

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

23 Budgen Drive  
Redhill Surrey RH1 2QB  
29th December 2000

To: Lindsay McKean  
Police Adviser  
Sentencing & Offences Unit  
Home Office Room 316  
50 Queen Anne's Gate SW1H 9AT

Dear L McKean,

PROSTITUTES CARDS IN TELEPHONE BOXES

Thank you for your letter of the 18th December. The creation of the proposed new offence is unacceptable in a democratic society for the following reasons.

Prostitution is lawful and desirable because, as St Augustine of Hippo explained, it protects respectable women. Prostitutes can, however, only operate through advertising their availability. Democratic countries therefore allow a legitimate outlet for such publicity. The United Kingdom, by contrast, does not.

The whole question of prostitution should be dealt with by one comprehensive statute, as is the case in other European Union States. Piecemeal legislation of the type proposed will only make matters worse in England by adding to the existing mass of laws relating to the subject, all of which should be repealed and replaced by one consolidatory Act based on logic ie who is trying to protect whom from what and why.

National legislators in this country lack the necessary moral fibre to tackle this subject and therefore resort to cosmetic fringe legislation of the type proposed. Local authorities, being at the sharp end, are thus forced to resort to their own solutions eg the tolerated "red light" districts of Birmingham and Edinburgh. Why cannot British Ministers grasp the nettle and legislate properly on prostitution, as has happened in Germany and the Netherlands?

In any event the proposed power to extend the scope of the offence is Orwellian and open to abuse. The power of arrest draconian for such a victimless offence.

Yours for freedom of expression (even for prostitutes)

Cllr E Goodman  
Chair of CAC

Enquiries to the Secretary, 25 Middleton Close, Fareham, Hants. PO14 1QN  
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