

Embargo: 00:01 hours Wednesday 23 January 2007

NEW BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES REPORT PUBLISHED TODAY

The British Social Attitudes 24th Report is published today, Wednesday 23 January 2008.

The report describes the state of public attitudes towards: relationships and parenting; cohabitation; gender roles; national identity; working in the public sector; prejudice; car use and the environment; newspapers; political participation; party policies; and poverty. Among the findings:

Our views on family life have become more liberal

- 70% of people think there is nothing wrong with sex before marriage, up from 48% in 1984.
- Only 28% of people think married couples make better parents than unmarried ones.
- Only 17% of men think that a 'man's job' is to earn money, while a woman should stay at home, down from 32% in 1989.

But we do not always practise what we preach, and are confused about the legal implications of new family forms

- When it comes to doing household chores, our behaviour has not changed as much as our attitudes. 77% of people in couples say that the woman usually does the laundry, little changed since 1994.
- There is widespread confusion about what protection cohabiting couples have under the law, with 51% of people thinking (incorrectly) that there is such a thing as 'common law marriage'.

There is widespread concern about the environment and inequality

- 80% of people think that current levels of car use are having a serious impact on climate change. And 45% of drivers are both willing and able to reduce their car use.
- 76% think the gap between those on high and low incomes is too large.

But pockets of selfishness and self-interest remain

- 23% of people think everyone should be able to use their cars as much as they like, even if it damages the environment.
- People are less sympathetic towards the poor. 35% think government should spend more money on welfare benefits for the poor, down from 55% in 1986.
- 36% of people think equal opportunities for black and Asian people have gone too far.

A brief summary of each chapter follows.

ENDS

CHANGING ATTITUDES TO RELATIONSHIPS AND PARENTING

The latest annual British Social Attitudes report confirms that people's views on marriage are more liberal than they were 20 years ago. But it also finds that more 'traditional' attitudes persist when it comes to the kind of household seen as appropriate for raising children. And men's views about marriage and parenting tend to be more traditional than women's.

The last two decades have seen huge changes in family life. The number of single-person households has increased. Cohabitation has increased. And marriage rates are at their lowest since 1986. The report, published today by NatCen, finds that our views about the family have changed as well.

Our views about marriage, the family and personal life have become less 'traditional':

- Seven in ten people (70%) think that there is nothing wrong with sex before marriage, compared with five in ten (48%) in 1984.
- Two-thirds of people (66%) think there is little difference socially between being married and living together.
- Only one in four people (28%) think married couples make better parents than unmarried ones.

Men are more traditional in their views than women:

- A third of men (34%) think that married couples make better parents than unmarried ones, compared with 23% of women.

People's views become more traditional when children are concerned, especially where less conventional arrangements are involved such as single or gay parents:

- Three in ten people (30%) think that it should be harder for couples with children aged under 16 to get divorced. Four in ten people (38%) disagree.
- Only four in ten people (42%) think one parent can bring up a child as well as two parents. A similar proportion of people (41%) disagree.
- Four in ten people (42%) disagree with the view that a gay male couple are as capable of being good parents as a man and a woman. Three in ten people (31%) agree.
- Nine in ten people (90%) think that donor insemination should be allowed for a couple who cannot have children naturally. This falls to six in ten (61%) in the case of a single woman.

Professor Simon Duncan, co-author, comments:

'The heterosexual married couple is no longer central as a social norm. But views are more traditional when it comes to bringing up children.'

'Children seem to hold a particular position in people's attitudes to family life. When they are involved, alternative family arrangements are seen as less acceptable.'

ENDS

This summarises 'New families? Tradition and change in modern relationships' by Simon Duncan and Miranda Phillips, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

THE 'COMMON LAW MARRIAGE' MYTH

People are confused about the legal consequences of living together outside marriage, according to the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatCen. Despite a government-funded media campaign three years ago, half of adults still believe (wrongly) that there is such a thing as 'common law marriage', which gives cohabitants the same rights as married couples.

Cohabitation remains a popular choice of relationship in Britain: more than one third of people (36%) have cohabited in the past, and one in nine (11%) now do so. But cohabiting couples do not have the same legal rights as those who are married and in 2004, the government funded a campaign aimed at raising awareness of this, accompanied by considerable media coverage.

