

OBJECT PRESS RELEASE

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BBC URGED TO ACT ON SEXISM

Commenting on the controversy caused by BBC presenters Russell Brand and Jonathan Ross (1) Sandrine Leveque, Advocacy Officer at Object (2) said:

“Much of the coverage of the appalling behaviour of Brand and Ross has focused on so-called ‘lewd’ language. There is much less talk of the sexism inherent to their comments- the sexualisation of Georgina Baillie as an object, not a human being and the complete disrespect shown towards her. This is revealing of a sexist culture in which we are bombarded with images and messages that say it’s ok to see women as sex objects and not as human beings.

This has got to stop if we are serious about creating a society in which women are free from sexual harassment, violence and discrimination. A society in which women are treated as equals. As a public body the BBC has a duty to challenge discrimination against any group. We therefore urge the BBC to take this seriously as an issue of sexism”.

For further information please contact Sandrine Levêque at sandrine@object.org.uk

Notes to editors

(1) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/7692911.stm>

(2) Object is a human rights organisation which campaigns against the objectification of women in the media and popular culture. www.object.org.uk