CHANNEL 4 DISPATCHES PROGRAM 'BEYOND BELIEF' ON SATANIST RITUAL ABUSE (SRA) IN THE UK – SCRIPT REVIEW, FOLLOW-UP AND PSYCHIATRY IMPLICATIONS

Summary

In 1992 Journalist Andrew Boyd presented a program concerning allegations of Satanist Ritual Abuse (SRA). Snelling & Scott (1994) gave an account of the broadcast and response to the helpline for SRA Survivors. This research aims to educate mental health professionals about the nature of SRA, the investigation complexities and cases that were successfully prosecuted.

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Background

On 19 February 1992 the Channel 4 program Dispatches, entitled: Beyond Belief, aired in the midst of the 'Memory Wars' concerning allegations of Satanist Ritual Abuse (SRA) and Human Sacrifice murder. Journalist Andrew Boyd, who had researched over 2 years the topic leading to the publication of 'Blasphemous Rumours', was invited to present the program. Snelling & Scott (1994) provided an overview of the broadcast and the response to the helpline for SRA victims and survivors, handling 191 calls. BT recorded 595 attempted calls in the first 5 minutes after the helpline number appeared on screen and 4500 attempted calls in the helpline's first hour of operation. This can be seen as an indicator of how extensive a problem SRA is in the UK. This research reviews the script of the program in the light of book publications and related successful prosecutions of SRA cases since, as well as a suspected arson murder in a 'Breeder Baby' case.

Method

A 20-page typeset script was reviewed in the light of the 25 years that passed since the broadcast. Particular attention was paid to information that correlated with disclosures in a C-PTSD diagnostic session such as:

- Being buggered at 2
- Drinking stuff that looks like blood
- Or being bitten on my arm
- Parents trying to go on about sucking my own blood
- Or trying to bite other children that's kind of traumatic
- Getting pregnant, having the baby, losing the baby
- People possibly being killed in the background I find difficult to deal with

Results

Sara Scott, who ran the helpline, published in 2001 a book 'The Politics and Experience of Ritual Abuse: Beyond Disbelief' which details many disclosures of SRA including several dozen cases of 'Brood Mares', breeding babies for Satanist ritual human sacrifice.

Retired Detective Chief Superintendent David Cole referred to the Smith and Hickman case (Telford 1982) a successfully prosecuted SRA case in which Albert and Carole Hickman were convicted. Later they once more received lengthy jail sentences (2015) in a historical SRA case that included 'sucking blood' after piercing the victim's finger with a bejewelled knife.

The late Psychiatrist Dr Joan Coleman reported in 2011 about her work with 80+ survivors of Satanist Ritual Abuse (SRA). Coleman had produced and circulated a list containing the names of people engaged in SRA and various locations used for such abuse. This was based on eyewitness testimonies shared with her by numerous SRA survivors. For a name to be placed on that list it had to be identified by at least 2 eyewitnesses who independently corroborated each other. A retired police officer and an academic who featured in the Dispatches program appear on this list.

Research revealed that a 'Cult' baby was born to the victim of convicted Satanist High Priest Colin Batley (2011).

Also in Wales disgraced Lost Prophets singer Ian Watkins was sentenced (2013) to 35 years in prison for a string of child sex offences including the attempted rape of a baby in a Satanist context.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/all-about/ian%20watkins?pageNumber=1>

At least 10 SRA cases have been successfully prosecuted in Britain:

<http://casra.org.uk/prosecuted-cases/>

Furthermore, there is now official, public acknowledgement of the existence of SRA in the UK by the UK's largest and oldest police force, the Metropolitan Police Service:

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/faith-based-abuse/>

Black magic couple who sucked 11-year-old's blood before husband repeatedly raped her are jailed for total of 34 years

- Carolee Hickman, 64, forced girl to have sex with her husband Albert, 65
- Court heard she pinned down girl's arms as he took part in 'terrible rape'
- Mrs Hickman used 'bejewelled knife' to cut girl's thumb and suck blood
- She also threatened to kill her mother, who was suffering from cancer
- Victim, now in her 50s, repressed memories until 2011 during counselling
- Mrs Hickman given 17 years for indecent assault, aiding and abetting rape
- Her husband sentenced to 17 years in prison for raping girl in the 1970s

By GEMMA MULLIN FOR MAILONLINE
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A couple who used 'black magic' to convince an 11-year-old girl to take part in sex sessions where they sucked her blood have been jailed for 34 years.

Carolee Hickman, 64, from St Athan, South Wales, told the schoolgirl that she was part of a powerful witches' coven before forcing her to have sex with her husband Albert, 65.

The victim had repressed memories of the abuse, which took place between 1972 and 1975, until they came back during counselling for bereavement and depression in 2011.

She told Cardiff Crown Court last month that Mrs Hickman had a special 'bejewelled knife', which she used to cut the young girl's thumb before sucking her blood.

Carolee Hickman (left) and her husband

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2922055/Black-magic-couple-sucked-11-year-old-s-blood-husband-repeatedly-raped-jailed-total-34-years.html>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-30941013>
<https://theukdatabase.com/2012/07/18/malcolm-susan-smithalbert-carole-hickman-telford/>

Conclusions

The research supports the testimony of many survivors. It strongly suggests that further investigation and media attention are required. It reminds mental health professionals of their duty to attend to each case on its own merits.

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