Written evidence submitted by Resist Porn Culture

1. Resist Porn Culture (RPC) is a grass roots organisation dedicated to exposing and exploring the links between prostitution and pornography. Executive members are: Dr Heather Brunskell-Evans Senior research Fellow at the Centre for Medical Humanities, Academic Expert on Issues of Sexual Violence, and Member of The Nordic Model Information Network: Lisa-Marie Taylor, Chair of Feminism in London, and Trustee National Alliance of Women's Organisations. We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Home Affairs Committee Prostitution inquiry

2. Our expertise is grounded in contemporary evidence: the testimony of women’s experience of working in the pornography industry, as well as the impact of the consumption of pornography on social, personal and sexual relations of men and women; historical, philosophical and sociological inquiry into the relationship between pornography and prostitution

3. We argue the Nordic Model is the way forward in any revised legal settlement about prostitution. The Nordic Model, the implications for prostitution related offences of the Crown Prosecution Service’s recognition of prostitution as violence against women, and suggested further measures including legal reforms have been eloquently defended and set out by the submission from the Nordic Model Information network (to which we are signatories). RPC fully endorses all substantive points and thus will not rehearse them here.

4. Instead we draw the Home Affairs Committee to the following: Pornography and prostitution are not 2 distinct entities but pornography is filmed prostitution; pornography is violence towards women and girls; pornography contributes to the normalisation of men’s ‘entitlement’ to the bodies of women and girls; pornography can involve human trafficking; and pornography eroticises gender inequality.

5. We urge the Select Committee, when making its considerations, to include pornography as filmed prostitution. We understand that at present this goes beyond your remit. However we propose a paradigm shift is needed; the Nordic Model and its social and legal implications highlight the need for recognition that the political and issues that pertain to prostitution pertain to pornography.