



THE SALVATION ARMY UNITED KINGDOM TERRITORY
WITH THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

POSITIONAL STATEMENT

PORNOGRAPHY

The Salvation Army believes that human sexuality is a gift from God. Pornography represents the opposite of the sacred, private and intimate view of sex, in which love, marriage and human commitment are paramount.¹

The Salvation Army opposes the production and use of materials and services where sexual arousal is an intention and where a context of personal caring and affection is absent.²

Whilst pornographic material is specifically created for the purpose of sexual arousal, it must also be acknowledged that some media of a sexual nature or exploring sexual themes are designed to be educational or artistic. However, some people may use these media for the purpose of arousal. In these circumstances, the intent of the consumer must also be considered.

Technological advances have resulted in an increase in the number of media in which pornographic images, text and audio/video can be encountered. The line between pornography and mainstream media has become blurred. Consequently, more people than ever before have access to pornography. The Salvation Army supports measures which allow parents to control access for children to pornography whilst online.

The Salvation Army is aware that the production of some forms of pornography involves economic exploitation and the participation of people, such as children, unable to give consent. It will be active in challenging such abuses of human dignity.

Salvation Army soldiers, as part of their covenant, undertake to abstain from the use of pornography. The Salvation Army counsels against the use of pornography and will offer pastoral care to anyone affected by it.

Footnotes (Bible Quotations from Today's New International Version 2005)

¹ Genesis 1:27 'So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them';

² 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 'Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins people commit are outside their bodies, but those who sin sexually sin against their own bodies. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies.'

Philippians 4:8 'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things';

Matthew 5:8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.'

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