

Redemption Church, Stevenage. txt

From: Chrisma Ministries [mailto:mail@chrisma.org.uk]

Sent: 15 January 2002 14:46

To: ownershipconsultation@culture.gov.uk

Cc: barbara@barbara-follett.org.uk

Subject: Broadcasting Consultation

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that the ban on Christians applying for national broadcasting licenses is currently under review. I am convinced that allowing Christians to broadcast on radio and television would be of benefit to our nation, both economically and spiritually.

I understand from the Ownership Rules consultation document that the government wants to encourage competition and economic growth by being as deregulatory as possible. In section 5.1, the document goes on to say that the government wishes to "create the most competitive market possible whilst ensuring plurality of voice and diversity of content". I understand that the government is proposing to remove the disqualifications currently held against religious organisations concerning the ownership of local digital radio licenses, which I fully endorse. However, in order for the government to achieve the objectives laid out in this document, they will surely need to remove ALL ownership restrictions (e.g. local analogue licences, TV licences etc.) from religious broadcasters in order to help stimulate expansion by a British Christian broadcasting industry.

Besides the obvious commercial benefits of a British Christian broadcasting industry I would like to point out that religious organisations, including some Christian, are allowed to broadcast in countries such as Iran and Iraq, whose records on human rights leave something to be desired - and yet the UK stands alone in the world by discriminating against national Christian broadcasting. I am sure you will agree this is both politically and morally unacceptable.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Pastor Mark Neale

(Redemption Church, Stevenage)

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