

# “THE LIGHT”: SENDING WOMEN BACK TO THE DARK AGES

“The Light” sets itself up as an alternative paper, but what is it really pushing?

Over the last year, “The Light” has generally promoted:

“traditional families”, men being “allowed to be men”, women having “lots of children” and “faith, flag and family”.

It has also started promoting anti-abortion activists and the “rights of the unborn”, as well as defending men’s “domination and rage”.

## SO THAT’S WHAT IT PROMOTES AND DEFENDS. WHAT DOES IT ATTACK?

In the last 6 months or so, “The Light” has published numerous articles opposing

- “Gender equality” (compared to “evil”)
- “Equality of opportunity” (which it compares to “the Spanish Inquisition and the Salem Witch trials”)
- “Family law” (elided with “child abuse”)
- Abortion and contraception (which it repeatedly equates with “eugenics”, a common Religious Right trope)
- “The massive use of contraceptives” (“clearly unacceptable”)
- “Sex education” (which it refers to as “taking control of our children”)
- “Role reversal” in which women don’t accept traditional gender roles (behaviour which “The Light” says is “communism and insanity”)
- And (my personal favourite...) strong female leads in films and TV (not only are all these strong female characters “miserable” and with “no personalities” but their existence in film is a “woke agenda” which wants to “destroy society”. Poor old Galadriel and Princess Leia! Who knew?!)



**RESIST**

# AND WHAT DOES IT IGNORE?

Notably, whilst it's got space to fulminate about fictional characters, "The Light" *doesn't* show much interest in the need for **more childcare, better welfare benefits, employment rights for parents and carers, ending child poverty**, or anything that would help those who still bear the brunt of responsibility for most caring – women – to do the job.

As a woman, I've found that when I try to talk to any of the people handing out "The Light" on the High Street calmly, it's fairly pointless. They don't have answers beyond interrupting me to say that the BBC is as bad (hey, guys, two wrongs don't make a right!), or shouting "Lies", or "Sheep", or something like that.

But whether it's on the role of women - or on racism, antisemitism, climate change, homophobia, transphobia, or a whole host of other things already highlighted by CSSD, "The Light"s content is not just right wing (many of its articles are actually quite similar to those in the Daily Mail, except much more poorly written). It is also, worryingly, deeply reactionary, and in places, frankly crypto-fascist. I don't want it on our streets. And what I've learned lately is that calmly taking a copy and then ripping it up in front of them is most satisfying. Make sure you recycle!

*By a member of Community Solidarity Stroud District*



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