

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

Chair of CAC
23 Budgen Drive
Redhill Surrey RH1 2QB
8th March 1999

To: Su Mclean-Took
Sex Offence Review Team
Room 253 Home Office
50 Queen Anne's gate
London SW1H 9AT

Dear Madam,

PORNOGRAPHY & PROSTITUTION

We are amazed that these two vital subjects have been omitted from your current Review of Sex Offences.

We urge compliance with the recommendations of the Williams Report on Obscenity and Film Censorship (Cmnd 7772). This stated that the existing laws in this field were an illogical mass of conflicting statutes and common law, all of which should be repealed and replaced by one comprehensive measure. The latter should define who is trying to protect whom from what and why.

In addition we state that this new law should be similar to the equivalent laws in other parts of the European Union. By trying to suppress sexually explicit material for adults, the United Kingdom is out of step with its partners in this free trade and customs area. This is impractical and incompatible with the desired harmonisation of laws of the European Union. Classification and legality of film, video & television broadcasts (including by satellite) should be uniform throughout the Union. Responsibility for same in Britain should rest solely with the Department of Culture, instead of film and video censorship being under the aegis of the Home Office. As the 1998 Annual Report of the British Board of Film Classification stated, by banning such a wide range of video recordings this country has created a huge black market which does not exist elsewhere in Europe.

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Enquiries to the Secretary, 25 Middleton Close, Fareham,
Hants, Tel: 0329-284471

page 2

CAC also believes that the law on publicity for prostitution should be reformed. At present prostitution itself is lawful in England, but nothing connected with it is. This is illogical and impractical. It leads to kerb-crawling, pimping, racketeering and other mischiefs. Instead this country should allow a legitimate outlet for prostitutes to advertise their services, so that they do not have to resort to displaying cards in public telephone booths

As a relevant organisation, we ask to be included in any steering and/or reference group on the above-mentioned areas of the law.

Yours for freedom of expression,

Cllr E Goodman
Chair of CAC