

PORNOGRAPHY IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

'14 DAYS THAT SHOOK THE PORN. INDUSTRY' 14th May-28th May 1983.

This is the timetable of events which we hope all groups will follow:

ONE MONTH BEFORE (from 4th April....):-

- 1) Organised fund-raising events and, of course, donations; money should be sent to P.I.V.A.W. Nat.West East branch, Oxford.
A/c. No. 660 215 53
Bank sorting no. 60 16 06
- 2) Use the enclosed questionnaire to raise the issue of pornography within your group/organisation, with women on the street, in shopping centres, in their homes etc. Please duplicate as many copies as you will need, as we cannot do this for you.
N.B. We don't want the questionnaires back; it is intended only for initiation of discussion with women!
- 3) Duplicate copies of the enclosed sample leaflet (adding any more specific details of your local events and contacts) and use it along with the questionnaire, or separately for popping through women's doors & distribution in streets. They can also be used as a basis for press-releases, interviews etc.
- 4) Public Meetings: Womens' groups throughout the country will be holding open meetings/discussions on pornography, for women to share their feelings about it in a supportive women-only atmosphere. Women from 'Women Against Violence Against Women' and Rape Crises groups will be making themselves available to speak at these meetings.
- 5) Porn. collecting: On the 14th May women all over the country will be destroying pornographic material publicly; e.g. bonfires etc. obviously porn. has to be collected first, so we are asking groups to organise collecting points and publicise them so that women who are insulted by the presence of porn. in their homes can dispose of it.

THE FORTNIGHT & ONE WEEK BEFORE: (May 7th)

- 1) Intensify porn. collection- and advertise the celebrations on Sat. 14th when the stuff will be ceremoniously destroyed.
- 2) Women will be flooding their local media with publicity about national and local events during the coming fortnight.

THE EVENTS

Saturday 14th - Locally organised bonfires/distruction of porn in public places- to be accompanied by singing, dancing, celebrations, music etc. for women and for children.

Sunday 15th - Following straight on from the bonfires, candlelight vigils will be held, in remembrance of all the women who have suffered from the brutality of men;- to make the connection between pornography and male violence.

Monday 16th - Actions against video distributors (who make huge amounts of money out of pornography). This will include things like phoning them (frequently). Connegate & Astra.

Suggestions for 17th-20th - Local 'Reclaim the Night' marches;
- Pickets of 'Sex' shops, video shops, news-agents selling porn., cinemas which show women-hating films etc.
- Identification and public embarrassment of men using these establishments e.g. taking their photographs etc.

Saturday 21st. - Nationally co-ordinated pickets of W.H. Smiths, because they sell pornography. Make sure your local press etc. is notified in advance. In the evening: Fundraising discos/Parties/cabarets etc.

Suggestions for 22nd-27th May-

(May 24th is the international women's day of action for peace - for women getting involved in this, how about putting forward the connection between male violence and the nuclear threat?)

- Open meetings for women to discuss pornography and its impact on our everyday lives e.g. advertising....
- Public exhibitions of press-cuttings about male violence against women.
- Phone-in programmes on your local radio.
- Training workshops for the non-aggressive gathering in Soho.
- Anything already suggested that you didn't get round to last week.

Saturday 28th May

The culmination of the fortnight of action against porn.

Women will visit Soho in their thousands to see for themselves the extent and nature of the porn. industry there.

We will gather beforehand in church halls for final preparations and last minute practical workshops if necessary.

In the evening there will be a social, including band, disco etc. more details later.

Coaches to London for this event should be organised well in advance, perhaps using some of the locally raised money to subsidise their fares.

SEE YOU THERE !

In Sisterhood,

P.I.V.A.W.

More details will shortly be available
about Soho. Send SAE for further
details.

WHAT IS PORNOGRAPHY ?

Is it ' A bit of harmless fun ?'
An outlet for men's natural urges ?'
'Just for dirty old men?'

NO

Pornography is the portrayal of the humiliation and abuse of women. It is increasingly becoming the rape, murder and mutilation of women and girls for men's pleasure.

Pornography does not prevent rape - it actively encourages and incites men to violent fantasies and acts.

Pornography is a multimillion pound industry by which a few men make a vast profit at the expense of women.

Pornographic images are becoming increasingly acceptable and are infiltrating in newspapers, T.V. and advertising. The sudden boom in home videos have allowed pornographic films to invade women's homes.

Women are often made to feel guilty for speaking out against porn, but
PORNOGRAPHY IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
It is time for us to show our anger.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT

Between May 14th - 28th there is a national campaign against porn. Come and join in!

On SATURDAY 14th MAY there will be bonfires burning porn. The collection will be advertised locally or bring any porn you will like to be burnt.

During the fortnight there will be pickets of sex shops, cinemas showing women hating films, vigils for women murdered by men and many other local events. Contact your nearest WAVAW group for details.

SATURDAY 28th - soho . come to soho to see how bad it is and reclaim the centre of the porn industry.

Write to London WAVAW c/o See Red 16a Iliffe Yard,
Crompton Street SE17

Examples of some questions to ask Women.

1. Do you think violence against women and children is increasing?
2. Do you think this (re-above) has been influenced by the increase in pornography?
3. Have you ever considered any connection between violence against women and pornography?
4. Do you think/believe pornography is realistic or pure fantasy? Is it harmless or fun?
5. Do you think women read as much pornography as men do?
6. Do you feel pornography is geared towards men or women?
7. Do you think pornography is acceptable? If so, why?
8. Do you think that pornography is a fair portrayal of both men and women's sexuality?
9. Why do you feel that women work in the pornography industry?
10. Is there anything women can do to put an end to pornography?

These are examples of some questions that we (in Bristol) felt that we could ask women. We don't expect you to use any or all of these questions and as you may notice several of them cover the same area. We hope that they will be of some help.

Bristol WAVAW

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