



**PROSTASIA**  
FOUNDATION

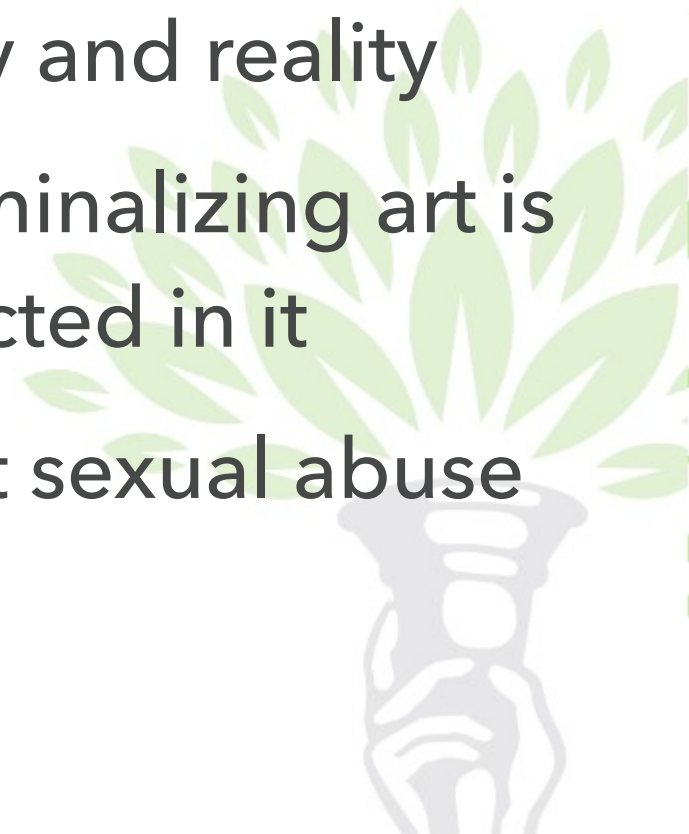
# Stigma, science, and censorship

Cartoon porn and abuse prevention



# Overview

- The instinct to ban representations of acts that would be harmful in real life is natural
- But it isn't supported by what science says on the relationship between fantasy and reality
- The only legitimate basis for criminalizing art is if it directly harms children depicted in it
- There are better ways to prevent sexual abuse



# OPSC Implementation Guidelines

“The Committee is deeply concerned about the large amount of online and offline material, including drawings and virtual representations, depicting non-existing children or persons appearing to be children involved in sexually explicit conduct, and about the serious effect that such material can have on children’s right to dignity and protection.”



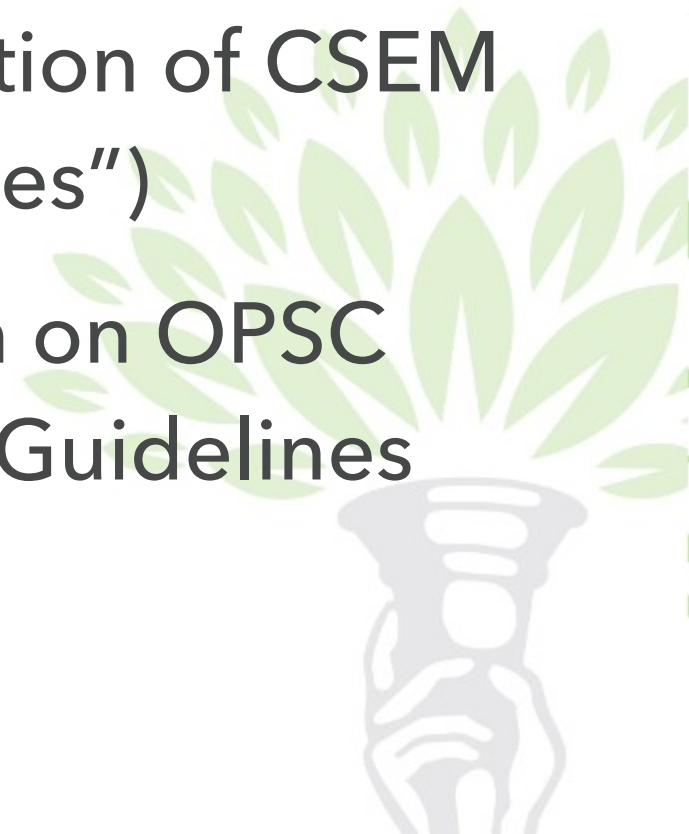
# CRC recommendation to states

“The Committee encourages States parties to include in their legal provisions regarding child sexual abuse material (child pornography) representations of non-existing children or of persons appearing to be children, in particular when such representations are used as part of a process to sexually exploit children.”



