

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER NO.2.

Autumn 1989

T H E C A M P A I G N A G A I N S T P O R N O G R A P H Y

[redacted] Street. London. [redacted] tel: 01 [redacted]

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the second CAP newsletter! Since we produced our first newsletter the campaign has gone from strength to strength. We now have a permanent office at the above address which is staffed every day during the week. - so don't hesitate to get in touch with us - we'll be more than happy to hear from you!

This newsletter is for all supporters of CAP. We hope that you will find it informative and useful. We are planning to produce regular newsletters from now on. Newsletter No 3 is planned for October/November. We want supporters of CAP to be able to use the Newsletter as a forum for exchanging information, making contacts and communicating news. SO DO KEEP US IN TOUCH WITH WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND WE WILL USE THIS SPACE TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE WITH EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING.

In this newsletter you will find the latest news about initiatives in parliament to tackle the availability of pornography, including the fate of the "Page 3" bill. There is a chance for you to join CAP's team of volunteers, as well as information on setting up a local group and becoming a CAP local contact for your area, together with a list of current contacts. There are all the details about an exciting national conference on pornography and sexual violence which CAP is hosting in November as well as information about our other projects, including the publication of an anthology of women's letters about pornography for the end of the year. Finally, in response to a demand coming from supporters of CAP, we have produced a CAP CAMPAIGN ACTION PACK (copy enclosed). It's purpose is to encourage and facilitate effective campaigning both by individuals and by groups and it contains advice, ideas and information about all aspects of campaigning against pornography. We hope that you will use it and find it helpful, whatever the level of your involvement.

Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you need information, have some news or just want to discuss something. We hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

[redacted]  
[signature]  
for CAP.

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE "PAGE 3" BILL?

Clare Short MP has brought her bill to outlaw "page 3" type pictures of women from newspapers back before parliament again. The problem is, however, that without government co-operation the bill will not receive any time to be discussed. Clare recently wrote to Mrs Thatcher asking her to grant the bill time. She has now received a reply from a junior minister refusing. So, for this parliament anyway, the bill has been stopped. However Clare fully intends to try again when an opportunity presents itself.

### NEW BILL TO RESTRICT THE SALE OF PORNOGRAPHY TO SPECIALLY LICENSED SHOPS.

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, has tabled a new bill about pornography.

The bill, drafted by women from the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, would make it a legal requirement for retailers of pornography to apply for and be granted a special licence by their local authority. This would be granted at the discretion of the council, in much the same way as "private" shop licences are at the moment.

The aim of the bill is to restrict the sale of pornography just to specially licensed porn shops and thus to prevent its sale anywhere else: no more pornography in newsagents, corner shops, video stores, motorway service stations etc. At the moment pornography is sold openly in nearly every newsagents, including the big chain outlets like WH Smiths and John Menzies. The bill could also cover the use of pornographic images in advertising or newspapers. It is a radical proposal in its scope alone.

It also breaks new ground because it contains a new definition of pornography:

"Pornographic material means film and video and any printed matter which, for the purpose of sexual arousal or titillation, depicts women, or parts of women's bodies, as objects, things or commodities, or in sexually humiliating or degrading poses or being subjected to violence."

Dawn Primarolo has put the bill forward initially as a "presentation bill". On 19th July it was presented to parliament, there was a short debate and an indicative vote was taken. She plans to bring it back, as a private member's bill or ten minute rule bill at the earliest opportunity.

LET YOUR MP KNOW THAT YOU THINK THE BILL AND PORNOGRAPHY DEMAND URGENT ATTENTION. Write to them, mention the bill, explain your views about it and why you think she/he should be doing something to tackle pornography. Send a copy of your letter and your reply (if you ask for a reply they have to write back!) to us at CAP.

