

# **THE TRUTH**

**ABOUT VIOLENCE  
PORNOGRAPHY  
AND THE  
MEDIA**

Second Edition

£1.00

Published by The Maranatha Community, 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester, M41 6JT  
Tel: 0161 748 4858: Fax: 0161 747 7379  
email: [info@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@maranathacommunity.org.uk) [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk)

# Violence, Pornography and the Media

## Introduction

There is growing concern about the increasing presentation of violence and pornography in the media. These notes are prepared by the Maranatha Community to give factual information on this important issue and to enable the voice of people who want to reverse this trend to be heard. Some television executives, film producers and publishers still persist in maintaining that the media have no lasting and damaging influence upon society. This is now shown to be untrue as the following notes bear out.

*A report on this subject was produced by a Working Party chaired by the Earl of Halsbury and submitted to the Parliamentary All Party Family and Protection Group. It was distributed to members of both Houses of Parliament on 25th June 1996 by Dame Jill Knight (Chair) with the support of Mr. Michael Alison (Conservative), Mr. David Alton (Liberal Democrat) and Mr. Donald Anderson (Labour).*

## 1. The link between screen viewing and violence IS confirmed by leading authorities worldwide.

- Professor Andrew Sims, past President of the Royal College of Psychiatry, states, "there is now vast anecdotal evidence associating the portrayal of violence with violent behaviour and more than one thousand papers linking violence in the media to actual behaviour."
- Dr. Susan Bailey, Consultant Psychiatrist with Salford Health Authority carried out studies of adolescent murderers influenced by violent screen images. A quarter of the young people she encountered had watched violent and pornographic films during the period immediately prior to their murdering.
- Professor Comstock, in his study "TV and the American Child", identified "a very solid relationship between viewing anti-social portrayals or violent episodes and behaving anti-socially".
- The New Zealand Psychological Society in a parliamentary submission identified "a causal relationship between the amount of film violence viewed and subsequent aggressive and anti-social behaviour among both children and adults".
- The American Psychological Association concludes that research "clearly demonstrates a co-relation between viewing violence and aggressive behaviour".
- Dr. William Belson, after a seven year study of 1,565 London boys, concluded that the evidence that there was a significant relationship between TV and adolescent violence was "as valid as connecting smoking with lung cancer".
- Professor Eysenck and Dr Nias in "Sex, Violence and the Media" (1978) examined the academic credentials of the hundreds of reports already published on the subject and concluded that television's contribution to social violence was "a powerful and omnipresent one". An earlier study, in which the viewing habits of 875 children in one American town were studied for 21 years, from 1960 to 1981, showed that the more children watched television up to the age of eight, the more serious were the offences they subsequently committed.
- A US Congressional Committee headed by Senator Simon, conducted hearings on violence on television and concluded that the research linking screened and actual violence is "just overwhelming", and that there is no question that a "causal factor" is involved. (Daily Telegraph 7.4.94)
- Elizabeth Stutz, in a survey of 500 children aged 7 - 14, (Norwich 1990 - 91) reported, "many children told about the pangs of extreme fear and nightmares they suffer as a result of the horrific programmes, some taking several years to harden themselves to these. However, the influence of excessive and compulsive screen viewing and computer playing, shortens childhood by several years."
- Dr. Michael Rothenberg wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association, (1975). "One hundred and forty six articles in behavioural science journals, representing 50 studies involving 10,000 children and adolescents from every conceivable background, all showed that viewing produced increasing aggressive behaviour in the young....."
- Dr Clifford Yorke, a leading Psychoanalyst stated on BBC Radio 3, "explicit films of sexual and violent acts, may indeed be obtained by children. It is known by those in the profession that some adults encourage and even enforce child viewing of the these so-called 'adult' movies." Dr Clifford Yorke is a Psycho-Analyst. (Quoted by Sue Pheasant, 1996).
- Professor Elizabeth Newsom, in her report 'Video Violence and the Protection of Children' (1994), examined the case of the James Bulger murder by two ten year old boys and other instances of cruelty by children and asked the question "what, then, can be seen as the 'different' factor that has entered the lives of countless children and adolescents in recent years? This has to be recognised as the easy availability to children of gross images of violence on video".
- Professor Daniel Linz, Professor of Psychology at the University of California has spent years researching the link between make-believe brutality and real world aggression and he says, "the consensus among social scientists is that very definitely there is a causal connection between exposure to violence in the media and violent behaviour." (quoted in Hollywood vs America by Michael Medved.)

