



...information report

PORN : HELL BEHIND THE SCENES

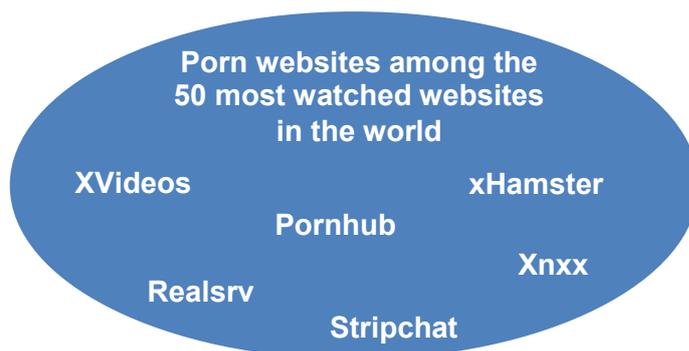
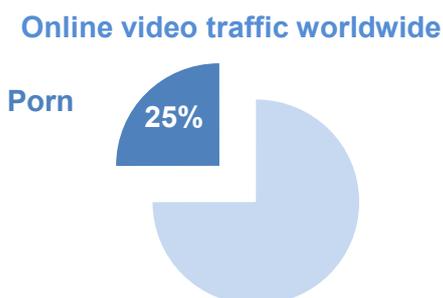
After more than six months of work, dozens of hours of hearings (including, behind closed doors, the victims in the so-called "*French Bukkake*" case) and an analysis of the main pornographic content online today, **the senate's delegation for women's rights and gender equality denounces a porn industry that generates systemic violence towards women.**

It is alerting the Government and public opinion to the scale of the phenomenon, and calling for the fight against pornographic violence and its consequences to be a priority of public and crime policy.

A SYSTEM OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN THAT IS PRESENTED AS THE NORM BY THE PORN INDUSTRY

1. Mass dissemination of porn on the internet

The porn industry was shaken up in the **middle of the 2000s** by the **appearance of the "tube" sites**, large digital platforms broadcasting thousands of pornographic videos. Their business model is based essentially on generating massive amounts of traffic, thanks to free (and often pirated) content, and the sale of advertising space.



Since the middle of the 2010s, **platforms for sharing sexual content** have also made their appearance, such as *Onlyfans* or *MYM*, whilst **social media** (*Twitter*, *Instagram*) and **private messaging apps** (*Snapchat*, *WhatsApp*, *Telegram*) have become vectors for the distribution of pornographic material.

This mass dissemination of porn has contributed to an upsurge in increasingly sordid, violent content put out without any controls or consideration of the conditions in which it is produced.

2. Productions reaching a peak in violence

a) Commodification of sex and women's bodies

Today sex is a massive, globalised business. Whilst revenues amounting to several billion dollars are concentrated in the hands of a few multinationals that own the tube sites, the number of "producers" (whose content is necessary to feed these sites) has multiplied, and there is no longer any real distinction between the so-called professional sector and the booming amateur sector.

These producers have no compunction in **exploiting the economic and psychological vulnerability** of young - even very young - women, and in **shooting content in deplorable conditions.**

*Porn:
more about money
than sex.*

90%

of scenes in pornography include violence

Sexual, physical and verbal violence is massively widespread in porn, to the point of being systemic. **The violence is not faked** but very real for the women being filmed.

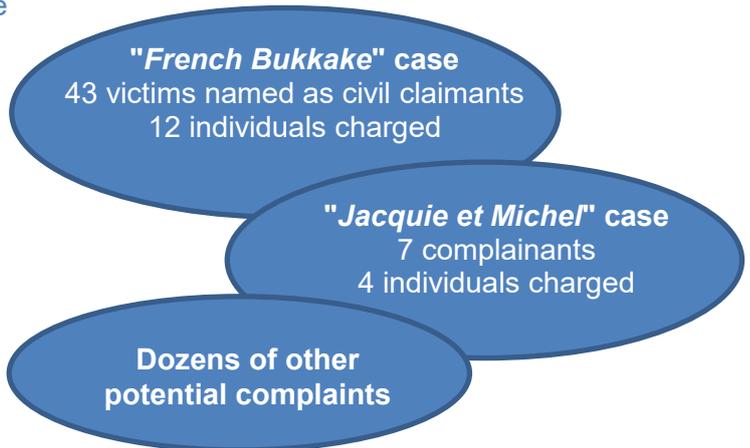
French Pro-Am (professional-amateur) producers also pressurise women into signing contracts giving them unlimited rights to use their image. **To take a video down** from their site, they are said to demand, generally, **between €3,000 and €5,000, or ten times the amount paid to shoot the scene**. Once posted online and duplicated on the tube sites, the videos are virtually impossible to take down, preventing the women filmed from exercising their "right to be forgotten".