The report finds that:

- Despite the campaign to raise awareness, half of people (51%) still believe (wrongly) that there is such a thing as 'common law marriage' which gives cohabitants the same rights as married couples.
- Only four in ten people (38%) correctly know that this is untrue. This is almost identical to the proportion of people who thought this in 2000, despite the campaigns that have taken place.
- Cohabitants are no more or less knowledgeable than anyone else: 53% believe that common law marriage exists, and 39% correctly say that it does not.

Few current cohabitants have taken steps to safeguard their position:

- Around one in six (15%) of those who own their accommodation have a written agreement about their share in the ownership.
- One in five (19%) have sought advice about their legal position.

There is strong public support for legal reform so that cohabiting couples in certain circumstances are treated in the same way as married couples. Public support for treating married and cohabiting couples equally increases as the relationship lengthens, particularly when children are involved:

- Nine in ten people (89%) think that a cohabiting partner should have a right to financial provision on separation if the relationship has been a long-term one, includes children and has involved prioritising one partner's career over another.
- Only four in ten people (38%) think that a cohabiting partner should have a right to financial provision if the relationship only lasted two years and involves no children.

Professor Anne Barlow, co-author, comments:

'The myth that there is something called common law marriage that gives cohabiting couples legal rights lives on, despite the media exposure of the last few years.'

'There is little appetite for maintaining the deep legal divisions drawn between married and unmarried cohabiting families. The Law Commission should bear this in mind in their review of current legislation.'

ENDS

This summarises 'Cohabitation and the law: myths, money and the media' by Anne Barlow, Carole Burgoyne, Elizabeth Clery and Janet Smithson, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

ATTITUDES TO GENDER ROLES MAY CHANGE BUT WOMEN STILL DO THE HOUSEWORK

Men have a less traditional view of gender roles than they did 20 years ago. Yet according to the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatCen, women are still far more likely than men to do the household chores. What's more, men tend to say that they do more housework than women think they do.

The report confirms that our behaviour and our views about the roles of men and women are changing. Among couples it is increasingly common for both people to work. Attitudes towards gender roles have changed as well, becoming increasingly liberal among both men and women:

- In 1989, a third of men (32%) agreed with the statement 'a man's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the home and family'. This proportion has nearly halved, standing now at 17%.
- But women continue to have more liberal views about gender roles than men. Four in ten men (41%) and three in ten women (29%) think that 'a pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works'.

When it comes to doing household chores, our behaviour has changed little:

- Nearly eight in ten people (77%) with partners say that the woman usually or always does the laundry, a similar proportion to that found in 1994 (81%).
- Men and women disagree when it comes to saying how much of the housework they do. Two-thirds of women (68%) say that in their relationship they usually or always do the cleaning – but only 54% of men say this of their partner.
- The most liberal division of labour is found among couples where the woman works full-time, earns more than her partner or has a partner who does not work.

There can be inconsistencies in people's attitudes and their behaviour at home:

- Four in ten women (41%) have liberal views about the role of men and women but a traditional division of labour in their own home. This figure rises to 49% among women who work part-time.
- Not surprisingly, this group are more likely than other women to disagree with their partners over housework: 21% argue about this several times a month or more. This group also find their home life more stressful.

Professor Rosemary Crompton, co-author, comments:

'People's attitudes towards gender roles have clearly changed, but their behaviour lags behind. This is important – a gap between a person's views about gender roles and what actually happens in their own home seems to lead to greater stress at home, for women at least. The women least likely to find their home life stressful are those who have liberal views about gender *and* who share domestic tasks with their partner.'

ENDS

This summarises 'Who does the housework? The division of labour within the home' by Rosemary Crompton and Clare Lyonette, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

DECLINING BRITISHNESS IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND?

Only 13% of people born and living in England, and 3% of people born and living in Scotland, describe themselves as 'only' or 'mainly' British. Meanwhile, nearly half of those born and living in England say that they are 'equally English and British', and only one in five born and living in Scotland describe themselves as 'equally Scottish and British'. These are some of the key findings of the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatCen.

