

June 1, 2011

President and Mrs. Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Obama,

Greetings and best wishes to and your family.

We are writing to you because we know that you, like all American parents, are concerned with the protection of your children from the scourge of sexual exploitation in our pornified society. Hardcore adult pornography is pouring into our nation's communities and homes through the Internet and elsewhere and causing great harm.

We want to express our concerns about the U. S. Department of Justice and your Attorney General, Eric Holder, who, to date, has failed to enforce our nation's federal obscenity laws against commercial distributors of illegal hardcore adult pornography despite court decisions upholding these laws and overwhelming public support for prosecution.

We urge you to address this issue.

Mr. President and Mrs. Obama, now almost 20 years into the Internet Age, it has become all too clear that the scourge of illegal obscene materials is contributing to a variety of very serious harms.

- Pornography is leading to increased prostitution and sex trafficking. Not only are many of the performers in pornography trafficked individuals, but it is also used by human traffickers as grooming material to teach young trafficked girls examples of sex acts that their Johns will expect.
- Pornography is leading to an increase in child pornography because consumers of adult pornography nearly always move to harder, more deviant pornography to attain sexual excitement. As a result, many eventually turn to child pornography.
- Pornography is leading children and adults to addiction with life-long serious consequences.
- Pornography is leading to violence against women because much mainstream pornography contains material that sexualizes extreme violence against women. Recent studies show that this results in the normalization and legitimization of sexually abusive behavior in society and drives men to commit particular acts of violence towards women that they have viewed in pornography.

- Pornography is creating a hyper-sexualized culture that conditions men and boys to view women and girls as sexual objects, and grooms girls to be compliant victims.

Attorney General Holder acknowledged many of these harms in his recent testimony before the U. S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, General Holder agreed that adult pornography is leading to trafficking, violence against women, and an increase in child pornography.

The website “Pornography Harms,” <http://pornharms.com>, provides a wealth of peer-reviewed studies on these and other harms of pornography. Another great resource is www.TheSocialCostsofPornography.org, compiled by The Witherspoon Institute at Princeton University. We urge you to take time to review the harms from pornography.

The United States Supreme Court in Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) held that obscene material is ‘unprotected by the first amendment’ (413 U.S. at 23) and that obscenity laws can be enforced against ‘hardcore pornography’ (413 U.S. at 28).

United States law prohibits distribution of hardcore “obscene” pornography under various statutes. Specifically, it is a violation of U. S. law to distribute obscene adult pornography on the Internet, on cable/satellite TV, on hotel/motel TV, in sexually oriented businesses and other retail shops, and through the mail.

Mr. President, we call upon you to immediately order Attorney General Holder to begin vigorous prosecution of the major commercial producers and distributors of illegal hardcore obscene pornography.

Mrs. Obama, we urge you to speak out for the dignity and respect of every woman and child and help those exploited and harmed by pornography.

Most Sincerely,

List of Signatures

To add your name, send your name and zip code to Dawn Hawkins at grassroots@pornharms.com or sign it at www.WarOnIllegalPornography.com/petition