### **WOMEN STUDENTS LAUNCH MAJOR CAMPAIGN**

Women in the National Union of Students Women's Campaign decided at their recent annual conference to launch a major priority campaign against pornography. Delegates overwhelmingly backed a resolution calling for a co-ordinated programme of anti pornography action across the UK, to be organised in close association with CAP and launched in the autumn - watch this space for details! The campaign will be run from C.A.P. groups and women will be encouraged to set up a group in their student union or community, where one does not already exist and to organise events and actions from there. Planned activities include a massive programme of education and training around the issues pornography raises within a national agenda of anti pornography action. The focus for which will be a national day of action on International Women's day 1990, March 8th. Special campaign materials are being produced and the next CAP newsletter will include a section about this exciting campaign and how CAP supporters and get involved in it.

Many student union women's groups are already affiliated to CAP and CAP groups are being established in colleges.

For further information about NUS or NUS Women's Campaign contact: The Women's Officer, NUS, 461 Holloway Rd, N7. London.

### **TRADE UNIONS TAKE A STANCE AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY**

Women at the TUC women's conference passed a resolution condemning pornography.

The motion, proposed by women from The Amalgamated Engineering Union, The National Union of Journalists and the National Association of Probation Officers, condemned Newspapers such as The Sun and The Star which print pornographic pictures of women and calls on the TUC to boycott them.

Increasing numbers of individual unions are also taking up the issue, particularly those in trades related to publication and journalism, or those with a large women membership. Several national unions are now committed to the fight against pornography and support for CAP, including the NUJ, the CPSA and NALGO. There is also a lot of interest and support at branch and regional level. S.W. TUC have been running a major campaign around pornography and S.E. TUC have been circulating a petition opposing all forms of pornography which over 650 individual members have signed. Finally Scottish TUC Youth Conference have discussed pornography this year at their annual conference and are prioritising campaigning against it for the year ahead.

### CAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PORNOGRAPHY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

CAP is to host a national open conference for women on the broad theme of the links between pornography and sexual violence in our society.

The aim of the day is threefold:

1) to give as many women as possible access to a breadth of information on the reality of pornography production, its international context, its impact on women's lives and its relationship to sexual violence and sexual abuse, as well as identifying the main issues pornography raises.

2) to focus attention on the relationship between the production, distribution, display and consumption of pornographic images and the perpetration of sexual violence in society.

2) to bring together women campaigning against pornography all over the country, to exchange information and discuss what we can do. How can women who are confronting pornography in different ways and arenas - in their communities, workplaces, schools or homes - develop strategies for organizing and campaigning against it?

We are inviting the participation of women with expert knowledge of the pornography industry, in the UK and internationally, child pornography, pornography and child sexual abuse, pornography and domestic violence, pornography and sexual offenders.

There will be a creche running for the whole of the conference and we will be making every effort to ensure full accessibility.

We want as many women as possible to be able to come to this conference. This is for all women who oppose pornography and who want to find out more about what we know about the damage pornography inflicts, for all women interested in taking up the campaign against this dangerous trade.

However due to the capacity of the venue, spaces will be limited. Registration forms will be available from September. **So make sure of your place - order a registration form now!** - available from the office.

This will be the first event of its kind in this country - the first open national meeting of women organising against pornography. We want it to be a great day and we want every woman in CAP to be able to participate in it. **SO PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!** - 25th November 1989 at Nottingham Polytechnic.

#### **CONFERENCE PUBLICITY:**

We are publicising the conference as widely as possible in order to let women know it's happening. BUT we cant take on local publicity to the extent we would like to: **IF YOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISTRIBUTE PUBLICITY IN YOUR OWN AREA, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE**

#### **MAKING WOMEN'S VOICES PUBLIC - CAP TO PUBLISH LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

CAP is to publish an anthology of some of the 7000 letters of support that Clare Short received for her "Page 3" Bill. In these letters women talk about what they think about "Page 3" and pornography, many of them for the first time. We hope the book will provide a powerful account of some women's experience of pornographic images in Britain today.

We will be approaching women for permission to publish. Anonymity of all the women whose letters are included will be preserved.

If we are to be able to publish this book, and make women's voices public, we need financial support. We need to raise £4,000 in order to publish this book. **IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF ANY ORGANISATION OR GROUP THAT WOULD SUPPORT THIS PROJECT, PLEASE ASK THEM TO MAKE A DONATION.** All contributors will be acknowledged in the book.

## RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Without a strong, well-researched information base, no campaign working in opposition to pornography and the enormously powerful pornography industry will achieve success.

Volunteers in CAP interested in research and information cataloguing are coming together to form a team which currently includes academics and specialists in this field and women with cataloguing or research experience. Together we plan to catalogue all published and unpublished research and publications raising issues around pornography. We also plan to initiate original research relating to the UK, particularly into the relationship between pornography and sexual violence.

We need your involvement in this --whether you are in or out of London, whether you have research experience already, or whether you just want to be involved in the detective work of tracking down and recording what's been done so far. You could work in your own area, but preferably would be able to attend the occasional volunteer's meeting in London.

If you are interested apply to the office for a volunteers form. Mark your envelope RESEARCH.

## TAKING THE CAMPAIGN INTO OUR COMMUNITIES: ORGANISING LOCALLY.

CAP believes that organising locally is crucial in the fight against pornography. We want to develop a network of local contacts and local groups all over the U.K.

We currently have CAP members prepared to act as contacts in their locality in all the areas listed below. If there is a contact near you why not get in touch with them (if you haven't already) They can put you in touch with other members, let you know whether there is a group in your area yet and give you all the information about the campaign near you.

If there's not yet a contact for your area and you are prepared to become one please contact us at the office as soon as possible. We will let you know exactly what it would involve, put you in touch with other CAP members in your area and refer new members to you in the future.

Being a local contact need not require much of your time and you don't have to have done anything like it before. We would provide training, keep in regular contact with you and make sure that you had any support, either in terms of advice or resources, that you needed.

A working network of local contacts covering every area in the UK is crucial to the success of the anti pornography movement. We need your involvement to create it.

COMPLETE LIST OF AREAS WHERE THERE ARE LOCAL CAP CONTACTS (UP UNTIL JUNE '89):

Aldershot ; Bradford ; Bromley ; Cardiff; Coventry ; Hull ; Falmouth ; Leicester ; East London; North London; West London; Liverpool; Manchester. ; Milton Keynes; Newcastle; Northampton; Northern Ireland; Nottingham; Oxford; Preston; Sunderland; Swindon.

GET INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN! CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONTACT NOW! ALL LOCAL CONTACTS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO C/O CAP.

#### CAP LOCAL GROUPS

CAP is encouraging the formation of local CAP groups to take the campaign into our communities and as the base from which nationally co-ordinated campaigns can be organised.

Local groups are an excellent way to campaign: they encourage the participation of lots of people, they can be a rich source of creative ideas, strength and support and by organising in this way we can begin to apply coordinated pressure in our communities and across the country to get rid of pornography.

If there is not already a group in your area - why not set one up? Enclosed with this newsletter you will find some guidelines for starting up a local group, as well as a campaign pack of ideas information and advice on taking up the campaign locally.

CAP also produces a range of campaign materials for you to use including badges, stickers and leaflets . We are also more than happy to help in setting up a group in any other way we can - with training, ideas, advice, by putting you in touch with your nearest local contact and CAP members in your area or by sending someone down to attend a first meeting - whatever is needed!

ALL LOCAL GROUPS CAN BE WRITTEN TO C/O CAP OFFICE

## CHRISTIANS PICK UP THE PIECES

CARE (Christian Action Research and Education) have launched their campaign to combat pornography. The campaign, entitled "Picking Up The Pieces", is based on the belief that pornography directly threatens the safety of women and of children, violating their civil rights.

CARE have local groups who are working to put pressure on local retailers and raise public awareness of the issues. They have achieved considerable success in attracting local media attention in certain areas and putting pornography onto the local political agenda.

CARE nationally are trying to build up a digest of court reports of criminal cases where pornography is mentioned as a factor in sexually violent crimes. They need people to send them any examples from local press. They are also working to draft an amendment to the Obscene Publications Act. CARE can be contacted at: 53 Romney Street, London. SW1P 3RF.

