

Violent pornography

THE Libertarian Alliance, the radical free market and civil liberties think-tank and pressure group, condemns the proposals by the British Government to make possession of “violent pornography” a criminal offence.

There is no proven connection between pornography and sexual violence. There have been dozens of reputable studies. Not one has shown any connection. Indeed, the evidence is that access to pornography reduces sexual violence by providing an alternative release.

Even if there were a connection, it is only a prompting. Between prompting and action, there must still be some process of deliberation.

Anti-porn campaigners accuse adults of being robots who cannot resist any external impulse.

In any event, if there is a connection between pornography and sexual violence, there is exactly the same kind of connection between reading the Koran and letting off bombs on the London Underground. Are we to censor the Koran on that argument?

No – the anti-porn campaigners are anti-sex fanatics who will use any excuse to make other people as unhappy about sex as they are themselves.

As for criminalising possession, this is a sinister extension of a sinister principle established by the last Conservative Government. It is not the business of the State to tell us what literature we can have at home. At the least, it gives another opportunity for the Police to plant evidence.

The Libertarian Alliance denounces all censorship – whether of erotic material or of material deemed racist or sexist or homophobic or islamophobic. There should be no controls on the availability to adults of any literature. We believe in freedom of speech.

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