

**SUBMISSION TO THE  
“Consultation on Exemptions to the Video Recordings Act”**

**1: OVERVIEW RESPONSE**

1.1: The Parliamentary Committee against Antisemitism Foundation (PCAA Foundation) and the Community Security Trust (CST) welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation which might have a significant impact on combating antisemitism, extremism and other inappropriate content present in so-called educational and religious documentaries. The consultation seeks views on two matters, we will address on the changes to the exemptions from classification set out in section 2 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 (“the VRA”).

1.2: We agree that supporting parents and consumers through the provision of clear information is a fundamental principle but that there must be a balance to regulation and red tape. To this end **we support the Government’s preference for Part B, Option 2, to lower the existing statutory thresholds for exemption of music, sport, religious and educational videos so that products likely to be unsuitable for younger children are age rated.** This option would ensure racist and other discriminatory material was reviewed by the BBFC and the distributors prosecuted if material is withheld. Self-regulation or leaving the system unchanged would not be suitable, given the examples we provide in this submission below. We do not think a wholesale change through primary legislation would be proportionate.

1.3: The consultation document suggests that there is little evidence that children would be harmed by exposure to watching works in the religious and educational genre and that existing regulation might suffice given the small number of products in the market context. We would dispute this assertion. There are many domestic examples of radicalisation through Islamist propaganda – racist and antisemitic in the extreme. Even the radicalisation of one child can have severe consequences. Some of the evidence we provide below contains highly inflammatory material which might foster such radicalising tendencies.

1.4: There is clearly public and cross-party political concern about unsuitable content in DVDs which may presently be supplied to children without any legal restriction; it is self-evident that Government should act.

1.5: It is important that any classification includes a review of packaging. Aside from offensive, frightening or discriminatory inserts there are examples of counterfeit BBFC-style logos being used on exempt documentaries. The London School of Sharia for example, has a green ‘S’ mirroring a ‘U’ classification on the back of their DVDs. This creates confusion for consumers and might give the impression a religious or educational work has been certified by the BBFC when of course it has not (**See Attached Pictures**)

1.6: The BBFC classification standards reflect public concerns garnered from an ongoing engagement with representative samples of stakeholder groups. Thus there is an inbuilt flexibility to understand how things can and should be classified. Our experiences with the BBFC reassure us that they understand some of the intricacies and sensitivities which accompany educational or religious works which might have political overtones. Speaking plainly, some of the material of concern may relate to the Middle-East conflict. It is very important that age-appropriate material is provided where content can be highly emotive.

1.7: The proposed criteria would address the potential for currently exempt material to include references which could be considered to be discriminatory or even inflammatory in terms of race, religion, gender and sexual orientation. This can include for example, documentaries covering issues such as the views of extreme right wing groups regarding certain races or ethnic groups. Parents should be aware if their children are watching such content.

## 2. EXAMPLES OF HARMFUL CONTENT

2.1 For a long time, documentaries have been produced and distributed by individuals and organisations involved in spreading messages of hate, such distribution has only been enhanced and increased with the development of online tools. Still, 'educational' documentaries are distributed through mailing lists and sold on stalls by radicals. The following list is just a taste of the plethora of available hate material.

2.1.1: **Satanism- Satan's Bloody Teaching by Harun Yahya** (noted for holocaust denial and espousal of antisemitic conspiracy theories, starting with his 1986 work *Yahudilik ve Masonluk (Judaism and Freemasonry)*). This DVD covers Satanism and Satan-worship. The more gratuitous scenes incorporate a devil strangling a human female and the reconstructed sacrifice of a baby, dripping with blood, by a devil figure. The entire documentary is presented in a frightening, horror-style aesthetic and a later chapter includes shocking scenes from Marilyn Manson music videos. The commentary covers the "pervasiveness of Satanism and the masons". Present day Satanists are said to be "materialists, atheists and those that deny the existence of G-d". Salvation, we are told, can be found in the Quran. Available for order online: <http://www.simplyislam.com/iteminfo.asp?item=55627>, <http://www.islamicbookstore.com/a5480.html> and via [www.bookglobal.net](http://www.bookglobal.net).

2.1.2: **National Front Archive DVD 1 by Tyr Services:** This DVD features a racist prelude to camera bemoaning - 'coloured immigration, permitted on a massive scale' and the resultant changing face of Britain. Among the more spurious of the allegations are that immigrants are turning Brixton and Hackney into third-world slums and that they are responsible for murders. The rest of the video features National Front marches, with some scenes of crowd violence.