- **Dr Robert Gould**, Professor of Psychiatry at New York Medical College, said, "the younger the viewers are the more suggestible they are - and more likely to act out violently". ('War Cry' 30.4.94).
- **Sir Paul Condon**, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police has stated that there is compelling evidence that lack of family stability and a mistaken view of violence acquired in video arcades and from unlimited access to television can be very destructive. He predicted a murderous "harvest" from violent videos. (Times 2.3.95).
- **Professor Sir Martin Roth** (May 1977) "children exposed to scenes of aggressive and violent conduct exhibit an increase in such behaviour as compared to those not so exposed." (Quoted by Sue Pheasant, July 1996).
- **Dr.H.Brandon Centerwell**, psychiatric researcher formerly with the University of Washington, claims that it is the young children exposed to TV violence in the 1950's and 1960's who later fuelled the dramatic increase in murder and property crime. He says that without TV violence rates of crime would have been halved.
- **The British Medical Journal** of 5th February 1994 reports two psychiatrists at a hospital in Coventry dealing with two ten year old boys damaged by watching the programme "Ghost Watch" on Halloween. They specifically stated, "**the trauma in our two cases have been caused by the television programme the boys had watched**".
- **Professor Inga Sonesson** of the University of Lund studied 200 children in Malmo, Southern Sweden, aged 6 to 16. The material showed that among boys in particular, **there was a pronounced correlation between emotional disturbance and intensive viewing of television**, as six-year-olds developed more aggression than their contemporaries, and later in life continued to watch violent films. This often led to behavioural problems such as vandalism, hooliganism and theft. He also found that girls were strongly influenced by horror films. They lost their ability to concentrate and had **frequent nightmares**. The study showed that in all, 14% of the children who watched more than two hours television a day at six years old were rated as being **more aggressive** in their class, and watched considerably more video violence than their classmates.
- **The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT)** spoke to 1000 teachers in different parts of the country. More than 90% of the PAT respondents believed that children's emotional, social and moral development is being damaged, sometimes irrevocably, by what they see.
- **Hampshire Constabulary** Vice Squad officer stated "I can confirm that I have personal knowledge of five cases within the last year where a sexual offence is directly connected to pornography. In four of these cases the offender showed the victim the pornography in video format in order to facilitate an indecent act between them. In the fifth case sexual offences were committed against boys and filmed with a view to the distribution of the material." (In letter from Constabulary).
- **Superintendent Mike Haines** of the Obscene Publications Branch of New Scotland Yard said in December 1990, "of one thing I am certain.....wherever you find sexual crime, so you will also find pornography. The link is indisputable. It is startlingly clear in the collections of obscene and violent pictures and words hoarded by people we arrest for sexual crimes. It is an addiction and, like any other craving, it needs constant feeding. If you look at the material that we are seizing, the percentage of the bizarre and sado-masochistic is increasing all the time and pornographers are telling us those lines are their best sellers." (Daily Mail Dec. 1990).

## **2. Behaviour on the screen IS replicated in real life.**

- **The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents** has published (10.2.95) the results of a survey involving 91 headteachers of primary schools. **91% confirmed that there was a link between violent television programmes and aggressive behaviour in schools**. 79% said there had been incidents of injuries linked to copy-cat play and gave the following instances: "aggressive high kicking", "kick jumping, violent and threatening behaviour", "teeth lost/loosened, bruising", "one nine-year-old broke another boy's arm by holding it and knee dropping onto it". In view of the kind of aggressive behaviour exhibited, it is highly significant that no less than 52% mentioned the television programme "Power Rangers" by name.
- **A TV wrestler** known for wrapping a python around his neck before bouts was one of toddler Jake Terney's idols. But when the two-year old tried to copy the gimmick of namesake 'Jake the Snake' Roberts, it ended in tragedy. As the boy played in his bedroom at home, he wrapped a loose electric cable twice round his neck and strangled himself. His father, David, said his son, who had a quilt cover decorated with pictures of wrestlers including American Roberts and a python, would **imitate his idol** by putting belts around his neck. (Daily Telegraph 8.4.94)
- **'Basic Instinct'**, a sex thriller prompted a woman to lure a sailor into a Portsmouth side street and stab him in the stomach. Vanessa Ballantyne, aged 41, watched the controversial smash hit film on video, then grabbed a five inch kitchen knife and went looking for a man to stab. (Graham Keeley, The News).
- **'Stop or my mum will shoot'**, an action comedy video starring Sylvester Stallone was watched by a six-year-old girl who then accidentally shot her grandfather dead with his revolver as she copied a scene from the film. (Daily Telegraph 18.5.95)
- **'Power Rangers'**, a children's programme has prompted copy-cat violence by children in many countries. Staff on one primary school "have had to stop pupils imitating the karate kicks and arm-swinging of characters from the GMTV Power Rangers Show". (Manchester Evening News 3.11.94) In Norway, the children's programme 'Power Rangers' had to be withdrawn because of complaints. A link had been suggested between the killing of a little five year old girl by her six year old friends.

