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Tessa Jowell MP
Media Ownership Consultation Responses
Broadcasting Policy Division
Dept. of Culture Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur St.
London
SW1Y 5DH

Great news for the small screen!

Ref: Broadcasting Licences

Dear Tessa Jowell,

May I make a brief appeal for you to keep open the mechanism whereby Christian groups will be able to apply for broadcasting licences, for Radio and Television.

What with the proliferation of digital channels on both media, there certainly needs to be strong regulation of who gets to broadcast. I am as concerned as most people are that we don't open the door to some of the grosser forms of religious broadcasting such as takes place in the US. As someone who has spent 15 years inside the BBC and 16 years producing video programmes with a 'Christian element' I'd be deeply concerned if the opportunity for sound Christian organisations to at least apply for broadcast licences was taken away - especially within the context of a democratic society.

You have probably already looked at the system the Dutch have been using for years in their Broadcasting set-up. This has worked well on a truly democratic basis, and for Christians who have their own Channel 'EO', very effective. They have none of the horrors that have pervaded so much of what comes from the US.

Wishing you all the best in your challenging work ,

Yours sincerely,

Crawford Telfer
Director of Programmes