

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

To: David Webb, Honorary Director, N.C.R.O.P.A., 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London SW3 4TD.

I support the aims of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (N.C.R.O.P.A.) and would like to be enrolled as a member. I enclose, herewith, my annual subscription of £5.00 (Students, Senior Citizens and the Unwaged £2.50. These are minimum amounts but larger donations will, of course, be greatly welcomed). Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to N.C.R.O.P.A.

Signature _____

Name (in block letters please) _____

Address (in block letters please) _____

Telephone No. (if any) _____

If you require a receipt please tick here _____

You may/may not (delete as applicable) publicise my name as a supporter of the N.C.R.O.P.A.

PLEASE NOTE: THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF MEMBERS WILL BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED TO ANYONE WITHOUT PERMISSION.

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Please also send me copies of your publications as indicated below, for which I enclose appropriate remittance:-

| | No. of Copies |
|---|----------------------|
| "Evidence to the Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship April 1978" @ £7.50 per copy | <input type="text"/> |
| "The Williams Report - An Appraisal April 1980" @ £3.00 per copy | <input type="text"/> |
| "Video Recordings Bill 1983 - A Critique" @ £3.00 per copy | <input type="text"/> |
| "Obscene Publications (Protection of Children, Etc.) (Amendment) Bill 1985" A clause-by-clause assessment and critique @ £2.00 per copy | <input type="text"/> |
| "The Broadcasting Standards Council's Code of Conduct - A Submission" ('Broadcasting in the 90's: Compulsion, Control and Censorship') Jan. 1989 @ £3.00 per copy | <input type="text"/> |

(postage and packing free)

**THE N.C.R.O.P.A. IS A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION
AND HAS NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH ANY BUSINESS
OR COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE.**

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP



- WHAT IS N.C.R.O.P.A.?
- WHAT ARE ITS AIMS?
- WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN.
- HOW YOU CAN JOIN.

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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

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FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

WHAT IS THE N.C.R.O.P.A.?

The National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts was founded in April 1976 by David Webb who gathered together a number of like-minded people who shared both his vehement opposition to censorship and also his concern that a totally unrepresentative minority of the general public was, or at least appeared to be, becoming increasingly successful in its efforts to force its beliefs and moral standards on others. The N.C.R.O.P.A. believes that this is totally alien to the concept of what the people of this country have come, rightly, to expect of a supposedly free society and presents an intolerable curtailment of individual liberty and the freedom of expression. Furthermore it is in direct contravention of both the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 16 and 19) and the European Convention on Human Rights (Articles 9 and 10).

The N.C.R.O.P.A. is organised on a purely voluntary basis and has no paid staff. It relies solely on subscriptions and donations for financial support and none of the members of its Executive Committee, all of whom give their services free, have vested interests in any business or commercial enterprises which could in any way, be regarded as potential material beneficiaries in the event of the achievement of N.C.R.O.P.A.'s objectives. This is important because it clearly indicates that we are a completely independent organisation and gives the campaign immediate credibility. It means, in effect, that the N.C.R.O.P.A. is dedicated to fighting for a principle in which its supporters believe unequivocally and for its own sake.

WHAT ARE THE N.C.R.O.P.A.'s AIMS?

The N.C.R.O.P.A. believes that every adult should have an inalienable right to see, read and hear whatever he or she chooses for him or herself. This country's present out-moded, puritanical and repressive laws on censorship deny us this right and must, therefore, be drastically reformed.

Virtually no really reliable or credible evidence has been produced that so-called "obscene" material ("obscene" used in this context invariably means sexually explicit), of whatever kind, is harmful. On the other hand evidence that it is harmless, and, indeed, often positively helpful, is massive and overwhelming. Every major investigation undertaken into the subject over the past 25 years has come to that same conclusion, including our own country's distinguished Home Office Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship (the Williams Committee) in 1979. They were unanimous in agreeing that so-called "obscene", or "pornographic", or "sexually explicit" material (call it what you will) should be freely available to consenting adults. The more recent 1990 Home Office Research Report "Pornography": Impacts and Influences" (by Dr. Guy Cumberbatch and Dr. Dennis Howitt) also found no evidence of any link between the availability of "pornography" and sexual crime, and effectively endorsed all previous findings that sexually explicit material is harmless.