- The ITV series 'Cracker' featured two characters who were stabbed to death. The Lincoln Coroner, Roger Atkinson, stated at an inquest that the murder of a midwife twelve hours after the broadcasting of this episode could have led to her death. The response of Granada Television was to dismiss the coroner's remarks as "only his opinion."

### **3. There is now MASSIVE public concern about the damage being inflicted by the media .**

- **Opinion Research Business** conducted a national opinion survey in June 1996, 61% felt that freedom of expression has gone too far. In answer to the question, "Do you think the current safeguards to protect children from seeing violence and sex in the media, either through TV or video are too little, too much or about right?", 68% said too little.
- **A Gallup Poll** presented the question, "Do you believe that society as a whole is less moral today than it was fifty years ago, or do you not believe that?" The answer was, "yes, less moral" - 75%; "no, not less moral" - 17%; "don't know" - 8%. Of those who answered "yes", 48% said that television and the media were mostly to blame. (Daily Telegraph 5.7.96).
- **A Times-Mirror poll** In March 1993 showed that 80% of Americans believe that television now exerts a negative impact on society.
- **A MORI poll** conducted for BBC2's 'The Late Show' revealed that two-thirds of the public believed that violence on television is directly linked to anti-social behaviour among children. 66% agreed that watching violence was likely to make children act violently and 76% felt that watching violence made children more likely to accept violence in real life. (Daily Telegraph 17.5.94)
- **The Independent Broadcasting Authority** commissioned research dealing with perceptions of TV violence and 60% of those interviewed agreed that TV violence gives children the impression that murder occurs daily. 60% agreed that too many programmes on television contain violence.
- **The British Broadcasting Standards Council's** annual survey, compiled from an independent national poll of 1000 adults, an analysis of 544 TV programmes and the responses of a 431-strong audience panel, showed that **57% of viewers believed that there was too much bad language in the programmes.** Broadcasters were causing "particular upset and hurt" by widespread use of potentially blasphemous language such as Jesus Christ, Holy Mother, Christ and Hell. Bad language occurred in nearly half of all terrestrial TV programmes monitored and 80% of those on satellite channels. (Daily Mail, 12.6.96) Even in 1994 the Annual Report of the BSC reported that there had been a 60% increase about swear words and blasphemy. The BSC had to undertake research following a three-fold rise in complaints about standards of taste and decency on radio, mostly on Radio Four. The Deputy Chairwoman of the Council stated that most of the complaints related to bad language and "explicit sexual activity determined from sound effects". (Times 8.12.94)
- **The TV Times**, (25th June - 1st July 1994) reported their special survey in which 59% of parents stated they believed that TV violence encourages criminal behaviour and that 45% of children confused fact and fiction on TV.
- **Manchester Evening News** carried out a survey of readers and 99% voted that there was too much swearing on T.V. (14.6.96)

### **4. What we see on the screen DOES influence us.**

- During the year ending 31st December 1995 **£3124 million** was spent on T.V. advertising (Industry Statistics ITC June 1996). Commercial marketing research indicates that buying habits are directly influenced by comparatively short T.V. advertisements. If this were not so companies would cease advertising. In view of their advertising income television companies cannot deny that the films and advertisements they transmit do directly influence human behaviour. If this were not so, they would lose their advertising revenue.

### **5. There IS an obsession with violence by Film and TV Companies.**

- In an episode of "Casualty" on 13th January 1996 at 8.15pm the BBC broadcast a scene of a man in a balaclava thrusting a broken bottle into the face of a 16 year old Asian girl outside a school.
- The average American 13 year old has witnessed **8,000 murders** and more than **100,000 other acts of violence** on TV. This is based on the average child watching 3 hours of television a day. (American Psychological Association). The United Kingdom is following the pattern set by the United States.
- **47 films** broadcast on the four terrestrial channels between January and June 1994 were analysed by the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association. These included **244 incidents including fire-arms, 199 violent assaults (60 of them against women), 24 incidents of fire-raising or causing explosions and 21 incidents involving knives.** The violence depicted in these films covered the full range of violent acts. These include victims being punched, spat on, dragged by the hair, kicked on the ground, kicked in the stomach, kidneys and genitals. Women are raped and beaten and in one instant a fork put through her cheek. Cruel behaviour depicted, included a man having his hand impaled to a door with scissors, another man having his face smeared with dog faeces. In another instant an ice pick is forced into a victim's throat and also a serrated knife is held at a bound child's throat.

