



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01169

Name of petitioner

Margaret Forbes on behalf of Scottish Women Against Pornography

Petition title

The display of sexually graphic magazines and newspapers

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce and enforce measures that ensure that magazines and newspapers containing sexually graphic covers are not displayed at children's eye-level or below or adjacent to children's titles and comics and should be screen sleeved before being placed on the shelf.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I wrote to supermarkets and asked them to move magazines to top shelf and conceal the photos on front cover behind other magazines. The only one which replied was Morrisson's who refused my request until I went to a local newspaper which published a photo of me holding a magazine standing outside their shop. The other supermarkets did not respond.

Before writing to the supermarkets I asked the managers to move the offending material. They said they could not move it as they did not have the authority. They also said there was nothing wrong with such material.

Petition background information

I believe the action requested to be necessary because children see this material from a very young age when they are taken shopping with their mothers. Boys grow up believing that this is what girls and women are all about, that is, desperate for sexual encounters with every female they meet and girls grow up thinking that this is what they should aspire to, that is, being available for sex with every male.

Research demonstrates that pornography is harmful to women engaged in it, to women in society generally and also to the men who use it.

My personal experience was that I bought what I considered a magazine with an offensive photograph on the front from one of the offending supermarkets. Although it was displayed six feet off the ground, the whole of the photograph was visible to children. I bought it so that I could show people what I am complaining about when I was collecting signatures. I took it out of my folder to show to people every week over a period of 4 months. At the end of that period I looked at it and wasn't shocked, I had become so used to seeing the cover it no longer had the power to shock. This is where

the danger lies. Pornography is so common it is now like wallpaper in our lives. It is everywhere. Women suffer abuse, humiliation and violence in the production of pornography. Many women are coerced into the sex industry through poverty. Adult pornography is routinely used in the sexual abuse of children. Pornography is therefore a serious social problem and should be a key issue in Scottish political debate. Over twenty years ago Clare Short tried to ban page 3 pin ups but was unsuccessful. She then received 10,000 letters from women backing her. Women do not want this material to be everywhere.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01169>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

568

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion