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**THE COVERAGE OF THE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
PHENOMENON IN THE BRITISH PRESS**

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Prohlašuji, že práci jsem zpracoval(a) samostatně a používal(a) jen uvedeníh pramenů a literatury.

Plzeň, duben 2015

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1 INTRODUCTION

The bachelor thesis deals with the current position of media in Great Britain. It aims to describe the difference between newspapers traditionally affiliated across the political spectrum by means of analysis of antisocial issues alcohol abuse of the youth, riots or vandalism. It also looks closely at how particular media present information and affect their audience, the public.

The topic was selected due to the present importance of the media and their significant influence on the public, as well as the obvious connections both between the media and the political parties, and between the media and their owners. The relationship between the reader and the newspapers has changed dramatically over the past couple of decades and the phenomenon of the social media has emerged, dangerous for some and very important for others. Even though the bachelor thesis focuses predominantly on newspapers, the new media such as Twitter and Facebook could not have been overlooked.

The thesis is divided into five chapters referring to the current situation in Britain as a whole, to social problems in Britain and the selection of topics in the newspapers while taking greater interest in the media-influenced image of the current British society. One of the chapters also mentions the history of the media. The thesis is concluded by analysis of selected articles.

The first chapter describes the society in Great Britain in the twentieth century, its prevailing attitudes and developments in its structure. The second chapter deals with anti-social behaviour, its

definition and main examples. The third chapter is devoted to the media. This part is divided into four subchapters according to the kind of the media: the print media, the broadcasting media, the social media and Reuters, the news agency. The subchapters describe the function of each media and their history. The fourth chapter analyses articles with the aforementioned topics. Only broadsheets were used for this purpose.

Apart from the various books used for the thesis, electronic issues of British newspapers were selected as the source for the articles as they are easily accessible and supplemented by the voice of the public.

2 GREAT BRITAIN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

As result of its economic, industrial and military strength, Great Britain has played an important role in the western world since the nineteenth century. During this time were implemented the main ideas and principles of law, business, capitalism, parliamentary system and political democracy and liberty in Britain. [1] As John Oakland mentions in his book *British Civilisation: an introduction*, many internal reforms were carried out over time, “such as the extension of the vote in nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the diminishing power of the aristocratic House of Lords, the increasing authority of the popularly elected House of Commons in the parliamentary structure and the decline of executive monarchy. It underwent substantial collectivist social changes in the twentieth century, such as nationalization (with the state becoming the owner of public industries and services) and the creation of a welfare state. Later in that century, these emphases changed as government economic policies effectively shifted British society, collectively and individually, along free market lines.” [2]

The British state has changed dramatically in the twentieth century in the areas of nationalization and the creation of welfare. As well as the rest of Europe, in the post-war era Britain also had to tackle the decline of its social and economic strength, and so the political structure, religious belief, social policies and economic institutions had to be entirely rethought. Great Britain also found itself up against new superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, thus was forced to re-invent its identity and direction on both the national and the international scale to restore its former glory. Britain formed a ‘special relationship’ with the United States of America while failing to maintain the liaisons within Europe. It was not until the opening of the Channel railway tunnel

between France and England in 1994 when the situation was reversed.
[3]

British public are getting more and more concerned with the way the politicians manage their affairs as the present system does not allow enough flexibility or freedom. Decisions for the country are made by the politicians, whether elected or appointed, who often act without consulting the public in both their production and their application, which only leaves many people feeling disappointed and helpless. A large part of British society believes they should be more involved in the decision-making process, especially when it relates to institutional changes in the society or local and national affairs. This system of Parliament, law and government is the reason why people are gradually becoming uninterested in politics and have withdrawn themselves from the political process. [4]

But there are many other structures (public or private) of social activity such as sport, the family circle, youth culture or local communities. All of them have their own particular value-structure and organizations. Their character is more localized, informal and democratic. However, they may be managed by elites, which may cause a plethora of problems, especially when these elites are in conflict with other forms of leadership. [5] “This behaviour on both national and local levels emphasizes the strong individualistic streak in the British mentality, which views ‘authority’ with suspicion and has historically often led to schism and nonconformity in many areas of society.

The ‘British way of life’ and British identities are determined by how people function within and react, whether positively, negatively or

apathetically, to social structures. These are not remote abstractions but directly and immediately affect individuals in their daily lives. For example, government policies impinge upon citizens and their families; commercial organizations influence choices in food, music, clothes and fashion; the media try to shape news values and agendas; sponsorship and advertising may determine the nature of sport, the media and other activities; developed government bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland initiate policies for their own areas; local government throughout UK conditions local activities; and community life is subject to small-scale (and sometimes eccentric) influences,” [6] John Oakland claims.

2.1 Britain today

The way the British society works, and the diversity and change taking place has both its negative and positive side. The country as a whole has changed in many aspects but not at the same pace and not in the same way, depending on the location. One may think that Britain behaves homogeneously but this is not the case and there are divisions in the country. For instance, London has a strong influence on the rest of the country and the cultural distinctiveness and the diverse national identities of Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England create further divisions. Social and governmental systems are not working the same everywhere in Britain and there are economic gaps which vary based on the location. In some areas people are asking for more independence in the local government in order to counter the economic depression, rising crime, social deprivation, the decay of many inner-city locations and the deepening economic and cultural gulf between the North and the South. In different parts of Britain, there are serious discussions on issues such as the position of women in the society, minority ethnic and religious

communities and interest groups, and the process creates tensions around the National identity and the individual and collective rights of the public. However, there are more issues to address for the communities as the gap between the rich and the poor is expanding, tensions between cities and the countryside are more noticeable, the differences between the young and the elderly are becoming more striking and the human life expectancy is rapidly increasing. [7]

John Oakland argues in his book that there is also a noticeable decline “in the allegedly traditional deference to authority, consensus views and support for national institutions (such as the monarchy, professions, Church and Parliament).” [8] John Oakland take a stand that “Opinion polls suggest that the British themselves feel that they have become more aggressive, more selfish, less tolerant, less kind, less moral, less honest and less polite.” [9] In the present, people are more individualist, as the society is becoming more nonconformist than they used to be. Based on research, Britain of today has a new mode of behaviour which consists of materialism, egotism, celebrity worship, vulgarity, trivialization and sensationalism. “On some levels, such developments have led to visible increase in antisocial behaviour, yobbishness, public scruffiness, vandalism, serious alcohol and drug abuse, disputes between neighbours, violent crime and assaults, public disorder, the growth of criminal gangs and increased gun and knife attacks, which disturb many British people,” [10] how it is mentioned in the same book. Politicians, critics and a majority of the respondents in public opinion polls ask for more civic responsibility and caring society which individualism is very important for. The question is whether the rather negative image of current British society is the work of the media (when the media try to act as the moral segment in the society) and the

particular commentators or it is nothing but the reality. According to several surveys, many British experience it in everyday life. [11]

On the other hand, historical facts demonstrate that the past of Britain was not as idyllic as some people may think and “there were periods when the levels of social violence, poverty, and deprivation were much greater than they are now, both in the cities and the countryside.” [12] During the past 60 years, Britain underwent many changes. Nowadays, people seek prosperity and opportunity. Thanks to technological advances, new economic policies and most importantly multi-ethnic growth, the role of women in Britain was expanded, the society showed more tolerance towards alternative lifestyles and transformed as a whole. [13]

Based on other opinion polls, the British assume that they have individual independence and liberty within the framework of social institutions and they are ready to express their disapproval when they feel threatened as protest is the natural reaction in Britain. On the other hand, the British sometimes tend to avoid serious social and political confrontation. Such disruption could be tempered by the promise of reforms or be simply ignored by politicians likewise. The British are, for the most part, characterized by peaceful evolution which the government tried to interrupt by radical and sometimes by change in the last decades.

Great Britain is now facing different cultural and economic realities. According to economists, tempers fray, like during the imperialist era, when it comes to the benefits of industrial revolutions, cheap labour or uncompetitive world market. Regarding to opinion of John Oakland, “the society has seen a decline in traditional certainties, and become more

mobile, stressful and conflict-ridden. Critics argue that the old pragmatic methods of innovation, which illustrate the British tendency to muddle through difficulties without long-term planning or fundamental reform, are no longer sufficient for an era in which specialized education and training, high-technology competence and a need to respond to international competition are the main determinants.”