- In one typical week on British television there were **more than 400 killings screened, 119 woundings and 27 sex attacks on women**. Vicious weapons were wielded, foul abusive language was the norm. (David Alton).
- In 'True Lies', **Arnold Schwarzenegger throws a meat-hook into a man's stomach; he hurls a pointed instrument at his torturer which sticks in the man's eye, he breaks a man's neck with his bare hands; and a driver is shot through the head and blood splatters everywhere**. This is typical of countless films today.
- Satellite movie channels top the TV table of shame. A report by the **University of Sheffield** found that satellite movie channels showed even more violence than terrestrial channels. The percentage of programmes showing violence on each channel was - Movie Channel - **81%**; Sky Movies - **79%**; UK Gold - **39%**; Sky One - **37%**; Channel 4 - **30%**; ITV **29%**; BBC1 - **27%**; BBC2 **23%**. (Daily Mail 9.8.95)
- In a recent Top 60 of video rentals, **35** were exceedingly violent and a further eight were horror. They featured witchcraft, vampirism, serial murder and psychopathic stabbers. (Carefree Magazine May 1996)
- The film "**Heat**" is a homage to violence. Almost every scene is dominated by guns - lots of them, and very big ones. All problems are resolved by their use. Such films espouse a culture of violence in which life is cheap and disposable, with random, casual murder the order of the day and victory going to whoever has the biggest gun. **It is a world in which civility, rational discourse and the peaceful resolution of differences have no place.**
- Violence has also invaded the music industry through violent rock and rap singers like WuTang Clan and Onyx, with lyrics about masochism and murder. The techno-punk band "**Nine Inch Nails**" produced a video for the song, "**Closer**". It is littered with violent imagery. The lead singer is portrayed as decapitated - his head spinning around on a platter.
- Heavy metal music, increasingly featured by the media and powerful commercial interests, often glorifies drug use, murder, suicide and satanism. It debases human relations, degrades sex and is fundamentally aggressive. The pop music industry is playing an increasingly powerful role in TV and sound broadcasting. Obscene and suggestive language is commonplace and Michael Meldred in an article in the Sunday Times (28.2.93) states "**Pop music is a mighty industry of staggering global impact that devotes nearly all of its energies to the endless celebration of the raw power of lust**".
- The decision of the BBC and the Independent Television Companies to broadcast **Sex Programmes** late at night has set a new low standard of broadcasting in this country. Couples speak about intimate sexual encounters in the programmes and the concept of marriage is ridiculed. Promiscuity and sexual deviation are glorified and human relationships are degraded. The Broadcasting companies are fully aware that children have access to these programmes and they turn down all complaints.

## **6. Children ARE being exposed to corrupting adult material on film.**

- At **9pm** on 28th January 1995 the BBC transmitted a programme containing prolonged shots of two naked couples in the same room simulating sexual intercourse.
- At **9pm** on 15th January 1996 the BBC transmitted a programme in which within five minutes a couple were writhing on top of each other. It concluded with the same girl copulating with another man in a park.
- The Sunday Times survey published on 23rd June 1996 gives precise evidence that children as young as 9 are regularly watching adult films depicting sex and brutal murders in 18-rated videos, despite censorship laws designed to restrict their viewing to adults. **Two-thirds of 9-11 year olds interviewed had watched videos carrying the 18 certificate** such as "Pulp Fiction", "The Terminator" and "The Silence of the Lambs". More than half had viewed films well after the 9pm watershed. Six out of ten had a television in their bedroom and a quarter had their own video recorder. Professor Elizabeth Newson, Emeritus Professor of Child Psychology at Nottingham University says that children are finding these films titillating and their tastes are changing - "This is what worries me and if children are also watching scenes in which violence is associated with sex, that creates a loss of innocence. That is a terrible thing to do to a child - it is **child abuse**".
- The **Broadcasting Standards Council** says sex scenes in teenage television dramas and soap operas are being taken to unacceptable levels. Speaking at the launch of its annual report, which recorded a 45 per cent increase in complaints over the past two years, Lady Howe, chairwoman, said "Adolescent sex is, of course, relevant to teenagers but it is available at a time when under-tens are in the audience, which is a cause for concern for many parents."
- **Four in ten boys and 28% of girls aged between 7 and 17 watch TV past the watershed during the week.** At weekends more than half the boys aged between 7 and 10 who have a television set in their room are viewing after 9pm. Set against the national average of three hours a day, 59% claim to watch more than three hours and 19% claim to watch more than five hours. Of boys aged between 7 and 10 with their own set, two thirds watch more than three hours, one in four more than five hours and one in ten more than six hours. The information is part of the report, "Class of 94", from the Strategic Marketing and Research Consultants. (Jane Thynne, Daily Telegraph 6/6/95)
- A **Teachers' Survey** produced by the Professional Association of Teachers, 1994, stated, "A six year old woke up after 11.30pm, switched on her television and watched an 'educational' programme on explicit sex. This only came to light after 'suggestive behaviour' in the classroom with other children."..."A junior child, exhibiting a great deal of violent behaviour, told staff he sneaked down after his mother went to bed and watched pornographic movies with his dad. There are frequent reports of children watching television till midnight and of parents videoing programmes that are on after the children have gone to bed for them to watch before they go to school and discuss with other children".

