

CONTROVERSIAL CRITERION

SEX INDUSTRY

Forum ETHIBEL position statement

The UN Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ states that using people as sex objects – including through pornography – contributes to **physical, sexual and psychological abuse**. Moreover, trafficking for **sex trade** is a matter of pressing international concern. Prostitution and pornography are illegal or partly illegal in many countries (or are strictly controlled).

Forum ETHIBEL does not take a moral position on prostitution or pornography, but considers them in the light of their potential contribution to human rights violations. Therefore, these practices are considered a disputable criterion in the methodology.

Eligibility

Controversial criterion	Sub-category	Not eligible	case-by-case	Eligible
Sex industry	Production of pornography or the provision of sexual services	> 0%	/	0%
	Facilitating access/Distribution	>10%	5-10%	0-5%

Definitions

Forum Ethibel distinguishes between the following categories in terms of the sex industry:

Production of pornography or provision of sexual services	<p>Pornography consists of any sexual good that represent erotic behaviour and intent to cause sexual excitement. It depicts sexuality as isolated subject, meaning that it lacks content other than sex. Pornography can be produced in the form of printed, audio/visual or digitalised media.</p> <p>Sexual services are prostitution, table dancing, telephone sex, internet sex and other forms of activity aiming at the sexual excitement of someone else in exchange for money.</p>
Facilitating access to pornography or sexual services	<p>Sex tourism like tour operators, airlines and hotels that clearly state that access to prostitution is part of the travel arrangement or if they make indirect references to practices of sex tourism.</p> <p>Telecom companies and internet providers are included if they offer privileged services to either providers of sexual services or pornography, or to their customers.</p>

¹ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform>

