

REASONS FOR COLLECTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

A US Senate Report in 2004 outlined the following uses of child pornography:

1 **Arousal and gratification** Individuals use child pornography to stimulate their sexual drive and as an aid for sexual stimulation. Some may only fantasise but others may use pornography as a prelude to actual sexual abuse of children.

2 **Validation and justification of paedophile behaviour** Paedophiles use child pornography to convince themselves that their behaviour and sexual preference for children is not abnormal but is shared by thousands of like-minded people all over the world.

3 **To lower a child's inhibitions** Child molesters use child abuse images to groom and seduce children into accepting sexual activities with adults as normal and acceptable because "all children are doing it, as you can see in these pictures."

4 **Preservation of a child's youth** Child pornography ensures that there will always be an image of the child at the age of sexual preference.

5 **Blackmail** Sexually explicit images are used to coerce the child-victim into lifelong silence by threatening to show the pictures to parents, peers and others. Feelings of shame and guilt are exploited.

6 **A medium of exchange** Child abuse images are used as a means of establishing trust and camaraderie with other child abusers and paedophiles and as proof of their "good intentions."

7 **Access** Child pornography is exchanged to gain access to other markets and to children. A requirement for membership of the infamous "Wonderland Club", for instance, was the posting of 10 000 original child abuse images.

8 **Profit** Although difficult to estimate, given the clandestine nature of the trade in child abuse images, many believe that child pornography is a multi-million dollar industry. Remember the Thomas and Janice Reedy case?