

TO FAC

URGENT 18 June 2013

Dear Nettie,

I believe FAC should send a reply to the enclosed letter to the Daily Telegraph and send a copy of that reply to the Secretary of State for Culture. Please also let me

have a copy (CAC, PO Box 570, Redhill RH1 2WZ).

To prohibit possession of images of simulated rape would be very restrictive. It would include classical paintings of "The Rape of Europa". Please mention this. I cannot write

a reply because I am male! Mary Hayward, Secretary of CAC has been ill and thus may not be able to do the reply. So it is down to you!

Best wishes

Goodman

Chair of CAC

Banning rape images

SIR – Today, Maria Miller, the culture secretary, is to meet internet companies to urge them voluntarily to tackle child abuse images online. We call on the Government to take urgent action against violent and misogynistic pornography online.

We specifically want the Government to close a loophole in the pornography legislation that allows the lawful possession in England and Wales of pornographic images that depict rape, so long as the actors are over 18. This means that images titled “teen slut rape” and “schoolgirl rape” are lawful to possess. Depictions of necrophilia and bestiality are criminalised by the same legislation, meaning that animals and dead people are better protected than women and girls.

A change in the English law would send a clear message that it is illegal to possess pornographic images that promote sexual violence against women. We are dismayed that this loophole exists, especially at a time when the media carries many stories about the sexual abuse of women and girls, including the recent convictions for murdering young girls of Mark Bridger and Stuart Hazell, both cases involving violent pornography.

A recent report by the Children’s Commissioner found that children have easy access to online pornography and that this influences boys’ harmful attitudes and behaviour towards women and girls.

We are concerned that “rape porn” undermines the Government’s efforts to tackle sexual violence. The Government should close this loophole immediately.

Justine Roberts

CEO, Mumsnet

Fiona Elvines

Rape Crisis South London

Holly Dustin

End Violence Against Women Coalition

And 11 others; see www.telegraph.co.uk