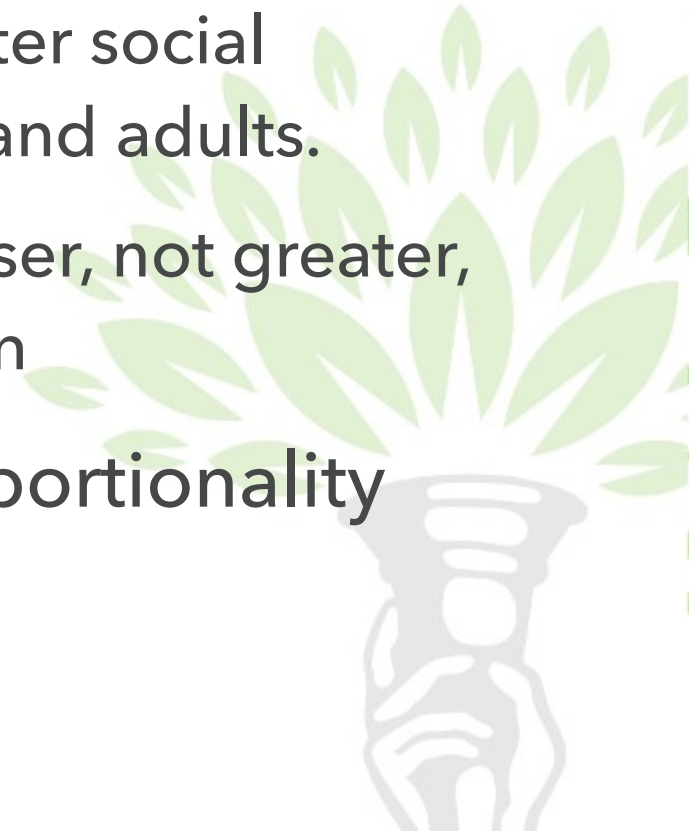
# ECPAT's role in pushing the ban

- 2012: Virtual child porn ban recommended in ECPAT paper justifying "good practice laws"
- 2016: ECPAT-led Luxembourg Guidelines cite this in favor of expanded definition of CSEM (also including "written story lines")
- 2019: ECPAT leads consultation on OPSC Guidelines, citing Luxembourg Guidelines



# Our response to the UN CRC

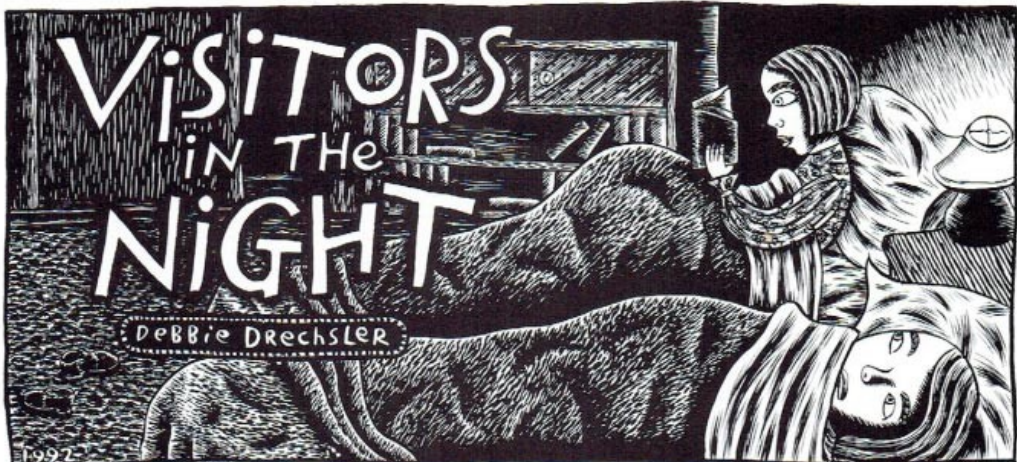
- We collected a petition with over 17 thousand signatures—93% from the Asia-Pacific region
- Our submission cited research evidence:
  - Virtual CP is not associated with greater social acceptability of sex between minors and adults.
  - Such seems to be associated with lesser, not greater, rates of sex offending against children
- Cited the test of necessity and proportionality



# But... why should we defend this?

- It is often assumed that works that depict minors and sex are used by pedophiles
- But many such works are created by women:
  - Award-winning manga such as *Kaze to Ki no Uta*
  - Popular manga such as *Chobits*
  - Autobiographical sexual coming of age stories
  - Tales of sexual abuse such as *Daddy's Girl*

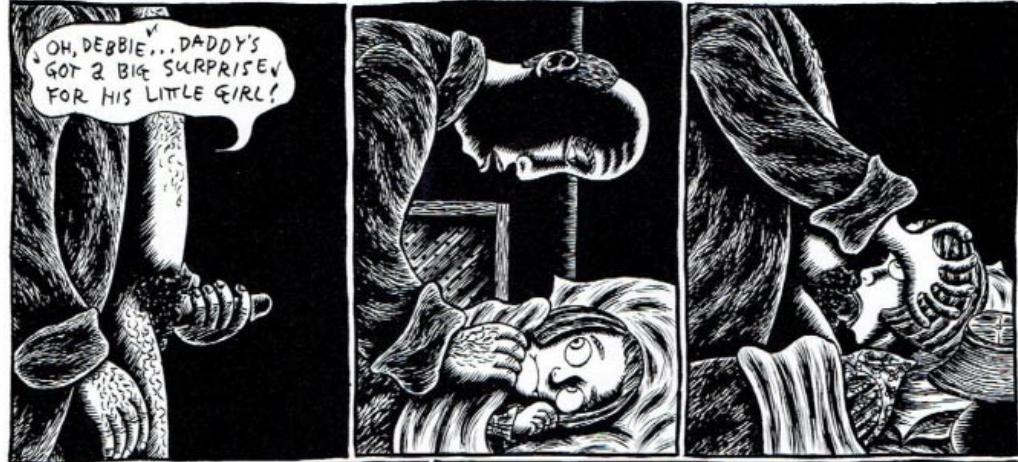




# Visitors in the Night

Debbie Drechsler

1992



OH, DEBBIE... DADDY'S GOT 2 BIG SURPRISES FOR HIS LITTLE GIRL!



C'MON, DEB, I'M TIRED, PLEASE TURN OFF THE LIGHT?



STUPID JERK! I CAN'T STAND YOU!

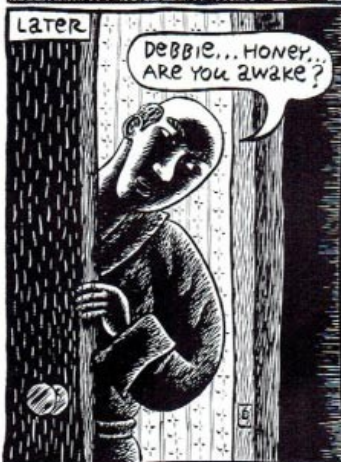
well, I HATE YOUR GUTS!



OH H H Y E S S S S... MY LITTLE BABY...



GOODNIGHT MY LITTLE DARLING, SLEEP TIGHT.



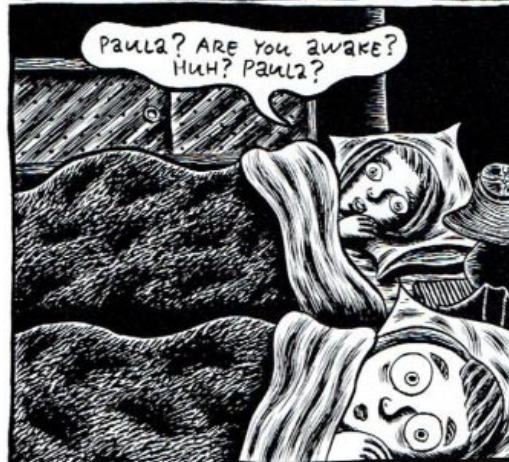
LATER

DEBBIE... HONEY, ARE YOU AWAKE?



HONEEEY

Please, Please GO AWAY!



PAULA? ARE YOU AWAKE? HUH? PAULA?

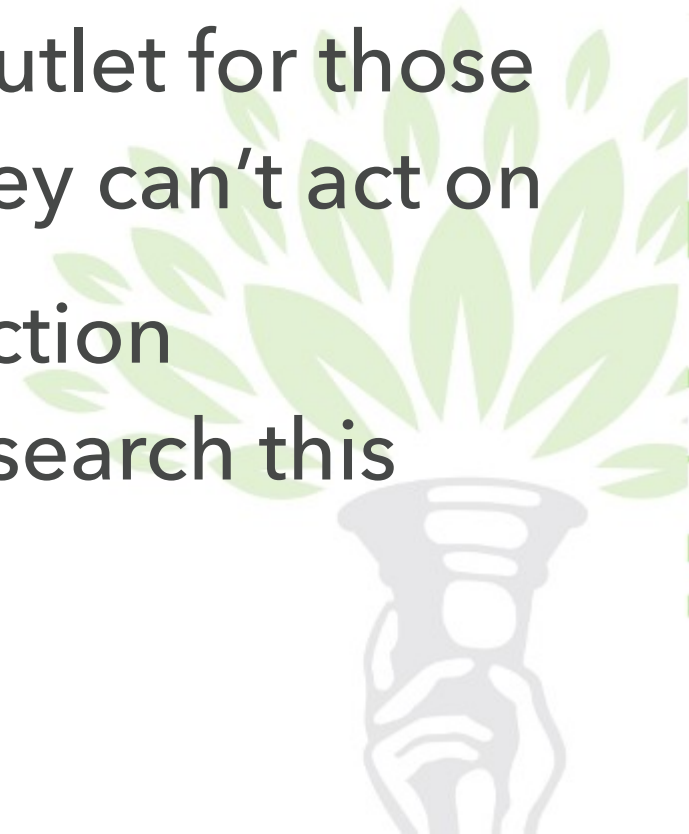


2



# Sexual outlets and prevention

- Is the existence of virtual child pornography a necessary evil or could it lead to good?
- Experts speculate cartoons, dolls, and role play may provide a victimless outlet for those experiencing sexual feelings they can't act on
- Prostasia is the only child protection organization raising funds to research this



# Prostasia's position

- The only images that should be illegal to possess are those depicting real minors
- We can still criticize works that depict minors sexually! *Criticism is absolutely fine.*
- Internet platforms have responsibilities to make it easier to filter out sexual content
- We can also *all* work on primary prevention



# Best Practice Principles

for Sexual Content Moderation & Child Protection

- Prevention of harm
- Evaluation of impact
- Transparency
- Proportionality
- Context
- Non-discrimination
- Human decision
- Notice
- Remedy



# Stigma-based censorship is wrong



The stigma against child sexual abuse is valid, but using it to justify censorship hurts sexual minorities first. There are better ways to stop abuse.

# “No Children Harmed” certification



- **Publishers:** tag sexual content, no real minors
- **Social media:** support tagging, no nude minors
- **Events:** no photography, two adults supervising
- **Products:** obey the law, ship a disclaimer

# Conclusion

- Protecting kids should be common ground for censorship proponents and rights activists
- Censorship of taboo fiction and art is not about protecting kids, but about stigma
- There are better ways to protect kids than censorship, with fewer harms to minorities



# Questions and resources

- Our research fund  
<https://prostasia.org/donations/research-fund/>
- “No Children Harmed” certification  
<https://prostasia.org/no-children-harmed>
- Our Twitter account  
<https://twitter.com/ProstasiaInc>
- Questions?





**PROSTASIA**  
FOUNDATION