

MRS. ANN WINTERTON, M.P.
(Congleton)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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MPS TO VIEW HORRIFIC MATERIAL

Over 300 Members of Parliament, from all Parties, have accepted an invitation to attend a two-day exhibition in the Jubilee Room of the House of Commons at which the Obscene Publications Squad of New Scotland Yard will provide briefing on the obscene and pornographic material which is now increasingly available in the United Kingdom and to explain the weaknesses of the Obscene Publications Act. Items on display will include tapes, books, magazines, and satellite and computer-generated pornography.

The material includes child abuse, bestiality, oral sex, both homosexual and heterosexual group and anal intercourse and other violent and abnormal sexual behaviour which it would be inappropriate to list.

The exhibition, being mounted behind closed doors, has been organised by Mrs Ann Winterton MP and fifteen colleagues from all political parties who were present at a private showing of the material a short time ago.

Mrs Winterton says: "I am certainly no prude, but I was deeply shocked that such material is now increasingly available, largely because of the lack of political will to tackle the weakness of the Obscene Publications Act. The Act is a threadbare garment, woven in

a different age, which can no longer provide the cloak of protection which women, men and children need against the most horrific, exploitative, and damaging pornography.

"I am not talking about soft porn, or about material which is titillating. I am talking about an exhibition of material which is so horrific that not one Member of Parliament at the private viewing held a short time ago was able physically to endure viewing all the exhibits in question.

"We have met with the Minister to discuss the issue. We have met with the Prime Minister. We have explained our concerns in detail and it is now clear that the only way to get across our message that the Obscene Publications Act is no longer relevant to today's technology and the free market in filth, is to mount this gruesome and nauseating exhibition."

Note: The exhibition is being held on 24th and 25th February. All MPs and Peers have been invited to attend for just 15 minutes during the course of the two days.

A special press viewing will be arranged for the Lobby.

Further Information: Christopher Whitehouse 071 219 3585