## 7. TV Soaps ARE projecting a damaging message.

- "Home and Away" included a brutal date rape scene in one of its episodes.
- "Neighbours" showed teenagers hunting for condoms before going to bed.
- "Eastenders" freely featured rape, and domestic violence and homosexual kissing.
- "Emmerdale Farm" featured a Lesbian mock 'wedding'.
- "Casualty" featured a woman collapsed with a haemorrhage as a result of an abortion.
- "The Bill" featured child prostitution, including a shot of a man handing money to a 14 year old girl.
- "Brookside" featured a father who raped his daughter and was then poisoned & stabbed and buried under the patio. 'Brookside has also featured incest.

## 8. The Rules ARE being subverted

- The Broadcasting Act, 1990, states in section 6(1)(a) that "**NOTHING** is included in programmes which offends against good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite or lead to disorder or to be **OFFENSIVE TO PUBLIC FEELING**". The Board of Governors of the BBC agreed to abide by these requirements in a resolution dated 18 January 1981, but they failed to keep their word.
- The British Government is a signatory to the European Convention on trans-frontier broadcasting which states that programmes "**SHALL NOT BE INDECENT AND IN PARTICULAR CONTAIN PORNOGRAPHY**" (Article 7).
- Britain is a party to the European Community Directive on Television Broadcasting Activities which says that member states shall ensure that programmes "**DO NOT INVOLVE PORNOGRAPHY OR GRATUITOUS VIOLENCE** and "do not contain any incitement to hatred on grounds of race, sex, religion or nationality".(Article 22)
- The British Board of Film Classification is under increasing public criticism for failing to do its duty. It passed the extremely violent and depraved 'Natural Born Killers', which glorifies violence and features over **45 murders**, as suitable for home viewing. This created a storm of public protest **with over 200 MP's of all parties condemning this action**. In the face of public outrage the distributors were forced to withdraw it. Note: the BBC have purchased this film.

## 9. There IS enormous circumstantial evidence of the link between crime and pornography

- The Putney Rapist, was said by the police to have copied ideas from rape **illustrations in a bondage magazine** called "The Trap" ( The Independent 19.07.88).
- A 31 year old man indecently assaulted his girlfriend's daughter **after showing her a pornographic magazine**. When the man was arrested, pornographic magazines were found in his house. (Leicester Mercury 28.01.89.)
- A 12 year old boy sexually assaulted a 4 year old girl in Los Angeles, **after listening to 'dial-a-porn' messages**. (Daily Telegraph 24.11.88.)
- Three men who imprisoned and raped two convent girls were given jail sentences totalling 39 years. **A pornographic magazine containing a story about how two girls were accosted on the street to take part in a sex orgy was found in the flat**. ( Today 31.10.89)
- An American Airman based in Suffolk who attacked a mother and her teenage daughter, was jailed for 12 years. The court heard how **he attempted to live out hard core pornography** stories he had written.(Daily Mail 19.02.89.)
- A man who raped his step daughter and tried to have intercourse with her younger sister was given a fourteen year jail sentence. **He showed the older girl pornographic magazines** before interfering with her. (Leicester Mercury 15.12.88)
- A 22 year old man was found dead **after he had watched a 'blue' video**. The Coroner warned of dangers of seeking sexual gratification by strange practices.(Pontypridd and Llantrisant Observer 9.10.86.)
- From the age of seven, a boy, the eldest of four children, **whose parents watched pornographic videos**, allowed him to see them, and were careless about putting them away. Throughout his childhood he tried to touch girls sexually. When 15 he raped and bugged his brother and sister. (PAFC)
- A boy of 11 seriously sexually assaulted a four year old girl who lived next door. From the age of seven **he had been allowed to watch Sky Adult films**. The abused child and her family received counselling. (PAFC)
- A male nurse with a **fetish for child porn videos** was jailed for seven years for raping a ten year old girl. Twelve 'particularly unpleasant' explicit films, involving adults and youngsters under 14, were found among a collection in the flat of bachelor Paul Groome, 34, said the police. They believe that Groome, convicted for possessing adult porn videos in 1988, either smuggled them into Britain from Holland or had them sent in. (Daily Mail 1990.)
- Robert Black was jailed for life for abducting a child. When officers raided his London home they seized **large amounts of pornography**. ( Daily Mail.)