Gordon Brown's premiership has once again brought national identity, and 'Britishness' in particular, to the top of the political debate. The report shows that fewer people now describe themselves as British:

- When asked to choose just *one* national identity for themselves, four in ten people (39%) in England say that they are British, down from over six in ten (63%) in 1992. Then three in ten (31%) said they were English; now nearly half (47%) do so. The main shift took place between 1997 and 1999, and so predates Scottish and Welsh devolution.
- In 1974, three in ten people (31%) in Scotland said they were British, now half this proportion (14%) do so. The proportion choosing Scottish has gone up from 65% to 78%.
- But when people are allowed to choose more than one national identity, seven in ten (68%) in England choose British, as do four in ten (43%) in Scotland.

The most subtle way of asking about national identity allows people to weigh up a 'national' identity (English or Scottish) against a 'state' identity (British). The survey asked this of those *born and living* in England or Scotland (or 'natives'). This shows that:

- Few English or Scottish natives think of themselves as 'only' or 'mainly' British: 13% in England and 3% in Scotland.
- Nearly half of English natives (46%) say that they are 'equally English and British'. One in five (21%) Scottish natives describe themselves as 'equally Scottish and British'.
- The most popular response from Scottish natives is to describe oneself as being 'only' or 'mainly' Scottish, chosen by nearly three-quarters (73%) of people. Far fewer – 37% – English natives describe themselves as being 'only' or 'mainly' English.

People's feelings about national identity are only weakly linked to their political preferences or their views about the constitution:

- Just over a half (56%) of supporters of the Scottish National Party say that their national identity is important to them when they think of themselves.
- Around one in four people (22%) born and living in England think that an English Parliament would be the best way to govern England, rising to 28% among those who define their national identity as English and not British.

Professor David McCrone, co-author, comments:

'Considerable numbers of English and Scots do feel British. But we have seen a steady long-term shift away from being British towards being English and being Scottish – though for most people it is still a question of being both English (or Scottish) *and* British, rather than a choice between them.'

ENDS

This summarises 'Talking the talk: national identity in England and Scotland' by Frank Bechhofer and David McCrone, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

THE 'PUBLIC SERVICE ETHOS' IS ALIVE AND WELL

There is a clear 'public service ethos' among public sector employees, according to the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatCen. What's more, it's particularly prevalent among public sector employees aged under 35, two-thirds of whom feel strongly that their job is useful to society, over four times the rate found among their age group in the private sector.

The report finds evidence that the motivations for working among public sector employees are very different to those among private sector workers:

- Public sector employees are twice as likely as those in the private sector to say that it is very important to them that 'a job is useful to society': 32% compared with 15%.
- They are also more likely to say that it is very important that a job allows them to help other people: 27% compared with 18%.
- And they are less likely than private sector workers to say that a high income is very important: 12% compared with 18%.

The difference between public and private sector employees has grown over the last decade. And a great deal of this change has happened among young employees, those aged under 35:

- Around two-thirds (65%) of young public sector employees 'strongly agree' that their job is useful to society, over four times the rate found among their age group in the private sector (14%).

Public sector workers have slightly higher levels of job satisfaction than private sector ones (42% compared with 35%). But the highest levels of job satisfaction are found among employees with an altruistic approach to work, irrespective of which sector they work within:

- Over half (55%) of those who think that it is very important for a job to be useful to society are satisfied with their jobs, compared with 38% among those who do not take this view.
- Nearly two thirds (64%) of those who 'strongly agree' that their work is useful to society are satisfied with their jobs, compared with just a third (34%) of those who do not take this view.

Peter John, co-author, comments:

'The public service ethos seems to have increased over the last decade, despite changes in management and procedures. It isn't easy to identify the reasons for this but it is clear that there is something special about the young people entering public service today. It may be that, as the public sector becomes more like the private sector, the choice of careers becomes one of values, so the public sector ends up attracting only those who are already committed to it.'

ENDS

This summarises 'Is there still a public service ethos?' by Peter John and Mark Johnson, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

A MORE TOLERANT NATION BUT STILL WITH POCKETS OF PREJUDICE

Britain has become a more tolerant nation over the last two decades, according to the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatCen. But the battle against prejudice is by no means won. A substantial minority of people think that equal opportunity measures for different groups in society have 'gone too far'.

One of the aims of the government's new Equality and Human Rights Commission is to eliminate discrimination and strengthen relations between different groups. This evidence in this report shows that prejudice against particular groups has fallen, but that pockets of prejudice remain.

- In 1987, three-quarters of people (75%) thought that homosexuality was always or mostly wrong. Now, a third (32%) take this view.
- Three in ten people (30%) describe themselves as very or a little prejudiced against people of other races, down from 34% in 1985. But there has been an increase in racial prejudice since 2001, when only 25% described themselves in this way. This is likely to reflect the impact of events such as 9/11. The increase however has been among those who feel 'a little prejudiced' rather than 'very prejudiced' (which has remained unchanged at 2% since 1991).
- Nearly one in five employees (18%) think that there is some prejudice in their workplace against Asian employees. 13% think this in relation to black employees, and 13% about disabled employees.
- Around a quarter of employees (22%) think that their colleagues would mind if an Asian with suitable qualifications was appointed as their boss. However, only 9% say that *they themselves* would mind this appointment.
- The most commonly admitted prejudice relates to age: over a third of employees (35%) think that their colleagues would mind a suitably qualified *younger* person being appointed as their boss (17% say that they themselves would mind). The lowest levels of prejudice relate to women; 12% think that their colleagues would mind having a woman as their boss (5% say that they themselves would mind).
- A substantial minority think that equal opportunity measures for different groups have 'gone too far'. A third of people (36%) think that equal opportunity measures for black and Asian people have gone too far, while 41% think that they are about right. But when it comes to disabled people or those with a long-term illness, only 6% think that equal opportunities measures have gone too far, while 57% think that they have not gone far enough.

Chris Creegan, co-author, comments:

'There are two messages in our findings for the new Equality and Human Rights Commission. The first is that there is little appetite for further measures on equal opportunities – except to pursue equality for disabled people. The second is that attitudes to different groups are not uniform, implying that a one-size-fits-all approach must be avoided'.

This summarises 'Prejudice and the workplace' by Chris Creegan and Chloe Robinson, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

ENDS

HARD-CORE CAR USERS OUTNUMBERED BY PEOPLE WILLING TO CUT BACK TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Nearly one in four people in Britain think that everyone should be allowed to use their cars as much as they like, even if it damages the environment. At the same time, nearly a half of drivers are both willing to reduce their car use and able to do so. These are among the findings of NatCen's latest British Social Attitudes report.

The report finds that there is widespread concern about the impact that car use has on the climate, and a belief that individual action *can* make a difference:

- Eight in ten people (80%) think that current levels of car use have a serious effect on climate change.
- Two-thirds of people (66%) agree with the view that, for the sake of the environment, everyone should reduce how much they use their cars.
- Six in ten people (59%) disagree with the defeatist statement 'anyone who thinks that reducing their own car use will help the environment is wrong – one person doesn't make a difference'.
- Drivers are concerned about these issues too. 82% think that current levels of car use have a serious effect on climate change, and 66% think that everyone should reduce their car use.

The report identifies a number of different groups based on their attitudes and their views about how easy it would be to cut down on car use for short journeys:

- Nearly one in two drivers (45%) are both willing to reduce their car use and able to do so. They might benefit from more encouragement and support to make the switch away from their cars.
- One in nine drivers (12%) are able to reduce their car use but unsure whether they are willing to do so. They too would benefit from more encouragement and support.
- Nearly one in five drivers (18%) are willing to reduce their car use but unable to do so. This group might benefit from improved public transport and improved walking or cycling facilities.

There is a hard-core of people who pose a greater challenge to policy-makers. Around one in four (23%) think that 'people should be allowed to use their cars as much as they like, even if it causes damage to the environment'. High mileage drivers are particularly likely to be in this group.

Professor Stephen Stradling, co-author, comments:

'Our results suggest that many car users are willing and able to cut their car use. But being ready is one thing – actually doing it is another. We know how attached some people are to their cars. Nevertheless, there is a clear window of opportunity for policy makers. The government needs to harness people's readiness to change by facilitating the availability, accessibility and attractiveness of more sustainable forms of transport.'

