

NATIONAL VIEWERS' AND LISTENERS' ASSOCIATION

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5th June 1980

U R G E N T M E M O

Dear Member,

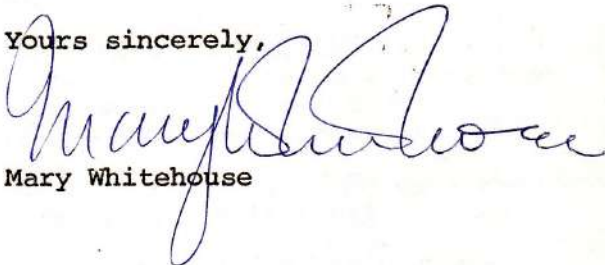
You will be aware of National VALA's great concern about the Williams Report (see enclosed). The Williams Committee was only able to conclude that there was "little evidence" of a causal link between pornography and sex crime by attempting to discredit the work of Dr. John Court, Reader in Psychology at Flinders University, Adelaide, who has played a vital role in the fight against pornography worldwide and is one of our closest and most valued associates.

So great is Dr. Court's concern about the recommendations of the Williams Report that he is breaking his journey from Australia to Leipzig and the Middle East and will be in London between 1st - 4th July.

National VALA is arranging a special meeting at the New Gallery, 123 Regent Street, at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 3rd July. We hope very much that you will be able to attend to hear what Dr. Court has to say and to put questions to him. Do feel free to bring a friend.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


Mary Whitehouse

Patrons:

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S T O P O R N N O . W C A M P A I G N
(NO to Williams)

The Williams Committee was set up in 1977 to review the laws on obscenity, indecency and violence in publications, displays and entertainments, to review film censorship and make recommendations.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT:

MAGAZINES

1. Far from stopping the distribution of pornography would effectively make it legal by allowing it to be sold in "separate" shops to people over 18.
2. Argues that this is enough protection for children. BUT once sold there is no way of stopping the circulation of pornographic magazines. They would find their way into schools, factories, youth clubs, public lavatories, litter bins, etc.
3. Would allow every kind of sexual perversion, including bestiality to be published in such shops.
4. Would ban outright ONLY material judged by the courts to involve the sexual exploitation of those under 16 (and there is already legislation to cover this), or where actual physical harm was inflicted on the person photographed.
5. By repealing legislation which now makes it an offence to send pornographic material through the post Williams would turn Britain into a dumping ground for continental pornography.
6. Professor Williams claimed on television that his recommendations would "clean up the corner shops" but what is generally regarded as indecent display would not be affected, only that which "deals with or relates to violence, cruelty or horror, or sexual, faecal or urinary functions or genital organs".

ADVERTISE-
MENTS

7. Would make "simple nudity" legal, wherever displayed, and would do nothing about indecency in advertisements and on hoardings.

WRITTEN
OBSCENITY

8. Would make printed obscenity lawful, unless accompanied by pornographic photographs - the effect of this upon education, broadcasting and upon newsagents and bookshops would be disastrous.

FILMS

9. Takes from local authorities the right to have the last word on what is to be shown in local cinemas.
10. Suggests the present personnel of the British Board of Film Censors should be part of a new central film censorship body. BUT these censors are already giving A and U certificates to films which contain scenes of violence, rape and immorality.
11. Would allow pornographic and other obscene films on separate cinema screens. BUT these screens could be part of a multi-screen complex, assisting under-age admissions.

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"NO HARM IN
PORNOGRAPHY"?

12. Argues there is no connexion between pornography and serious sex crime, attempts dishonestly to discredit the researches of those whose work demonstrates that as and when pornography becomes freely available in any society then the serious sex crime figures rocket.

SIMPLE REMEDY

90% of pornography can be stopped by legislation based on an explicit statement of what is to be prohibited, as was argued in the House of Lords debate on the Williams Report and in the submission made by National VALA to the Williams Committee.

PLEASE SEND FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES TO SEND TO YOUR M.P.

More forms and information available from (Please send S.A.E.):-

STOPORN NOW CAMPAIGN, National Viewers' & Listeners' Association,
Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex CO7 7RH Telephone: (0206) 230123

Hints on how to organise a successful campaign:

1. Write to your local paper using extracts from the above material and inviting readers to write to you for information and petition forms etc.
2. Form working party. Organise door to door collection of signatures.
3. Contact local branch of women's and men's organisations, youth clubs etc.
4. Approach local Church leaders and request not only that petitions be made available in Churches but also that Church members collect signatures.
5. Local shops, libraries, Doctors' surgeries, etc. make excellent collecting units.