

From the association *Stop au porno*,

To the attention of the honourable members of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics.

Versailles, France, February 15, 2021

1. **Our association, based in France, has been combatting pornography and the hypersexualization of society since 2018.** Every day, we see the ravages of pornography and we are constantly alerting public authorities to the issue.
2. **The harmful effects of pornography on people's mental and physical health no longer need to be demonstrated.** Furthermore, pornography repeatedly promotes violence against women and, more generally, sexual violence.
3. The word pornography comes from the Greek word πορνογράφος [pornográphos], itself derived from πόρνη [pórnhê] meaning "prostitute" and γράφω [gráphô] meaning "to paint," "to write" or "to describe." It therefore means depicting or illustrating prostitution, a practice in which individuals sell the use of their bodies and of their genitals to others.
4. Pornography, as currently exploited by the industry, is similar to filmed prostitution.
5. **Pornography is inherently transgressive.** It systematically seeks to push boundaries. Producers, actors and consumers of pornography know this: pornographic content deemed extreme in the year 2000 is now considered commonplace, while what is extreme today will be commonplace in one or two decades.
6. **On pornographic sites such as Pornhub, owned by MindGeek, the words and categories "teen" and "barely legal" are among the most searched.** The pornography industry therefore plays on semantic ambiguities and legal vagueness to make money. Not only do these ambiguities incite moral or ethical transgressions, but they also incite legal transgressions.
7. **Recent revelations in *The New York Times* and other sources about the distribution of stolen videos, videos of non-consenting relations or child pornography videos on Pornhub, owned by MindGeek, demonstrate these transgressions that extend to criminality.**
8. MindGeek, as well as other pornography companies, moderates these pornographic sites poorly in order to maximize its profits. It has regularly denied the charges against it. However, it removed 10 million videos from its platform in December 2020, implicitly acknowledging its responsibility for the distribution of illegal content.
9. We at the association *Stop au Porno* believe that the honourable members of the Parliament of Canada's Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics cannot trust MindGeek or other pornographic platforms to regulate themselves.
10. MindGeek's pornographic content is freely available to children worldwide. The platform is aware of this and has taken no action. It is in the best interests of children and families that it be stopped.



11. **In terms of the lack of moderation and the distribution of illegal content, it is up to the Canadian authorities to take all the necessary measures to stop it.** To this end, defining the “ethical” or moral framework of this industry should not be left up to MindGeek or any other players, but to the honourable members of the Committee and of the Parliament of Canada.

Association *Stop au porno* (France, law of 1901)  
[www.stopauporno.fr](http://www.stopauporno.fr)