2.1.3: **Da'wah Salafiyah Volume 5 by Followers of Ahlus Sunnah Wal Jama'ah:** This DVD comprising 6 full talks of Islamist propaganda is packaged in a sleeve picturing a monkey in a suit with the shadow of former US President Bush behind it, above that is a picture of the White House pictured from 2007, beside that is a digger on rubble with the suggestion that this might be the site of the White House in 2012. The speakers featured in the video include: Anjem Choudary (spokesperson for Islam4UK before it was proscribed), Abu Ubaidah, Abu Farooq and Abu Waleed (once filmed discussing how to cheat Government benefits programmes: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-526483/Radical-Muslim-preacher-caught-film-giving-advice-hoodwink-Government-benefits.html>). In his talk, Choudary suggests that: "The enemies of Allah are talking nonsense" and that "philosophy, sufi-ism – all this nonsense, is going to hellfire". There is constant reference to 'the west' as a force in conflict with Islam, which according to these radicals requires Shariah (Islamic law) as a base from which to "launch the armies of jihad". We are told that the kufar "want you to believe in freedom, democracy, and liberalism – they

are afraid of people with beards and imprison them". There is also a passionate defence of an Al-Queida spokesman. Followers of the lecturers are encouraged not to be silent. For an example of the online press releases from the followers of Ahlus Sunnah Wal Jama'ah see here: <http://theunjustmedia.com/Islamic%20Perspectives/June10/Al-Muhajirun%20Jihad%20For%20Palestine.htm>

**2.1.4: Inside Balaata Refugee Camp:** This DVD features some 13 chapters, amongst them are interviews with Palestinian 'resistance fighters' who during the course of their interviews praise 'martyrs' who have sacrificed themselves "body and soul". One chapter reviews a children's shadow puppet show interspersed with real life scenes of violence. Another features a child under 5 singing "hooray for the wanted, hooray for the hunted" and young children singing a song in praise of carrying stones. Older children are interviewed speaking of their fears, losses and desperation whilst pictures of dead bodies are shown on screen. Whilst coverage of the Middle-East conflict is likely to be passionate and perhaps even biased on either side, it is important that such material is age appropriate.

**2.1.5: Shariah: Inevitable for the UK? [by Anjem Choudary]-London School of Shariah:** In this documentary Choudary argues that Britain will eventually succumb to the dominance of shariah given its current society is corrupted by man-made laws. The packaging of the DVD incorporates a BBFC-style U certificate green-triangle with a letter 'S' embossed over the shape. Above is a Dolby-style sound branding, suggesting the documentary is officially endorsed.

**2.1.6: Triumph of the Will:** This well known propaganda documentary, commissioned by Hitler, presents the recording of the Third Reich's 1934 Nuremberg Party Rally. A powerful reminder of Hitler's allure, this propaganda piece currently has no age restriction, in our view it suits a mature audience.

### 3. ABOUT THE PCAA FOUNDATION AND THE CST

3.1 The PCAA Foundation is a registered charity centred on the principle that the struggle against prejudice and discrimination is not just the responsibility of the victims. The PCAA provides secretariat support to the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism. Our Mission is to make antisemitism a societal concern and, in doing so, help create a more tolerant and unprejudiced society. Our Vision is to develop a society that understands that prejudice in general and antisemitism in particular is not just unacceptable but is also the responsibility of that society to eradicate. Our website contains a wealth of information about our work at: [www.antisemitism.org.uk](http://www.antisemitism.org.uk)

3.2 The CST is proud of Britain's diverse and vibrant Jewish community, and seeks to protect its many achievements from the external threats of bigotry, antisemitism and terrorism. The CST provide physical security, training and advice for the protection of British Jews, assists victims of antisemitism and monitors antisemitic activities and incidents. CST has official 'third-party' reporting status, allowing it to report incidents to the police on behalf of victims. CST also represents British Jewry to Police, Government and media on antisemitism and security. The CST believes that the fight against antisemitism and terrorism is an integral part of safeguarding wider democratic British society against extremism and hatred.  
<http://www.thecst.org.uk/>

