

*Email sent to Terry Lane, Chaplain and OPV Liaison Officer re Woman's hour*

**From:** John Dexter [mailto:johnopv@yahoo.co.uk]

**Sent:** 13 June 2008 15:49

**To:** Lane, Terry [HMPS]

**Subject:** Woman's Hour

Dear Terry

Advance warning

I listened to Woman's Hour on BBC Radio 4 this morning, whilst they were discussing the importance of fathers. *[it was a special programme concentrating on Father's Day the following Sunday]* Something touched a nerve and I sent an email. This afternoon I was telephoned and asked if I would appear on air on Monday next, when there will be a follow up. Of course I may not be called, but I shall be ready to talk if the editors choose to slant any of the programme towards the perspective I took.

Here is the email:

As a prison visitor over seven years I have got to know more than a hundred prisoners. So many of these men (and there are more now than ever before) come from broken families, often because their fathers have left home or very sadly sometimes abused their own children. The median age of prisoners in my local prison is 32, so most of them are young. Most of those people have children of their own, in many cases by more than one woman. They speak not of their wives, but of their girlfriends, their babymothers. I foresee more and more family breakdown, more and more disillusionment amongst children growing up, more and more crime as a result of family breakdown. The cultural reason for family breakdown has something to do with our present obsession with sexual equality, and neglect of the distinctively different roles of mothers and fathers. Fathers do matter, especially to the children. It is the children who are important, not the desires of adults. Those on the programme who concentrate on the inequities in housework and 'childcare' (horrid word) miss the point entirely. Until we get back to non-PC acceptance of the need for different roles, mothers and fathers each taking their traditional roles and responsibilities, families staying together, society will suffer.

Do let me know if any of this gives you or the Governor a problem, for I shall probably be asked to identify 'my local prison'.

Best wishes

John