[14]

It is not, however, only the aforementioned issues Great Britain and other western countries have been dealing with since terrorism became a part in the ordinary life. On 7 July 2005, public transport system was targeted by suicide attacks executed in the morning rush hour in the centre of London and further attempts were registered on 21 July. The bombings left many trapped in the underground, claimed tens of casualties and hundreds of injured. These terrorist attacks have raised debates amongst both the experts and the public about the loyalty of the country's multi-ethnic population and about government policies in areas of refugee camps and immigration procedures. [15] In the last few years, there are opinions that it is already too late to restrict the rules for asylum seekers (mainly from the Middle East) as the cultural difference does not make it easy to adapt to the European world.

Britain has been involved in military operations in Bosnia and Kosovo and has also taken part in the 'War against Terror'. The close relationship between the then Prime Minister Tony Blair and the former president of the USA George Bush and the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 led to massive anti-war protests across the country and the globe. Tony Blair sent the British army into battle five times during

his first six years in office which so far is the highest number in British history. [16]

3 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The term antisocial behaviour covers the manner of behaviour that could cause alarm, distress or harm to others and can blight the lives of many people. Antisocial behaviour or briefly ASB is defined by Metropolitan police as “behaviour by a person which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the person”. [17] It is important to say that the interpretation of this definition is very individual because what is considered as harassment by one person, may not be affected by another at all. However we should not play down the acts of ASB which take place currently under the influence of media.

To be more specific, ASB can include many kinds of problematic behaviour such as: littering, racism, drinking or using drugs which lead to people causing trouble or pestering the others [18], vandalism, smoking in public, begging, graffiti, organised paedophilic activity, rioting etc. [19]

According to Britain Metropolitan police there are three categories of ASB:

“Personal- ASB is perceived to be targeted at an individual or group rather than the community at large.

Nuisance - ASB is causing trouble, annoyance or suffering to the community at large rather than an individual or group.

Environmental - The incident is not aimed at an individual or group but targets the wider environment, e.g. public spaces/buildings.” [20]

In 2006 a new survey of problematic behaviour in Europe was published. The poll conducted by University College London's Jill Dando Institute of Crime for the security firm ADT found that Britain is considered ‘as one of the most loutish countries in Europe’. [21] One of the reasons

for this first place was the excessive consumption of alcohol. According to this survey, the most problematic attitudes in Europe are vandalism, rowdy behaviour and disrespectful behaviour. [22]

3.1 Antisocial behaviour order

Antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) is a civil order which has arisen as a solution against the increasing antisocial behaviour in the United Kingdom and was introduced by Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1998. ASBO was also introduced in order to make minors above the age of 10 responsible for their actions which was not punishable before. On the basis of ASBO, the relevant person can receive up to 5 years in prison.

The unwanted behaviour can appear anywhere- in a small community as well as in the big towns. According to website dealing with this topic “an anti-social behaviour order prevents the 'perpetrator' (those people responsible) from carrying out an anti-social act or series of anti-social behaviour. ASBO's are designed to stop unacceptable and anti-social behaviour and prevent members of the public being targeted further by such acts. The ASBO, in theory, prevents a perpetrator from being present in specific areas in local communities (known as 'exclusion zones').” [23]

4 THE MEDIA

The media (or mass media) such as the television, the radio, the press and the Internet address a large group of people and especially since the first emergence of the 'social media' their ever-increasing impact on the reader is striking at the very least. Audience register fear and excitement, joy and sadness, and other emotions presented in the media. [24]

4.1 The print media

The print media have played an important role in our society over the last 200 years. While predominantly read by the middle and upper class for mostly educational and supervisory purposes in the past, the present media target mass audience and offer freedom of speech and controversy as its focus shifted towards being, for the most part, a medium of interaction. While merely passing information and occasionally entertaining the reader in the past, present media may often influence the course of events, especially regarding political and social issues. [25]