The N.C.R.O.P.A. maintains, furthermore, that sexually explicit material provides a source of harmless pleasure for millions, is often a very helpful adjunct to sexual relationships, both in and out of marriage, and serves as a most welcome substitute sexual release for anyone when and where a suitable sexual partner is not available or possible, especially among the sexually disadvantaged, deprived or disabled (or differently-abled, as they now often prefer to be regarded).

The N.C.R.O.P.A. supports measures for the 'protection' of children (without necessarily accepting that children would, in fact, be 'at risk' or 'in danger', as the word 'protection' implies) and also certain very limited measures for the 'protection' of those adults who do not wish to be forcibly affronted by material that they would deem offensive.

In practical terms this would mean the complete repeal of the 1959 and 1964 Obscene Publications Acts, as well as considerable amending legislation to a number of other relevant Acts (e.g. the Post Office Act 1953, the Customs Consolidation Act 1876, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, the Video Recordings Act 1984, the Cinemas Act 1985, etc.). However, like the Williams Committee, we believe that the very limited censorship legislation we envisage should be contained in one new comprehensive statute. The N.C.R.O.P.A. has already produced the draft for such a statute called the "Freedom of Expression Bill".

(Full details of our principles and objectives are, of course, contained in "Evidence to the Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship April 1978", N.C.R.O.P.A.'s written submission to the Williams Committee and in "The Williams Report—An Appraisal, April 1980", N.C.R.O.P.A.'s subsequent response to the findings of the Williams Committee. See order form overleaf.)

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE N.C.R.O.P.A.

Individual freedom is daily being eroded in this country and in no area more invidiously than that concerned with freedom of expression and censorship. The highly organised, vociferous pro-censorship factions, in their role as self-appointed "guardians of the nation's morals", have, for far too long, succeeded in forcing their *minority* opinions on the much more liberal-minded, tolerant *majority*, often using highly emotive, dishonest propaganda to spread their repressive and bigoted doctrines. More recently they have been joined, in an 'unholy alliance', by feminist extremists who, just as dictatorially, wish to force their equally repressive, authoritarian demands for more censorship on everyone else. Parliament has hitherto paid heed to those two dangerous factions out of all proportion to the numbers they represent or the soundness of their logic, and, in consequence, has done absolutely nothing to bring our censorship laws up to date and in line with modern, 20th Century thinking and those of almost all other Western World countries. In fact instead, in many areas, we have reverted to the viciously restrictive standards of the past — or even worse.

Every year hundreds of thousands of harmless books and magazines are being seized by the authorities and destroyed. Thousands more videos and films are also being impounded and confiscated. More and more people are being prosecuted, fined or imprisoned for committing these victimless 'crimes'. Thousands of valuable and costly police and customs man hours are being wasted on these ludicrous and futile exercises, often carried out by some police chiefs with a fanatical zeal more appropriate to a mediaeval witch-hunt. Whilst we may regard their order of priorities with outrage, when real crime is at an all-time high, when many women and old people are too frightened to go out in the streets at night, and when most police forces are still claiming to be seriously under strength, we must remember that they can only implement laws which are in existence. The N.C.R.O.P.A. is campaigning to ensure that, in future, such laws do not exist and are not, thus, at their disposal.

It is an indisputable fact that we now have more censorship in this country than nearly every other of the so-called free Western World, and lately more, even, than East European states, most of which have already satisfactorily dispensed with censorship as we know it. This is *not* the difficult task some politicians would have us believe but it is they, the politicians, who will, in the end, be responsible for deciding this issue and righting this grave wrong. They must be persuaded to do so, and do so now, so that the trade barriers really can come down and the 1992 Single European Market can truly become the intended reality. Moreover they must be persuaded to accept and implement our proposals. These proposals are eminently sensible, patently realistic, provide safeguards for everyone and are, above all, harmless — and just!

By joining the campaign you will be doing something positive to help achieve this end and to make this country, not simply "more permissive", but more tolerant, more rational, more honest — and more civilised. It is time for all who support the desperately important cause of individual liberty and freedom of expression to stand up and be counted.

HOW YOU CAN JOIN THE N.C.R.O.P.A.

Please complete the membership application form overleaf and post it to us without delay.