed it would be impossible to imagine that the BBFC would not be in breach of its legally binding Public Sector Equality Duties if it were to allow Mindgeek to be involved in any of its regulatory duties.

**Do not let any body or individual associated with the porn industry be involved in any way with its regulation.**

### **3. Address the Advertising of Pornography**

We have been in discussion with the ASA for 2 years urging it to end unrestricted advertising of the porn and sex trade in newspapers. The EHRC (Equality and Human Rights Commission) is currently considering whether to take this up. Obviously such advertising is even more abundant and accessible on line.

Section 21 4b of the Digital Economy Act seems to suggest the BBFC will be in charge of restricting online advertising of porn.

- 1. Can you confirm if this is the case?**
- 2. If so, will the BBFC be ensuring that porn *cannot be advertised online in a non-age restricted manner*?**
- 3. Will the BBFC also *prevent ads even in age-restricted spaces* for 'extreme' or non-R18 certifiable porn (aka the vast majority of porn)**
- 4. Can the BBFC please work with the ASA and other stakeholders (Ofcom, DCMS etc) to ensure print advertising of porn likewise becomes age-restricted?**
- 5. If this is properly enacted is the BBFC prepared for the extraordinary backlash that is likely?**

If the BBFC is *not* taking over regulation of the online advertising of porn, we will be in a situation where online porn will be age restricted by the BBFC but all ads for it will be totally unregulated by the ASA.

- 6. If that is the case, can the BBFC/Government/EHRC please work with the ASA and other stakeholders to end this scenario?**