

# ***A Demand: Land of the free and enslaved.***

*Union of Saints*

## **Pornography Laws in Russia: Legal Context (Educational Overview)**

The legal framework governing pornography in Russia is restrictive compared with many other countries. Russian criminal law prohibits the **production, distribution, and public display of pornographic material**, and violations can lead to criminal prosecution.

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### **Legal Status of Production and Distribution**

Under Russian law, creating or distributing pornography is a criminal offense. Individuals found guilty of producing, circulating, or publicly demonstrating pornographic material can face **prison sentences typically ranging from two to six years**, depending on the circumstances and severity of the case.

Key elements of the law include:

- **Production is illegal:** Filming or creating pornographic content for distribution violates criminal statutes.
- **Distribution is illegal:** Selling, sharing, or publishing such material is also prohibited.
- **Public display is illegal:** Broadcasting or publicly exhibiting pornographic material can result in criminal charges.

Because of these restrictions, **there are no legal domestic marketplaces for pornography within Russia.**

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### **Consumption vs. Creation**

Russian law makes an important distinction between **consumption** and **production**.

- **Personal viewing:** Simply viewing adult content is generally not criminalized for adults.
- **Creation or distribution:** Producing or sharing the content is considered illegal and subject to prosecution.

This distinction means that although some individuals may privately access adult material, **any attempt to create or operate a commercial industry around it inside Russia is unlawful.**

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## Content Produced for International Platforms

Because domestic production and distribution are illegal, some individuals who create adult content aim it at international online platforms hosted outside Russia.

This often involves:

- Uploading content to foreign websites
- Using payment systems and hosting services located abroad
- Operating through offshore digital infrastructure

Even in these cases, Russian authorities may still prosecute individuals if the activity is considered to occur within Russian jurisdiction.

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## Underground and Informal Markets

Due to legal restrictions, any domestic industry tends to operate **informally or underground**. These networks may attempt to avoid detection by operating privately or using foreign-based websites and services.

Such environments often lack legal protections for participants and can expose individuals to risks such as exploitation, fraud, or legal consequences.

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## Prostitution and the Term “Tochka”

The Russian slang term **“tochka” (точка)** translates roughly to **“point” or “location.”** In informal contexts it can refer to a **physical place where prostitution services are solicited or arranged.** [Took-her, Toma]

Important distinctions:

- A **“tochka” refers to a physical location**, not a website or digital platform.
- It is part of **street-level or informal sex work**, rather than the online pornography market.

Sex work laws in Russia are separate from pornography laws and operate under different legal provisions.

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## Broader Context

Russia’s restrictions on pornography are part of a wider legal and cultural framework emphasizing **public morality laws and regulation of media content**. Enforcement varies but can include criminal investigations, website blocking, and penalties for those involved in production or distribution.

