



MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS  
DES NATIONS UNIES  
À NEW YORK

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

Délégation aux  
**DROITS DES FEMMES** 

CSW69 HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT  
ORGANIZED BY THE FRENCH SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

VIOLENCE IN PORN = VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.  
UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING PORNOGRAPHY'S SOCIETAL IMPACT.

CONCEPT NOTE

**Sponsoring State:** France

**Lead organizations**

- [French Senate's Delegation for Women's Rights](#)
- [French National Assembly's Delegation for Women's Rights](#)

**Point of Contact:** Mathilde Dubourg – Administrator at the French Senate's Delegation for Women's Rights – [delegation-femmes@senat.fr](mailto:delegation-femmes@senat.fr)

**Date:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of March 8:30-10 am.

**Venue:** Permanent Mission of France to the UN. Maximum capacity: 60.

**Languages:** French and English. Interpretation in these two languages will be provided by the French Senate.

## Background

**In today's digital age, pornography has become universally accessible, free of charge, and available to anyone in just a few clicks.** The proliferation of "tube" websites, alongside the rise of social media and private messaging platforms, has enabled the mass dissemination of pornographic material. Pornography now accounts for an estimated 25% of global online video traffic, underscoring its deep integration into digital consumption habits.

This ubiquity, coupled with the commercial imperatives of tube websites that need to constantly renew their contents, has led to the production and widespread dissemination of increasingly violent and degrading content. Most critically, this content is often produced without oversight or regard for the conditions under which it is created.

New forms of pornographic contents have also emerged, including **deepfake pornography**.

**90 % of scenes in pornography include violence<sup>1</sup>. Porn eroticizes violence and relations based on domination**, which it presents as the norm. It propagates and encourages sexist, racist and homophobic stereotypes. **The violence is not faked but very real for the women being filmed.**

While a small subset of producers advocates for ethical, consensual practices, their output represents a very marginal fraction of the pornography consumed today.

**Violent porn is accessible to all, even children**, without any control in most countries in the world. According to a study led in 54 countries worldwide<sup>2</sup>, the average age of first exposure to sexually explicit content online is just 13 years old and online sexual harms against children are occurring everywhere.

**The consequences of visualizing such violent content for young people are numerous and worrying:** trauma, sleep, attention and eating disorders, a distorted and violent vision of sex, difficulties forming relationships with members of the opposite sex, early (hyper-)sexualisation, development of risky or violent behaviour, etc. These effects are not limited to minors either - porn also has an impact on adults and how they see themselves, women and sexuality.

**In numerous sexual assault cases, including the recent infamous Pelicot / Mazan trial in France, the defendants are proven to have massively consumed pornography.**

The harmful consequences of massive, trivialized and toxic consumption of pornography, and specifically violent pornographic contents, are increasingly better documented<sup>3</sup>. However, these issues remain under-addressed at both the national and international levels.

## Objectives of the event

This event aims to

- **raise awareness about the societal impact of pornography**, particularly its violent content. It will highlight the role of pornography in normalizing sexual violence and perpetuating harmful stereotypes about women and girls and explore the psychological and societal consequences of violent pornographic content, particularly on young people;
- **encourage action and advocacy** and strengthen the commitment of governments, international organizations, and civil society to tackle this issue;
- **foster dialogue on policy solutions** by providing a platform for policymakers, experts, and advocates to discuss strategies for regulating pornography and its access to minors. It will review examples of national regulations and analyze their effectiveness, challenges, and areas for improvement;
- **promote international cooperation**: a global collaboration is needed to address the transnational nature of online pornography and develop shared guidelines and best practices.

Questions that will be addressed:

- What are the latest research findings on the societal and psychological impact of pornography, particularly on young people?
- What are the real-world implications of violent pornography on individuals, relationships and society as a whole?

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<sup>1</sup> [Fondation Scelles « Système prostitutionnel - Nouveaux défis, nouvelles réponses »](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.weprotect.org/economist-impact-global-survey/>

<sup>3</sup> Including a report *Porn: hell behind the scenes* by the French Senate's delegation for women's rights <https://www.senat.fr/travaux-parlementaires/office-et-delegations/delegation-aux-droits-des-femmes-et-a-legalite-des-chances/archives-1/missions/pornographie.html>

- What measures can be taken to hold the pornographic industry accountable for the production and distribution of violent content?
- What kind of regulatory frameworks can be implemented to protect children from exposure to pornographic contents?
- How can educational programs raise awareness among children and teenagers about pornography's harmful aspects?

By addressing the intersection of pornography, violence, and gender inequality, this event aligns closely with the mission of the CSW to combat systemic barriers to women's rights and dignity and advance global gender equality.

## Program (1h30)

8h30-8h40 Opening Remarks

- **Aurore Bergé**, French Minister for Equality between Women and Men, and Fight against Discrimination
- a **UN Women High-Level Representative** (TBC)

8h40-9h40 Panel Discussion (5 panelists, each speaking for 6 minutes, followed by an open exchange)

Moderator and introduction on **France's Call for Action: Laurence Rossignol**, French Senator, co-author of the French Senate's report on the porn industry<sup>4</sup>, former Minister for Families, Childhood and Women's Rights

- **The Documented Harms of Pornography:** overview of research findings on the societal and psychological consequences of pornography  
→ **Gemma Kelly**, head of policy & public affairs at CEASE (Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation), UK
- **Testimonies Exposing the Reality of the Porn Industry:** firsthand accounts from an organization supporting victims of the porn industry and shedding light on exploitation and abuse  
→ **Maina Cerniawsky**, vice-president and spokesperson for the French NGO *Osez le féminisme !* (OLF)
- **Policymakers' Perspectives:** discussion on legislative actions taken or to be taken to better protect women and children  
→ **Dominique Vérien**, French Senator, chairwoman of the Senate's Delegation for Women's Rights  
→ **Christine Jardine**, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West, deputy chair of the Women and Equalities Committee of the UK Parliament  
→ **Jin Sun-mee**, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, former Minister for Gender Equality and Family

9h40-9h55 Q&A with the audience

9h55-10h Closing Remarks

- **Delphine O**, French Ambassador, Secretary General for the Generation Equality Forum (Beijing+25)

<sup>4</sup> [Porn : hell behind the scenes](#), September 2022.