ENDS

This summarises 'Car use and climate change: do we practise what we preach?' by Stephen Stradling, Jillian Anable, Tracy Anderson and Alexandra Cronberg, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

DECLINING NEWSPAPER READERSHIP IS BAD NEWS FOR DEMOCRACY

Readership of Britain's daily morning newspapers has declined sharply over the last 20 years, according to the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatCen. They are increasingly only being read by those with an interest in politics, a trend that may well be harmful for British democracy.

Newspaper readership has fallen dramatically:

- In 1983, three-quarters of people (77%) read a morning newspaper at least three times a week; now only half (50%) do so.
- The fall is mainly a result of a decline in the readership of the popular press, from 57% then to 33% now.
- Even quality papers are not immune. While the overall level of their readership has been stable, only one in five (20%) graduates now regularly read a quality paper, compared with 50% in 1986.
- Two decades ago, younger and older people were equally likely to read a newspaper. Now only 42% of 18-27 year olds read a newspaper regularly, compared with 63% of those aged 58 and over. Younger people have not caught the newspaper reading habits of their elders; consequently newspaper readership seems destined to fall yet further.
- The slack has not been taken up by the internet: only 3% of those who do not read a newspaper regularly consult a newspaper website.

Readership of newspapers has fallen most heavily among people who have little interest in politics:

- Among those with no interest in politics, the proportion who read a newspaper regularly has dropped from seven in ten (69%) in 1986 to just four in ten (40%) now.
- In contrast, amongst those with a great deal of interest in politics, the fall in newspaper readership has been less dramatic - from 89% in 1986 to 74% now.

Professor John Curtice comments:

'Popular newspapers once allowed information about politics to reach those with little inclination to follow political matters. Now they seem increasingly unable to grab this group's attention. Instead, the readership of newspapers in Britain is increasingly confined to those with an interest in politics.'

'For years politicians have worried about the power of the press. But perhaps instead it is time for them to be concerned about its weakness.'

ENDS

This summarises 'Where have all the readers gone? Popular newspapers and Britain's political health' by John Curtice and Ann Mair, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS: CONTRASTING EVIDENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

As countries become more affluent and educated, certain forms of political participation increase, even if voting levels fall. And it is *mistrust* of government (rather than trust) that promotes participation. These are among the findings of research on interest in citizenship and political participation around the world, published in the latest British Social Attitudes report from NatCen.

The data, drawn from 37 countries and involving more than 50,000 respondents, show that one of the fastest-growing forms of participation is consumer participation and involvement in voluntary organisations. Levels vary hugely across the world, but are highest in more affluent societies:

- One in four people (23%) in Britain have bought or boycotted goods for ethical or political reasons. The highest levels of all are found in Switzerland (41%) and Austria (40%). France (32%), the United States (25%) and Germany (29%) also have high levels of this form of consumer activity.
- 12% of people in Britain participate in voluntary organisations, half the rate found in Canada, where the report finds the highest level of participation (26%). Higher levels are found in France (24%) and the United States (21%) than in Britain, but Germans are less likely than those in Britain to participate (just 8% do so).

Across the world, a range of factors influence people's social or political participation (for example, signing a petition or attending a political meeting):

- The affluence of a country has a positive impact on its citizens' willingness to get involved in politics.
- But other factors also matter. People who volunteer are more likely to participate, as are those who are interested in politics.
- It seems that *mistrust* of government (rather than trust) promotes participation.

Professor Paul Whiteley comments:

'Our results imply that as countries become more affluent and educated, participation is likely to grow in importance. This does not mean all forms of participation will increase, but it is likely that voluntary activity and consumer campaigns will become more important.'

ENDS

This summarises 'What makes a good citizen? Citizenship across the democratic world' by Paul F Whiteley, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

LEFT- AND RIGHT-WING VALUES LOSE THEIR DISTINCTIVENESS

The gulf between 'left-wing' and 'right-wing' values among the British public has declined, mirroring the increasing closeness of the policy positions of the country's two main political parties. That is one of the findings of the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatCen.

The last decade has seen huge changes in the policy positions of the main British parties – on welfare, the role of government and the market economy. The report finds that similar changes have taken place among the public:

- Since 2002 there has been a decline in some of the core values of the 'left'. For example, in 2002, 39% took the view that government should redistribute income from the better off to the less well off; now 34% think this.
- People are now less likely to support extra spending on welfare. This decline started in the mid-1980s. In 1987, 55% thought that government should spend more on welfare benefits – now 35% think this.

