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Absolutely “Radical” Pornography

Thank god, this state is finally doing something right! This is what I would have said if our policy makers were feminists or better yet the leader of the Free World, the U.S. president, was a feminist, someone that real truly cares about women’s rights. That dream is something we are so far away from that we finally, after years of feminist movements and rights women had fought for, have the great choice to elect a women into the white house. There are so many feminism issues that a feminist in office would look into, such as a radical or liberal feminist president on the problem of pornography in the world.

Pornography is despicable and an appalling depiction of women in humiliating and submissive poses. Not only that, but it encourages violence because it includes women enjoying the violence and other disgusting acts that are happening to her. Even in pornography that is thought to just be sex there are hints of violence thrown into the mix. The majority of the time dominance over women screams through every minute of the movie. Speech is also a problem with pornography because the words used by the men in the films verbally abuse women and make people think it is ok to call women these hurtful names. These names are such words as whore, slut, or bitch. With these words pornography demeans women and with the hints of violence it causes real harm to women. All feminist would want to stop the oppression of women, but the strength of

punishments toward something like pornography are different for each branch of feminism.

Radical feminism simply views patriarchy as dividing rights, privileges and power primarily by gender, and as a result oppressing women and privileging men. Radical feminists tend to be more militant in their approach. Radical basically means getting to the root of the problem. Radical feminism opposes existing political and social organization in general because it is inherently tied to patriarchy. Thus, radical feminists tend to be skeptical of political action within the current system, and instead support cultural change that undermines patriarchy and associated hierarchical structures. Radical feminism opposes patriarchy, not men.

There are two different branches of radical feminism. These two are libertarian radical feminism and cultural radical feminism. The difference between the two is first that libertarian radical feminism desire to be masculine and feminine at the same time. Radical-Libertarian feminists believe that femininity and reproduction limit women's capacity to contribute to society. Radical-Libertarian feminists like to violate sexual norms and believe that women should control every aspect of their sexuality. They also advocate artificial means of reproduction so that less time is devoted to pregnancy and more time is devoted to worthwhile things. They are strong promoters of abortion, contraceptives and other forms of birth control.

In addition, they long for androgyny. Androgyny means to have both male and female characteristics. Libertarian radical feminist women should essentially be androgynous.

Also, they don't believe in the stereotypical aspects of the patriarchal society. Women should not be shaped because of their genetic make-up. Just because technically you are called a woman does not mean you should be made to do "womanly" things or activities.

On the other hand a cultural radical feminist would believe that it is better to be feminine than it is to be masculine. They believe that "Bitch" was not a full human person, but a woman who had embraced some of the worst features of masculinity. Radical-Cultural feminist views are dramatically different from Radical-Libertarian feminist's views. The Radical-Cultural feminists believe that women should encompass their femininity because it is better than masculinity. Mary Daly advocates finding the "wild female within". This type of radical feminist sees sex and penetration as male dominated. They see a link between sex, female subordination, porn, rape and abuse. These must be eliminated, according to Cultural-Radical feminists. Yet another opposing view is that reproduction is the source of power for women. They believe that men are jealous of women, and that they try to control reproduction through means of technology.

Although there are all these differences they both want to stop the oppression of women, as other feminist groups, and both start at the root of the problem.

Unlike radical feminism, liberal feminist take a more pragmatic approach. The main views of liberal feminists are that all people are created equal by God and deserve equal rights. Liberal feminism was most popular in the 1950's and 1960's when many civil rights movements were taking place. These types of feminists believe that oppression exists because of the way in which men and women are socialized, which supports patriarchy and keeps men in power positions. Liberal feminists believe that

women have the same mental capacity as their male counterparts and should be given the same opportunities in political, economic and social spheres. Women should have the right to choose, not have their life chosen for them because of their sex. Essentially, women must be like men.

Liberal feminists create and support acts of legislation that remove the barriers for women. These acts of legislation demand equal opportunities and rights for women, including equal access to jobs and equal pay. Liberal feminists believe that removing these barriers directly challenges the ideologies of patriarchy, as well as liberates women.

Liberal feminists are responsible for many important acts of legislation that have greatly increased the status of women, including reforms in welfare, education and health. Unfortunately, liberal feminism has been known to only concentrate on the legislation aspect in the fight against patriarchy. It has been criticized for not breaking down the deeper ideologies of society and patriarchy. Also, it has been criticized for ignoring race and class issues.

These two branches of feminism would have very different opinions, clearly from the explanations of their beliefs. Therefore, they would have different opinion for the final decision on the topic of pornography. Before any feminist party could look at the issue of something like pornography we would have to first take a look at how porn and sex tapes came into the society.