- Nathaniel White, a serial killer, is blaming violent films such as "Robocop" for his actions. "I look at a violent movie and whatever I see I imitate. It just seems to seep in". (Daily Mail 7.8. 92)
- Television coverage of the Dunblane tragedy probably inspired the massacre in Tasmania in which at least 34 people died, according to the FBI's leading consultant on mass murder said yesterday. Dr. Park Deitz, the chief psychiatrist for the FBI, said global radio and television broadcasts such as Dunblane, where 16 children and a teacher died, increased paranoia and depression in those most likely to commit atrocities. (R Maynard and T Rhodes, The Times 30.04.96.)

## **10. Leading film figures ARE now revolting against violence and filth in the film industry.**

- Stanley Kubrick has withdrawn his film "A Clockwork Orange" because of its damaging effect.
- Roger Moore has spoken out against blood and sleaze on the screen, specifically condemning graphic sex scenes in 'Basic Instincts' and 'Showgirls'.
- Frank Capra, three times Oscar winner, has turned his back on the sordid business because of its lewdness, degrading obscenity and violence.
- Edward James Olmos, the Oscar nominated actor has admitted "nothing that we can do will ever stop the damage that we've done".
- Dustin Hoffman, speaking at the Cannes Film Festival, lambasted screen violence and referring to the disaster at Dunblane and Tasmania he said, "are we really saying that screen violence does not have anything to do with these massacres?"
- Gregory Peck has attacked the "growing carnival of violence" in the modern cinema. The Oscar winning star condemned the "gratuitous violence (and) overt sex" in so many recent movies. "There is too much violence for the sake of violence". (The Universe 14.4.96)
- Sir Anthony Hopkins has refused to do a sequel to the "Silence of the Lambs" for fear that it encourages violence.
- Clint Eastwood, star of several very violent films is also concerned about their effects.
- Ben Elton, May 1996, has published a novel which attacks films which use brutality to pull in audiences.
- David Puttnam has said that the demand for more violence and gore has to be stopped. "Someone has to say 'enough' because this is a disaster. We are destroying ourselves. We are untying the fabric of our society".
- John Grisham, the thriller writer, has criticised Oliver Stone's Natural Born Killers.
- Susan George star in "Straw Dogs" said she would not agree to appear in Straw Dogs if she was asked today -"I would never want to endorse the making of such a film, it's horrendous what is taking place. The more immune to violence children become, the more they will put on and the more they will probably take in, which is disastrous" (Daily Mail 6.6.96)

## **11. Newspapers and magazines ARE following the trend to depravity and corruption.**

- Most newsagents now sell the so-called 'Sport' newspaper which is largely pornographic and advertises telephone sex lines urging people to 'talk dirty'. It lists telephone numbers of prostitutes. It is freely available to children.
- Popular newspapers are now presenting degraded sex. The People newspaper issued a sex magazine 11.2.96. It included an advertisement for a video headed 'Millions Turn on to Watch us make love'. The Daily Star (1996) ran a series entitled 'The New Sex Bible' featuring naked couples. The Sunday Mirror (3.3.96) followed a similar pattern with a supplement focusing on 'discovering your sexual style'.
- Pornography is now a major industry and pornographic material is now widely available in shops throughout the country. Legislative constraints have now virtually collapsed and this material is now increasingly getting into the hands of children. According to Scotland Yard some shops selling pornography are making £60,000 profit a week.
- Sleaze has now invaded magazines for teenagers and young people. 'Pulp' distributed freely to youngsters in the south of England has featured sadomasochism and sex with animals. Magazines for girls and young women glorify promiscuity. The MG (29.10.94) featured letters headed "I sleep with anyone" and "I'm ready for sex". 'More!' (October/November 1994) included an erotic fiction supplement described as "unbridled lust" and sexually explicit illustrations. Its circulation is 367,000 and this issue included "can a psychic predict your love life". 'Just Seventeen' (26.10.94) circulation 384,000 featured "my mum's having an affair". Mizz (October 1994) featured "my brother paid me for sex".
- Teenage magazines are encouraging girls to think that it is normal to have under-age sex. "The reality is that fewer than one in four have intercourse before the age of sixteen", said Daniel Wright of the Medical Research Council's Medical Sociology Unit. Dr Judith Stephenson, senior lecturer at University College London, said teenagers learned about sex from friends, magazines and television programmes. (Daily Telegraph 3.2.96).
- "TV Hits" a magazine aimed at 10 - 17 year olds was banned by leading supermarkets after publishing an explicit article on oral sex. (Daily Mail 27.11.95).