Whereas once the values of those who supported the Labour and Conservative parties were very different, they are now the closest they have been in the last two decades:

- On left-right issues, the values of Labour supporters have moved away from the left towards the centre ground. Meanwhile, the values of Conservative supporters have changed little.
- On welfare, there has been a dramatic shift among Labour supporters in an 'anti-welfare' direction.

People's belief systems are now less able to explain their views about particular policies, or their voting behaviour:

- Someone with very left-wing values is *less* likely now to take an obviously 'left-wing' position on a particular policy.
- A person's views on left-right issues are now a much less powerful predictor of whether or not they will vote Conservative or Labour.

Dr Robert Johns, co-author, comments:

'The core values of left and right play an important role in voters' party allegiances, and have been a key instrument in party strategies for encouraging voters. But citizens with weak attachments to values and a 'pick and mix' view of policy options become increasingly difficult to satisfy, and parties have to pay more attention to designing mixed policy packages. Unfortunately, this can encourage the view that there is little difference between parties – and we know this leads to voter alienation and apathy.'

ENDS

This summarises 'The role of government: public values and party politics' by Robert Johns and Stephen Padgett, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatCen.

BRITONS LOSE SYMPATHY FOR THE POOR

People in Britain are concerned about inequality, but they are less likely to support government interventions designed to tackle poverty or redistribute income than they were 20 years ago. Indeed, according to the latest British Social Attitudes report, published today by NatGen, one in four people think that poverty is due to laziness or lack of willpower, up from one in five in 1986.

The report finds that:

- Four in ten people (41%) say that their household is 'living comfortably', up from 24% in 1986. Then a quarter (26%) said that they were finding it difficult on their household income; now only 14% say this.
- Concern about the gap between those on high and low incomes remains high, with three-quarters (76%) saying that it is 'too large'.
- But only a third of people (34%) think that government should redistribute income from the better off to the less well off, down from nearly half (47%) in 1995.
- And few people now see the unemployed as a priority for extra government spending. In 1986, a third of people (33%) chose them as a priority, compared with just 7% now. These changes no doubt reflect an increasing belief that unemployment benefits are 'too high' and discourage people from finding work. In 1986, a third of people (35%) took this view; now over a half (54%) do so.

The public adopt a fairly strict view of poverty:

- A half of people (50%) think that a person is in poverty if they have enough to eat and live, but not enough for other things they need.
- Nine in ten people (89%) think that a person is in poverty if they have not got enough to eat and live without getting into debt.
- The most widely and consistently held view as to why some people live in need, held by a third (34%), is that 'it's an inevitable part of modern life'. But the proportion thinking poverty is due to laziness or lack of willpower has risen – from 19% in 1986 to 27% now.

Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby, co-author, comments:

'These results show a continued decline in sympathy for spending on the poor, and suggest that a part of this decline reflects changing social values about the moral obligation of government to redistribute. These sorts of values are hard ones for governments to influence.'

'This raises a dilemma for a government committed to achieving sharp reductions in poverty, when such policies appear to run counter to the direction of social values.'

ENDS

This summarises 'Trends in sympathy for the poor' by Peter Taylor-Gooby and Rose Martin, in *British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report*, published by Sage for NatGen.

Notes to Editors

- 1 **British Social Attitudes: the 24th Report** is published on Wednesday 23rd January, 2008 by Sage, price £50.00. It is edited by Alison Park, John Curtice, Katarina Thomson, Miranda Phillips, Mark Johnson and Elizabeth Clery. Sage is at www.sagepub.co.uk
- 2 NatCen is Britain's largest independent social research organisation which aims to promote a better informed society through high quality social research (www.natcen.ac.uk).
- 3 The British Social Attitudes survey series has been conducted annually since 1983. Each survey consists of more than 3,000 interviews with a representative, random sample of people in Britain.
- 4 The survey is funded by charitable and government sources. The funders of the questions in this Report were: the Gatsby Charitable Foundation; the Economic and Social Research Council; the Nuffield Foundation; The Leverhulme Trust; the Hera Trust; the Departments for Health, Transport, and Work and Pensions; the Department for Education and Skills (now split into the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills); and the Department of Trade and Industry (now part of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform).

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