## LAUNCH OF CPC

The vocal and organized opposition to pornography in the UK is growing, as was witnessed in April with the launch of The Campaign Against Pornography and Censorship (CPC- not to be confused with CAP!)

Whilst CPC is also involved in campaigning against pornography, it is a completely separate organisation with a different set of priorities to those of CAP. They see their role as a kind of "think tank" on the issues surrounding pornography and censorship. They share with us, and increasing numbers of people, the belief that there are definite links between pornography and sexual violence in our society, and that pornography directly promotes the sexual abuse of women and children while distorting male sexuality.

They have published their policy statement and plan to produce, for discussion, a pamphlet setting out some possible legal solutions to pornography which in their view do not constitute censorship.

CPC can be contacted at: PO Box 844  
London. SE 5 9QP.

## CITY IN AMERICA VOTES FOR ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY LAW.

On November 8th 1988 the population of Bellingham, a city in the state of Washington, voted in a public referendum to reject pornography. 61% of voters voted for "Initiative 1C" after a 6 month campaign by a hardworking coalition of anti-pornography citizens to educate people about the proposed law and about the harm of pornography in general.

Initiative 1C makes history in that it is the first piece of legislation of its kind to be adopted anywhere. It establishes pornography as a form of discrimination on the basis of sex and as a violation of women's civil rights. Because it is a civil, not a criminal law, there is no state ban on pornography or police enforcement of the law. Instead, individuals are empowered by the law to bring a civil lawsuit against "those who relegate them to inferiority in the form of sexual subordination through the production, sale, exhibition or distribution of pornography"

Initiative 1C provides legal recourse for any person who

- 1) is coerced into a pornographic performance
- 2) has pornography forced on them at work, at home, in education or in any public place
- 3) is assaulted or battered in a way directly caused by pornography
- 4) is defamed in pornography.

These are all violations of a person's right to privacy, integrity and self-determination.

Initiative 1C defines pornography as "the sexually explicit subordination of women, graphically depicted, whether in pictures or in words, that also includes one or more of the following: women presented as sexual objects, things or commodities; or as sexual objects who experience sexual pleasure in being raped; or as sexual objects tied up or cut up or mutilated or bruised or physically hurt; or in postures of sexual submission; or as whores by nature; or by being penetrated by objects or animals; or in scenarios of degradation, injury, abasement, torture, shown as filthy or inferior, bleeding, bruised or hurt in a context that makes these conditions sexual; or women's body parts are exhibited in such a way that women are reduced to these parts."

This civil rights approach against pornography was initially proposed in 1983 in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis City Council contracted with constitutional law professor Catherine A. MacKinnon and feminist author Andrea Dworkin to write a proposed civil law or "ordinance". The ordinance they produced was supported by women's, minority and

community organisations. The Minneapolis City Council passed the ordinance on two occasions - it was vetoed both times by the mayor.

### BELLINGHAM ORDINANCE UNDER THREAT

It seems more than likely that the pornographers will use all the power at their disposal to subvert the democratic wish of the majority of the citizens of Bellingham, despite the vote on November 8th.

The people of Bellingham voted to legislate against pornography and empower the victims of pornography to take legal action against their abusers. The pornographers will attempt to get the ordinance declared 'unconstitutional' on the grounds that it is contradictory to the First Amendment of the American Constitution - the right to free speech. CAP will keep as up to date as possible with the situation.

For more information contact: Organising Against Pornography,

310 E. 38th Street. 109.  
Minneapolis. MN 55409.  
U.S.A.

### NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

A book by the authors of the civil rights anti-pornography ordinance in America is available. Published by OAP and now available through CAP.

"Pornography and Civil Rights: A new day for Women's Equality"  
by Andrea Dworkin and Catherine A. Mackinnon. Price £10.00

### THE CASE OF OLIVIA YOUNG - PORNOGRAPHY AS SEXUAL HARASSMENT

On March 30 1980, Olivia Young, an employee of Janna Medical Systems in the state of Missouri in the US, was subjected during a business meeting to viewing the pornographic film "Deep Throat" by the five men from St Louis University Medical Centre that she was meeting with.