- Teenage magazines under fire for their explicit sexual content are receiving **public money**. The Health Authority, funded by the National Health Service, is spending £100,000 on an advertising campaign in such titles as "It's Bliss", "Just Seventeen" and "Sugar". **All three have been singled out for criticism by MPs.** (Sunday Telegraph 11.2.96).

## 12. The CHALLENGE to our Nation

- The warning signs of growing corruption are increasingly evident. The Producer of "Natural Born Killers", Oliver Stone, explaining the film, said **"we poke fun at the idea of justice, at the idea of righteousness, at the concept that there is a right and a wrong way"**. (Daily Mail 21.2.95) Actor **Martin Clunes**, who stars in "Men Behaving Badly" says: "In another 10 years everyone will say what they want. They'll have the f-word on children's television. It's only a word." (Lynda Lee-Potter, Daily Mail 12.6.96)
- "Senior figures in child psychiatry and paediatric medicine now declare themselves convinced of what ordinary parents and teachers have long observed - that **children's behaviour and attitudes are affected by what they see on television**". (Times Leader 11.4.94).
- The BBC's Head of Television Drama, made the astonishing claim that BBC2's 'Between the Lines' series **"improves the standards of broadcasting by maintaining an excellence and integrity in all elements of its execution"**. The programme they broadcast (4.4.94) included graphic presentation of kicks to the groin, attacks on the head and thumps to the lower stomach. The following expletives were typical of the language used in the programme- 'pissed', 'bugger', 'Christ Almighty', 'shit', 'Jesus Christ (6 times)', 'shitty job'. The programme was transmitted immediately after the 9 p.m. cut-off and would, of course, have been seen by thousands of children.
- Andrew Neil in the Sunday Telegraph 17.3.96 states **"There is a new coarseness about British television that sneers at standards and revels in slovenly speech and job behaviour. It contributes to the brutalisation of a society in which headmasters are stabbed to death at school gates and old women are tortured and killed in their homes for the small change in their purse.."**
- **Bill Jordan**, one of BBC's longest serving Governors has spoken of a creeping tide of sleaze and warned that the public would turn against television if their legitimate concerns about sex and violence were not noted. (Daily Mail 16th September 1995. He referred to television as "one of the most powerful institutions in this country without a shadow of a doubt". Addressing the Royal Television Society conference he said **"There is a problem of almost incremental moves towards what is an unacceptable standard. One move makes the next one more acceptable and then there comes a time when you look back and ask where is it going to stop?"** "I am concerned about what kind of society we are leading up to". "Swear words which were never used on TV ten years ago were now commonplace. It is flowing down to the 11 and 12 year olds, who are using that language in the playgrounds".
- **Bruce Gyngell**, Managing Director of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television in a speech at the Royal Television Society dinner said: The broadcaster "has a duty to deliver programmes with proper production values. It is my belief that shows such as "God's Gift" do not. That programme is a travesty of everything I hold to be good television; it demeans those who take part, and saddest of all it **insults our audience**"..."I almost think it has become fashionable within certain sections of the television community to vie with each other to see who can come up with the most risqué programme."..."Because views on sex and morality have changed, it does not mean that terrestrial television has to slavishly follow into a **mire of sleaze**..."What are we doing to our sensibilities and moral values and, more important, those of our children when, day after day, we broadcast **an unremitting diet of violence**, extremes of sexuality and negative behaviour?"..." We have gone too far down the road of so-called freedom and our terrestrial television is in danger of becoming a mire of **salaciousness and violence**"..." With the Good Sex Guide and God's Gift, both of which I banned from Yorkshire schedules, we have now reached the stage where so-called **entertainment which once could only be found in Soho clip joints** is paraded on television as if it were respectable"..." A medium which once celebrated all that was positive and good in our culture is beginning to denigrate all those values with monotonous regularity."
- **David Puttnam** commenting on the Newson report, said: "What proof are we looking for, I wonder? Are we going to wait a decade or two to see if there is a fresh outbreak of gruesome murders before deciding perhaps, "Driller Killer" wasn't the thing to show kids after all? Does the railway company wait for someone to be killed by a train before fencing off the railway line - on the grounds that there is no proof that a speeding train is dangerous or that children can be silly enough to wander onto the line? So far as the railway company is concerned, common sense has always provided the proof that is necessary". (David Alton M.P. Causes of Violence in Society)

## 13. CONCLUSION

Although many television programmes are of a very high standard, it can now no longer be denied that -

- We are now putting our right to view corrupting material above the right of children to be protected from this material.
- We are now recklessly subjecting them to a flow of poisonous and damaging material.
- We are teaching them to ridicule modesty, reject morality, to steal, and to bully.
- We are presenting them with depraved sex .
- We are sacrificing our children on the altar of our own greed and selfishness.
- We are robbing them of their childhood.
- We are teaching them to swear.

We are encouraging them to be violent.

We are imposing low standards of morality on them.

We will be judged to be irresponsible, callous and selfish by future generations.

The broadcasting companies are **WRONG** when they tell us that morality is merely a personal matter and when they tell us there is no absolute good or evil.

Power over us is now wielded by a small group of men and women who largely reject all those Christian moral standards which have been at the foundation of our society for generations.

By exposing ourselves to hours of violence, sexual promiscuity and vulgarity we are being steadily desensitized.

## **14. POSTSCRIPT**

### ● **Corrupting the young**

A University of Wales study of more than 20,000 teenagers published on 2nd September 1996 led by Professor Leslie Francis concludes that **teenagers who watch most television are more prone to rebellion, drug taking, crime and failure at school and work**. It gives evidence that indiscriminate TV viewing is closely associated with corrosive and self-defeating behaviour by youngsters.

### ● **Training children to be delinquents**

ITV produced a programme 'Finders Keepers' which encouraged children to tear apart a two-storey house searching for hidden objects. Following this two six year old boys went on a rampage through a house **breaking glass, ruining carpets, tipping over wardrobes and wrecking the stereo system and a television**. The police could not charge them because of their age. The TV company refused to comment. Producer Neil Buchanan, said "This show is a kid's dream come true but a parent's nightmare....it's the only place where kids are actually allowed to run amok in bedrooms, kitchens and bathrooms without being told off".

### ● **Poisoning young people's minds**

A mother allowed her 15 year old son to watch 'soft porn' videos. She said "I thought it was best to be open and liberal with him". He became addicted to hard-core pornography and obsessed with abnormal sex and by the age of 20 he was imprisoned for committing two violent rapes. (Portsmouth Area Family Concern)

### ● **Imposing 'political correctness' on the young**

Some television producers are committed to presenting homosexual propaganda. The BBC depicted a young boy kissing another in their children's programme 'Byker Grove' (13.12.95). Granada featured two young homosexuals discussing their sexual relationships in the 'Dear Davina' programme (5.10pm on 15.7.96). **Only one view about homosexuality is allowed**. Children are being indoctrinated and deliberately exposed to unsuitable material.

### ● **Overturning standards**

Channel 4 transmits foul language and obscene jokes with impunity. They regularly feature prostitution, sexual perversion and pornography, knowing that children who possess videos will have access to them. They presented **Mother Teresa** as a 'Hell's Angel' and broadcast 'A Homage to **Alastair Crowley**', the founder of modern satanism, who promoted the ritual murder of children. Ironically, this was in their series entitled 'Good Ideas of the 20th Century'.

### ● **Taking pleasure in seeing pain inflicted - the ultimate sickness**

Some television producers are determined to test the boundaries of acceptability. Carolyn Oulton, of the BBC, charged with developing new popular drama series including 'Silent Witness' admits that she finds some disturbing scenes in this series 'pleasurable'. In one sequence a step-father pushed his wife's head through a glass door and was then killed by his teenage stepson. At the Edinburgh International Television Festival Miss Oulton said "**I did get some pleasure from seeing the boy kill the man....I do not find it offensive**".

***We have now reached the stage when we are being fed a daily diet of violence, vulgarity and obscenity by a small but grossly irresponsible section of the media. Our country needs to be set free from their corrupting influence.***

---

Maranatha Community 1996

The Maranatha Community is a movement comprising thousands of people who are active in all the main churches in the United Kingdom. Note : Copies of the report 'of Lord Halsbury's committee', referred to at the beginning of this document, are available at £12.50 from PWM on behalf of CCM, P.O. Box 327, Bedford MK44 3ZR. Tel: 01767 641089.