

## **Scottish Women Against Pornography-SWAP**

**Margaret Curran  
Minister for Communities  
Scottish Executive  
Victoria Key  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ**

**24-07-03**

**MINISTER  
FOR  
COMMUNITIES**

14/07/03 10:21

**Dear Ms Curran**

**You may remember that two members of our organisation (Scottish Women Against Pornography-SWAP) met with you some time ago to discuss with you our serious concerns about the increasing proliferation of hardcore pornography in our local shops.**

**We base our concerns on the internationally recognised evidence based research, highlighting the harm of pornography, its role in desensitising the consumer and viewer to the meaning and effects of violence against women in children in real life.**

**The recent rise in gang rapes in France by teenage males is cause for further concern. The French research has linked these rapes to young people's early exposure to hardcore pornography, a vehicle for sex education and often their only point of reference. When questioned about the rapes, the boys did not appear to understand the gravity of their actions but perceived that they were acting out normal sexual behaviour as portrayed in pornography. You will be aware of the increase in reported rapes in Scotland. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this and other related issues. As minister for communities we are sure that you share our concerns about safety in the community and will be as alarmed as we are about the increase in sexual attacks on women and children.**

As you know, SWAP is not in any way proposing or advocating censorship. Rather we believe that the acceptance of the increasing presence of hardcore pornography in our community urgently needs to be challenged in order to create a community where women and children feel safe and are safe. The Scottish Executive should be taking a lead role in beginning to challenge the attitudes and values underpinning the message of all pornography.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

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**SWAP c/o SCOTTISH WOMEN'S COALITION,**

**BRUNSWICK RD;**

**PO BOX 23097**

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