

September 16, 2018

Dear American Psychological Association,

I disagree with your statement that sex between an adult and a child is always wrong.

<http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2013/10/pedophilia-mental.aspx> There is no such thing.

Sex between adults and children does not exist—it is only rape. To refer to activities of sexual violence as types of immoral “sex” is to ignore the inhumane, brutal, destructive violence inherent in all types of sexual abuse.

Sex is a consent-based activity. Without consent, it is an act of treating another human being like an object for masturbation or like food to be consumed. It is only considered a sexual activity for the violent sex offender; it is not “sex” to the children, adolescents, or adults surviving the violence to their bodies.

Why don't you write that war upon the human body is wrong? Why don't you write that assault on the genitalia of a human being is always wrong? Why do you write from the point of view of the perpetrators of sexual violence as if rape were a type of immoral “sex,” some guilty pleasure that must be publicly acknowledged as unethical?

Why don't you use the opportunity to make a public statement that sexual violence upon children is wrong, instead of suggesting that it could be legal, as if it were something debatable that needed affirmation that it should be a crime? Why would you write, “Sex between an adult and a child is always wrong,” as if to correct yourselves from a prior position that maybe there was nothing unethical with being sexually excited about defiling the purity of children?

Is there some reason why the American Psychiatric Association neglected to include the behaviors of people with Sexual Sadism Disorder and Pedophilic Disorder within the definitions of these paraphilias in the DSM? Both paraphilias are based on sexual excitement with coercion, yet the word “coercion” was rejected as a descriptor in the naming of any paraphilia.

To read this article, <http://www.psychiatrytimes.com/couch-crisis/dsm-5-rejects-coercive-paraphilia-once-again-confirming-rape-not-mental-disorder>, one would think that rape is not included under the definition of Sexual Sadism Disorder, and that the American Psychiatric Association had classified through the publishing of the DSM that people who rape do not have any mental illness. Kleptomaniacs go to prison for the crime of theft; psychopaths go to prison for the crime of murder; classifying rape as a mental disorder does not create a doctor's excuse as to why a person should escape a prison sentence for rape. And what is all this concern about the civil rights of serial rapists, without an iota of social responsibility to eliminate the consumer demand driving commercialized sexual violence? What about the civil rights of children, adolescents, and adults to be safe from rape?

Regards,

Chelsea Wright