

## LETTER TO THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

September 16, 2018

Dear American Psychological Association,

I disagree with your statement that sex between an adult and a child is always wrong. <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2013/10/pedophilia-mental.aspx> There is no such thing.

In the Statement of the American Psychological Association Regarding Pedophilia and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), you asserted your position that pedophilia is a mental disorder after it was questioned. You then made a statement that sex between an adult and a child is always wrong, and taking action on impulses driven by pedophilia is supposed to be a criminal act. You speak as if this offense against humanity were something akin to pre-marital sex being denounced by a religious moral authority. Your closing statement was about how the APA has worked for years to fight against child abuse; yet you could not muster more than 4 sentences to the public to clear up the misunderstanding that your organization had removed pedophilia from the DSM-5. Instead of allowing the public to continue to be misled that pedophilia was removed from the DSM-5, you should have explained in your public statement that the APA had supported a name change to Pedophilic Disorder.

Pedophilia is grouped in the DSM-5 with other paraphilias that are understood by the public to be kinks: exhibitionistic disorder and fetishistic disorder (such as a person who masturbates with a shoe or a vibrator). Pedophilia is spoken of by the American Psychological Association as if it were a sexual kink that of course should be illegal.

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 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 sex 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 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 press release that sexual violence is wrong, rather than suggesting the falsehood that pedophiles might be confused into believing that what they do to children when they rape them is not violent?

Why would you suggest rape perpetrated by an adult on a child could be legal, as if it were something questionable that needed affirmation that it should be a crime? Why would you write in your press release, "Sex between adults and children 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? Why would you use your press release to make an official statement that following much debate, with pleas from pedophiles for you to be less strict, such as isn't a little bit of pedophilia okay sometimes, like what if a 14 year old is big boned and appears to be over the age of consent, then the APA referee steps forward to the public and announces, No, pedophilia is always wrong. According to state laws, adolescents are children until they are legal minors. In response to this debate, you could have written, "sex with a minor is always violent," implying that people under the legal age of consent could consent to statutory rape. Instead, you limited your statement to imply children could have sex.

Is there some reason why the American Psychiatric Association neglected to include the behaviors of people with Sexual Sadism Disorder and Pedophilia within the definitions of these paraphilias in the DSM-5? Both paraphilias are based on sexual excitement with coercion, yet the word "coercion" was rejected by the APA as a descriptor in the naming of any paraphilia.

To read this article, <http://www.psychiatrictimes.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 with the publishing of the DSM-5 that people who rape do not necessarily 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 note as to why a person should be excused from a prison sentence for committing sexual violence. Why aren't you offended with me about all this concern regarding the civil rights of serial rapists without an iota of social responsibility to eliminate the consumer demand driving commercialized violence? What is with your lack of concern for the civil right of children, adolescents, and adults to be safe from rape?

Best regards,  
Chelsea Wright