They introduced the film as "a film we use to educate our nurses". She was deeply traumatised by the experience, protested and lost her job. She then filed a suit against the University of St Louis. The judge who heard the case, dismissed it (both the judge and his family were closely

associated with the university). Olivia has appealed and her appeal is due to be heard later this year.

CAP has written expressing our support. The Justice for Olivia Young Coalition (JOYC) - which represents a "coming together" of diverse individuals and groups from a broad cross section of society - is struggling to get the court and wider society to recognise that pornography is harmful in general and that forced viewing of it under any circumstances is intolerable, including in the workplace and certainly should not have to be tolerated by any woman in order to succeed in her career.

In their letter to CAP JOYC stated "What happened to Olivia Young is intolerable in a civilized society and will not be tolerated! Toward that end, CAP's publicizing the situation and reporting on its progress to as wide and/or as influential a population as possible can make a significant contribution."

You can write to Olivia Young at: Justice for Olivia Young  
Coalition,  
P.O.Box 13551,  
St. Louis,  
Missouri. 63138.  
U.S.A.

### **BECOME A CAP VOLUNTEER!!**

Why not think about joining CAP's team of volunteers. We need people who can offer a regular commitment to CAP to work on CAP projects, join our research and information group, help with administration (London based) and fundraising.

But we don't just want volunteers to "do" things - we want to work with you to develop the campaign. Your ideas and input would be welcome on any level.

If you are interested and want to find out more get in touch with the office for a chat. We will let you know exactly what it might involve, and discuss with you which areas of CAP's work you would be most interested in, what skills and experience you could offer and how your involvement could be organised so as to make the most of your abilities and ideas.

There is something for everyone who is interested to do. We look forward to hearing from you!

**BOOKS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM CAP:**

Pornography and Sexual Violence - Evidence of the Links, edited by Everywoman, published by Everywoman (London. 1988.) Price £4.95.

Pornography and Civil Rights - A new day for women's equality. by Andrea Dworkin and Catherine MacKinnon, published by Organising Against Pornography (Minneapolis 1988). Price £9.95.

The Pornography of Representation. by Susanne Kappeler, published by Polity Press (Cambridge 1986). Price £8.95.

Surviving Sexual Violence by Liz Kelly, published by Polity Press (Cambridge 1988). Price £7.95.

The Sexual Exploitation of Children by Judith Ennew, published by Polity Press (Cambridge 1986). Price £7.95.

Please make cheques payable to Campaign Against Pornography.



He never worries about getting home at night....

# PORNOGRAPHY THREATENS WOMEN'S SAFETY

Printed and published by Campaign Against Pornography  
9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG. tel: (01) 287 0519.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS .....

" I teach young children in the 6 - 9 age range and I have first hand experience of the upset and embarrassment caused to myself and some of my pupils when Page 3 of 'The Sun' lands on top of their art tables preparing for art lessons. ... I don't see why females should continue to be hurt in this way and I still, at the age of forty eight, feel a tangible abuse of my womanhood, a shock of feeling less than human (an object, I suppose) on these occasions."

" I am speaking to you as a mother of an eighteen month old daughter and to be perfectly honest I do fear for her safety in later years. I have spoken to other women who are also the mothers of daughters and who feel exactly the same as I do. I think we should stop it completely, or let women of this country vote on it, not the male members at parliament as it is us who have to live with it."

" We women know that Page 3 is much more about the power that men want over women than 'real sex urges'. I would suggest that if breasts suddenly became a symbol of female power, men would hate the sight of them ... A lot of men don't think it's right for a woman to feed a baby in public, yet they think Page 3 is fine as a symbol of their own power. ... So of course they will object when some 'spoilsport' woman M.P. tries to take one of their power privileges away."

" On the 10 April I did a sponsored fast for 24 hours for CAP and I was very surprised by the response and the amount I raised ... I am proud to be a member of CAP. We will win the battle!"

NOTTS. MALGO  
31 AUG 1989  
RECEIVED