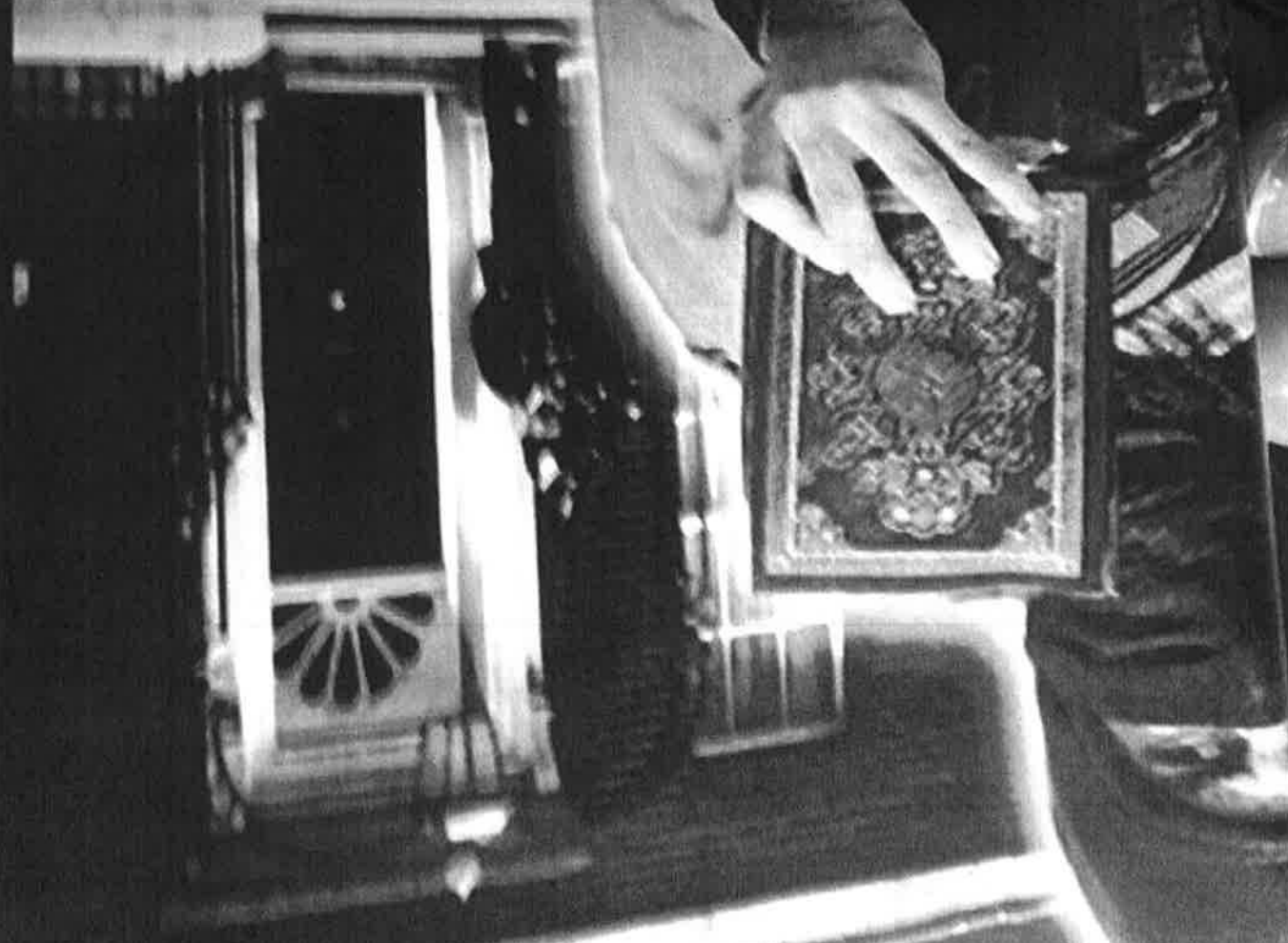


WWW.SHAHIAH.COM

| by Anjem Choudary |

INEVITABLE FOR UK

# SHARIAH



London School of Shariah Presents



Based in the Qur'an and Sunnah upon the understanding of the Sahabah (ra)

# ISLAMIC SEMINAR



Stereo sound 



Phone: 07956 600 569

[www.sawtulislam.com](http://www.sawtulislam.com)

This product was recorded, made and distributed by London School of Shari'ah. For more information, please contact

RECORDED BY LONDON

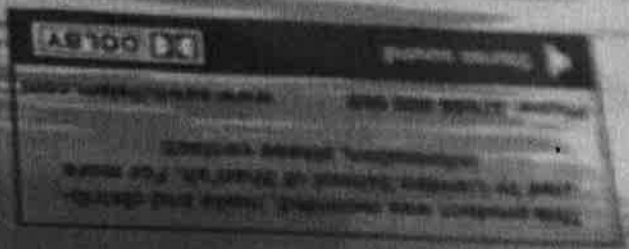




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WIDESCREEN



# THE SHARAH INEVITABLE FOR UK

WITH ANJEL CHODARY  
THE SHARAH INEVITABLE FOR UK

Sharah has been subject to much controversy in and  
around the UK in recent years largely due to the fictitious  
scenarios generated by the government and media.  
However, with democracy failing and corrupting the masses,  
there is an alternative system of government that can be heard  
and understood around the busy city streets by practicing Muslims,  
a system which can provide the basic needs of food, clothing,  
and shelter for the people, a system without double standards,  
and a system that is not man-made - this system being the  
journal of al-Islam.

ANJEL CHODARY

