

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

(THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

COPY

23 Budgen Drive  
Redhill Surrey  
RH1 2QB  
23rd April 1998

To: Jago Lee  
Douglas Chirnside  
Productions Ltd  
Golden House  
29 Great Pulteney Street  
London W1R 3DD

Dear Jago Lee,  
Documentary Series on the Commercial Sex Industry

Thank you for your letter of the 14th. I believe that the great danger with your proposed programme, as with other British documentaries, is insularity. This country is very atypical in many aspects, especially in its attitude to erotica. The old adage "No sex please, we're British" is just as true now as it ever was. All major political parties here are united in their desire to suppress pornography and commercialised sex, while it is being legalised in Eastern Europe. Reference can be made to Hansard regarding the 1996 debates on outlawing computer pornography. On the Continent, by contrast, computer pornography trade fairs are held. British Members of Parliament are now prepared to speak openly about cannabis legalisation, but not one member of either House of Parliament will advocate relaxing Britain's draconian State censorship of films and videos. On the contrary many are calling for increased censorship. I am not surprised, but sad, that not one British politician appears on your list of contributors.

I therefore believe that you need to have politicians and journalists from other European Union countries trying to explain the British hang-up about sexuality. Christine Ockrent of French television is very good on this. She puts it down to the English Puritan ethic, which seeks to protect people from themselves and is thus very different to Catholic confessional forgiveness. The London correspondent of the Italian "La Repubblica" is also interesting.

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If you wish to contact me to pursue any of these points, my office telephone number is 0181-653-4482. Best time to catch me is noon on weekdays. We can then arrange to meet for a chat somewhere, as I don't like hour-long telephone conversations at work because I have to try and earn a living!

In addition you should contact David Webb, Honorary Director of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) who has been trying unsuccessfully for 25 years to change the law. His telephone number is 0171-352 9067. Also useful is Tim Summers of the Sexual Freedom Coalition, which presented a petition to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, last year (which the latter ignored). Summers' number is 0171-737 6289.

One thing is certain, English law on this topic will not be changed because the politicians will not touch it with a bargepole! The age of homosexual consent is only being lowered because of the threat of "outing" by Outrage, as Peter Tatchell can confirm, if you wish to contact him!

Yours sincerely,

E Goodman  
Chair of CAC