b) The "*French Bukkake*" and "*Jacque et Michel*" cases in France represent the recently emerged part of the iceberg of pornographic violence in France

The evidence gathered from witnesses highlights similarities in:

- methods of "recruitment", which target fragile women in precarious circumstances;

- modus operandi: a first rape to put the woman in a position of "submission", a process of dehumanisation, manipulation, blackmail, control, forced sex acts, imposition of multiple partners, rapes, etc.



c) Forms of pornography that are "more respectful of people"? A drop in an ocean of violence

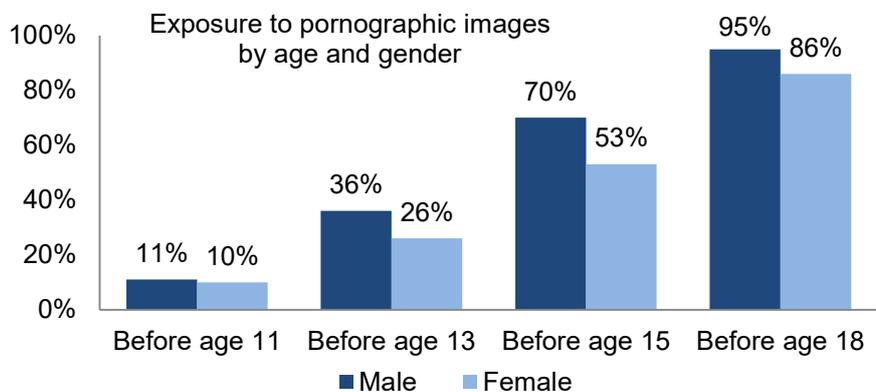
Some professionals are calling for the sector to be regulated: systematic contracts detailing the sexual practices accepted or refused, ethics code, editorial charter, presence of an intimacy coordinator on set, etc. However, in view of the sheer scale and systemic nature of pornographic violence and given the fact that by nature sexual consent is reversible at any time, these measures were considered as no more than window-dressing, and failed to convince the rapporteurs.

Although there are some producers who defend alternative practices that are more respectful of the people involved, this type of production accounts for a tiny, marginal proportion of the porn consumed today.

3. Massive, trivialised, toxic consumption among children and teenagers as well as adults

Today porn is accessible to all, free of charge, in just a few clicks, with no controls.

In total violation of Article 227-24 of the Criminal Code, **minors are being heavily exposed to pornographic images on a massive scale, both voluntarily and involuntarily.**



(source: Opinionway, 2018)

2. Facilitate the deletion of illegal content and the right to be forgotten

7. Impose fines on broadcasters, both platforms and social media, for the dissemination of illegal content.
8. Systematically accompany convictions of the producers of pornographic content with a measure clearly stating that all further dissemination of the videos in question is illegal.
9. Create a "sexual violence" category in the Pharos reporting system to facilitate and keep a better count of reported offences.
10. Oblige the platforms to comply, at no charge, with requests to take down videos made by the persons filmed and no longer only by the owners of the videos.

3. Apply the law on the ban on access by minors and protect young people

11. Give the staff of the audiovisual and digital regulator ARCOM powers to officially record offences committed by pornographic sites accessible to minors.
12. Give ARCOM the power to issue administrative fines, the amounts of which are high enough to be dissuasive, to pornographic sites accessible to minors.
13. Oblige pornographic sites to display a blank screen until the age of the user has been verified.
14. Include in the ARCOM guidelines demanding criteria for evaluating technical solutions for age-verification mechanisms.
15. Require the development of age verification systems that will serve as intermediaries between the web user and the sites consulted, with a dual anonymity system as proposed by the PEReN and the CNIL.
16. Establish an independent process for evaluating and certifying age verification systems.
17. Enable parental controls by default, when a phone subscription is taken out for use by a minor.
18. Conduct a communication campaign on parental controls.

4. Educate, educate, educate

19. Within each regional education authority, publish an annual assessment of the application of the law on sex and relationships education and appoint an education authority delegate on equality and sexuality.
20. Address subjects relating to the commodification of the body and pornography as part of sex and relationships lessons.
21. Recruit health professionals trained in health education and project management to work in schools.
22. Take measures, both in schools and on social media used by teenagers, to ensure that pupils are aware of the resources available to respond to their questions relating to sex and relationships.
23. Raise awareness among parents and conduct a communication campaign on the government platform jeprotegemonenfant.gouv.fr.



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Read the report:

