Ofcom Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin

lssue 402 **11 May 2020**

Notice of Sanction – Lord Production Inc Ltd

Type of case	Broadcast Standards
Outcome	Financial penalty of £100,000
Programme	Strengthening Your Family – Valley of the Homosexuals
Service	Peace TV
Date & time	11 May 2018, 11:30
Category	Hatred and abuse Generally accepted standards
Summary	Ofcom imposed a sanction for serious breaches of Rules 3.2, 3.3 and 2.3 of the Broadcasting Code. Financial penalty of £100,000.

Peace TV was an international satellite television channel which broadcast religious programmes from an Islamic perspective. The licence for Peace TV was held by Lord Production Inc Ltd ("Lord Production" or "the Licensee"), but was surrendered on 18 November 2019 and the service is no longer broadcast by this company¹.

This sanction related to an episode of the programme *Strengthening Your Family* entitled *Valley of the Homosexuals* which focused on the issue of homosexuality and Islam.

In the decision published on 22 July 2019 in <u>Issue 383 of the Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin</u>, Ofcom found that the programme had failed to provide adequate protection to members of the public from the inclusion of offensive and harmful material and recorded serious breaches of Rules 2.3, 3.2 and 3.3 of the Code:

¹ See Ofcom's <u>breach decision</u> of 28 November 2019.

- Rule 2.3: "In applying generally accepted standards broadcasters must ensure that material which may cause offence is justified by the context ... Such material may include, but is not limited to, offensive language, violence, sex, sexual violence, humiliation, distress, violation of human dignity, discriminatory treatment or language (for example on the grounds of age, disability, gender, race, religion, beliefs and sexual orientation). Appropriate information should also be broadcast where it would assist in avoiding or minimising offence".
- Rule 3.2: "Material which contains hate speech must not be included in television or radio programmes except where it is justified by the context".
- Rule 3.3: "Material which contains abusive or derogatory treatment of individuals, groups, religions or communities, must not be included in television and radio services except where it is justified by the context".

In accordance with <u>Ofcom's penalty guidelines</u>, Ofcom decided that it was appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances to impose a financial penalty of £100,000 on the Licensee in respect of these serious Code breaches (payable to HM Paymaster General).

The <u>full sanction decision</u> was published on 5 May 2020.