4.1.1 The National newspapers

National newspapers with editorial office in London are accessible across the whole country and some of them also provide a regional version. [26] In the recent years, particular newspapers embraced technological advance and introduced their electronic versions, which have become very popular on the grounds of updated news on regular basis and immediate availability. But for example the daily *The Times* is accessible only for subscribers. In this way, the daily maintains its

exclusivity. Many print newspapers are delivered at the reader's home every morning which brings no possibility to change their content. The online newspapers are regularly updated and well connected with social networks and other technologies such as mobile phones or tablets. National newspapers are printed every day including the weekend. Those issued on Sunday are known as 'Sunday papers' and may have different editing and team of journalists, the rest of them are commonly called 'dailies' sometimes produced by the same company. The main goal for the newspaper publisher is to sell as many copies as possible. [27]

National newspapers are divided into two groups, *quality*, providing the reader with relevant information, and *popular* dailies, often called *tabloids*. The newspapers could be also characterized by their format, *small-sheet* and *broadsheet*.

The broadsheet quality papers respect the objectivity and the context and their articles, which are written in formal language and inform about current events, are followed by analysis and comments. At present, they mostly focus on investigative journalism but tend to pay certain attention to sensation too. The national newspapers are often in favour of the policies of political parties. [28]

The first quality newspapers in the Britain were *The Times*. Its first issue was published in 1785 and is considered the leader on the market of the first half of the nineteenth century. *The Times* is followed by *The Observer* (1791) and *The Sunday Times* (1822). These three newspapers were concentrated on a very small group of mostly educated people. *The Daily Telegraph* was founded in 1855 and the middle class were the targeted audience. *The Independent* was first published in 1986 and its nickname is the *Indy*. Quality papers come in two different sizes and with

two different names, the Berliner and the broadsheet format. The Berliner is narrower and shorter than the broadsheet format and its main representative is *The Guardian*. In 1959, *The Guardian* developed from *The Manchester Guardian* (founded in 1821) which was originally a local paper, and became a national newspaper in the nineteenth century. [29]

Tabloids are a kind of newspapers, whose returns are from five to ten times higher than quality papers, and which is based on emotions and sensation. Their content is focused on private life of famous personalities or celebrities such as actors, singers, or politicians. The headlines, as well as the articles themselves, are very catchy and very often contain shocking words or phrases such as sex, blood, divorce or adultery. The language of these articles is usually a simpler style of English and pictures prevail over text. First popular newspapers were the *News of the world* (1843) and the *People* (1881); both printed on Sundays and sought-after by working class. In 1896, *The Daily Mail* was founded by Alfred Harmsworth, who then became a so-called press baron. Shortly afterwards, Harmsworth introduced the *Daily Mirror* which was an alternative of quality papers for working-class. The beginning of the twentieth century was the period of a rise in the domain of media. In 1900 Arthur Person founded the *Morning Herald* as a rival for *Daily Mirror*. The *Daily Mirror* and the *Morning Herald* (*Daily Express* today) are so-called mid-market newspapers which deliver the entertainment as well as important news to the reader. The more sensationalist tabloids are called 'red tops', such as *The Sun* and *The Mirror*. *The Sun* developed from the *Daily Herald* in 1964. [30]

Although tabloids are very popular all over the world, they arouse heated discussion on the restriction of the freedom of the press. Many

journalists do not respect privacy while hunting for the most sensational stories. The complaints concerning the invasion of privacy are dealt with by The Press Complaints Commission guarding the freedom and the independence of the press, founded in 1990 and financed by newspaper owners. [31]

“So why is the British press more frivolous? The answer may lie in the function of the British press for its readers. British adults never read comics. These publications, which consist entirely of picture stories, are read only by children. It would be embarrassing for an adult to be seen reading one. Adults who want to read something very simple, with plenty of pictures to help them, have almost nowhere to go but the national press. Most people do not use newspapers for serious news. For this, they turn to source- broadcasting.” [32] James O’Driscoll explains in his book *Britain. The country and its people: an introduction for learners of English*.