The first thing that comes to mind when pornography is brought up is the good old media. Plain and simple, sex sells. It is such a great money maker because men are attracted to the sex symbols and women strive to become those sexy symbols. The reason for this is because the media makes us think we should look like and like certain things.

Everything can be sold using the sex sells technique and the profit it a win win situation because it makes both genders, male and female, want the product. For example, magazines are a great way to promote the sexy images we see everyday and this is what makes it ok to have porn around us. Every TV commercial, or any kind of product promotion has anywhere from a hint to a full on example of porn, which makes these videos and images ok and acceptable by our society. Also it is the reason why the pornography industry is still thriving and did nothing to change or even try to listen to any feminist opinion. What I don't understand though is that when a story is put in the tabloids that a celebrity has a sex tape that was just found we are so disgusted by it and look down at them, but we don't look at pornography disguised we just take it as it is and let more be made everyday.

Another reason why the porn industry does not listen to the radical feminist ideas on the issue of getting rid of the industry all together is because there would be a lot of males without jobs. The porn industry is dominated by men, which is why the sex tapes show such male dominance and violence to women. You could say it might be these male directors, editors, and producers living out their sick fantasies, which is a woman cowering at their feet. In my opinion that is sick and should have a stop put on it right away. In no way should this horrible treatment be put on shelves, watched, and then have people think it is ok to treat women like this in real life.

In short pornography is harmful to women and the only people that would do anything to help clearly is not the industry itself, but strong feminist groups. Radical feminist policy maker would definitely put a complete stop to the industry of pornography. These ideals of a radical feminist would not be punishment at all because

remember radical basically means getting to the root of the problem. The root of the problem is how acceptable this horrible treatment and dominance of women in pornography has become. Therefore, the industry would have to be stopped and the media would have to look down upon these sexy images and porn all together. The policy for a radical feminist policy maker would not make a worse punishment for the after effect of porn, such as rape or abuse, but a policy that bans all images or videos of sexually explicit material. This would make the media look down on it and the industry would be stopped all together because it would be against the law.

Criminalizing pornographic acts, in a radical feminist view, would not stop the problem this terrible epidemic has caused. Also, the problem with just a criminalizing one person is the message will not affect everyone. For example, if a man taped a rape on a child he would maybe be in jail for a couple years and then be released and able to do it again. Some might think that increasing the punishment would be the way to go, but people sometimes just simply don't care. Even to make it harder to obtain, like high prices or taxes would not stop people from buying pornographic material. The reason for this is because doing that with the anti-smoking campaigns of the last thirty years clearly have not done much of anything. Even education of the harms of pornography would not do much because people need laws to abide by and keep them in line. Just to compare no health class has ever stopped teens after showing them the diseases they could get from having sex stopped them from going out and having sex. In addition, it will not get rid of the acceptance of these sexy images we live with and see everyday. If we supported this policy of the band of all pornographic images it would be the only way a radical feminist policy maker would be happy and the radical feminists as a whole. Also, it would be the

only way a libertarian radical feminist would be pleased because women would have control of their sexuality and it would not be abused anymore. In addition, cultural radical feminist would be content because pornography and everything about it would be eliminated, which is something they strive for because they link sex, female subordination, porn, rape and abuse together. All of those occurrences would be banded from every happening or thought about again.

Liberal feminists have been helping women with welfare, education and health for years now. Most liberal feminists are anti-censorship, which if we banded sexuality explicit material we would be banning the sexual speech along with other free speech. Great works of art and literature would be banned, the First Amendment would be breached, political expression would be suppressed, and a creative culture requires freedom of speech. Other liberal feminists, who have accepted many of the ideological assumptions of the anti-porn position, seem willing to sacrifice free speech for the greater good of protecting women.

If we had a liberal feminist policy maker it would depend on whether they supported anticensorship or not, but most likely they would make a punishment not a complete ban of explicit material. One side that believes in the anti-censorship would most likely not ban the language and words in porn, but let the porn be an expression of sexuality as long as it shows women in a good light. On the other side, people who just want protection for women would have no horrid language to the women, and most definitely would not want women to be treated poorly in the pornographies. The law would probably be something along the lines of a mistreatment of women law. To make both sides agree the law would stop any of the demeaning language in the pornography,

probably make it like how racist terms are offensive, but it would keep the freedom of any other speech. With the pornographic images and videos they would not show any mistreatment, like violence or rape, toward women. The punishment for breaking this law would be probably something along the lines of the rape or hate crime punishments we have today.

These couple years of jail honestly I don't think would do much, and would not make these criminals understand what they did wrong. In this situation, the radical feminist policy maker would have the best solution to the rising problem of the acceptance of pornography. Also, it would help the dominance and mistreatment of women because it wouldn't be looked at as such a common and ordinary occurrence, more as a disguising and criminal act.