

Tekst 9

Asbo¹⁾ nation is in serious trouble

A Sir: Vulnerable young people have been ignored for generations; Charles Dickens' novels are a testimony to that fact. What is particularly striking is that our current social trend is to deal with this problem by inflicting anti-social behaviour orders on children who need simply to be loved and cared for. This is a straightforward matter that our culture is refusing to address.

Camilla Batman-Ghelidja's analysis of the problem ("The Asbo generation", 20 June) does not commit itself to telling the truth about parental inability to take responsibility. According to Ms Ghelidja, these children have been "terrorised and possibly abused for years". By whom? Their parents? If this is true, then we are living in a degenerative society within which a whole generation of children from a variety of backgrounds are destined to become criminals because their parents are vile, abusive and terrifying people. Is this the truth about modern Britain? If it is then we are in serious trouble for generations to come.

Modern Britain is in a mess. We have a national credit card debt of £1 trillion, our schools and health care systems are under-funded, gun-related violent crimes are on the rise: the list is endless. Instead of creating headlines such as "The Asbo generation" why don't you get straight to the point and just admit that modern Britain is a selfish, nasty society filled with a large percentage of people who can't even love their children? Laws and welfare systems can't take care of that: the love and nurturing of one's offspring should be part of human nature. If it is not there, then we are a sick nation.
LAURA MACLEOD, MINSTER LOVELL, OXFORDSHIRE

B Sir: It would be impossible for the average Bangladeshi to imagine a young Bangla child "throwing missiles, spitting, assaulting anyone, using abusive language, damaging property and harassing people".

It suggests to me that there is a real and upsetting phenomenon in the United Kingdom, of young children behaving in ways that are far worse than merely "childish exuberance". I am not in a position to give the simple answer so many people crave, and I am not sure that Asbos alone will solve this issue. But I do think that a knee-jerk opposition to such orders and predictable rent-a-quotes from the children's rights industry are dealing with the issues at completely the wrong level.

Certainly parental supervision seems, on the surface, to be stronger in Muslim Bangladesh than agnostic Britain. Certainly, if I still lived in Britain, I would be an active campaigner to get local tearaways banished from my neighbourhood if they started making trouble. OK, I would be dealing with symptoms rather than the causes, but we have to start somewhere, and condemning Asbos does not seem to be the place to start.

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noot 1 Asbo: Anti-social Behaviour Order. An Asbo may contain any prohibition.

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Hieronder staan zes beweringen, genummerd van 1 tot en met 6.

- 3p **39** Geef van elke bewering aan of deze wordt gedaan in
- brief A;
 - brief B;
 - beide brieven;
 - geen van beide brieven.
- 1 Anti-social behaviour orders can contribute to solving the issue of children causing social problems.
 - 2 British children's misbehaviour may well be the result of a lack of parental commitment.
 - 3 Children who feel neglected by their parents will in the end turn against them.
 - 4 In Bangladesh the crime rate seems to be lower than in Britain.
 - 5 The dismal economic state of affairs is the cause of Britain falling apart.
 - 6 The present-day social divide is leading to a degeneration of British society.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door "A", "B", "beide", of "geen van beide".
- 1p **40** Wordt in een van beide brieven naar een voorbeeld verwezen van een "Asbo"? Zo nee, antwoord "nee". Zo ja, welk voorbeeld?

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.