4.1.2 Regional and ethnic newspapers

More than 1,300 local and regional newspapers are printed in Great Britain. Even though their content is concentrated on the local news, sometimes they also include national and international issues. The regional newspapers are printed daily in the morning or in the evening, on Sundays and some are issued as weeklies. They are mainly financed by regional advertising and mostly have an Internet version. [33]

London has, besides others, one daily, the *Evening Standard*. The quality local and regional papers are *The Scotsman*, published in Edinburgh, the *Glasgow Herald*, the *Western Mail* published in Cardiff, and

the *Yorkshire Post* published in Leeds, *The Belfast Telegraph* and the *News Letter* in Northern Ireland and the *Daily Record*, the *Sunday Mail* and the *Sunday Post* in Scotland. [34]

4.1.3 Periodicals and magazines

There are about 8,500 different periodicals and magazines with the content focus on economy, business, sport, hobby or interest such as computers, gardening, cooking or do-it-yourself projects which printed weekly, monthly or quarterly. They are at large dependent on their sales and advertising. The existence of teenage and youth magazines is a bit endangered, which was caused by greater use of Internet and mobile phone applications. The circulation of men's magazines is volatile; on the other hand the magazines for women are sold in great numbers. The best-selling magazines are those containing feature stories and TV guide such as *Radio Times* and *What's on TV*. [35]

The magazines encompassing serious issues are for example the *New Statesman and Society* (a left-wing political and social affairs magazine), *The Economist*, the *Spectator* (a conservative journal). There are also magazines devoted merely to science and education such as *The Times New Scientist*, *The Times Educational Supplement*, *The Times Higher* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. [36]

4.2 The broadcasting media

The broadcasting media could be divided into two sectors - public and independent. In the public sector the media are funded by the

television licence fee and the media in the independent sector are financed by advertising. [37]

The BBC had a monopoly on the airwaves until 1954 when the Independent Television Authority (ITA) was founded. In the field of radio broadcasting, the BBC's monopoly ceased in 1972 with the emergence of independent radio stations. The ITA was later connected to the IBA (Independent Broadcasting Authority) which incorporates also the ITC (Independent Television Commission) and the Radio Authority. This group was later substituted by Ofcom. Thanks to digitalization many new radio and television channels were created. [38]

4.2.1 The BBC

“Just as the British Parliament has the reputation for being ‘the mother of parliaments’, so the BBC might be said to be ‘the mother of information services’. Its reputation for impartiality and objectivity in news reporting is, at least when compared to news broadcasting in many other countries, largely justified.” claims James O’Driscoll. [39]

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is the television and radio company. Its emission is provided in Great Britain as well as abroad. The BBC was founded in 1922 as the first and the biggest medium of radio by Royal Charter. During the Second World War, it played a vital role as an facilitator of democracy and freedom of speech. Nowadays, the BBC has two main television channels (BBC 1 and BBC 2), five national channels, 39 local stations and also regional and community services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. [40]

The BBC is funded by television licence fee and by selling its programmes abroad. The BBC World Service, which is financed by the Ministry of External Affairs, provides the broadcasting abroad and also provides regional emission in many countries. [41]

4.3 The social media

The social media and computer technologies have been developed since the middle of twentieth century. The social media are connected with the foundation of digital technology as the attribute of update, availability and interaction which are very important for its specification. It means that it is possible to change, respond to and comment on the content. The representation of the new media include web sites, blogs, internet station, online television as well as mobile phone, email, social networks, Skype or ICQ. [42]

Interaction is one of the advantages of the new media. The communication is duplex so the absorption of information is never passive as the audience are expected to become involved in the process. Another advantage is the relatively low cost. The access to the new media costs close to nothing, excluding the Internet bills. The production of web sites is also very inexpensive since any member of the public has the option to start a blog or a social network page presenting its opinions or art. On the other hand, this could potentially lead to misleading or false or poor quality information. [43]

The power of new media was very present in the case of Boston Marathon Bombings. The new media, especially the social networks such as Facebook or Twitter, were used as an alternative and a very fast

means of communication. People all over the world were informed about the attack a few minutes after it actually happened and the public were able to watch live video or see photos taken at the scene. The new media were used as a speedy channel for communication between the police and the citizens of Boston as well as the students of the university. They were quickly informed about the progress, security measures and the pursuit of the perpetrators.

On the other hand, this event showed exactly how much confusion media may cause when under pressure. The world media issued inexact and unconfirmed information that spreads uncontrollably fraying tempers and causing upsetting people. Readers merely passed the information on, for example the Chechnyan origin of perpetrators confused for Czech, which misled the audience across the globe. “The Czech Republic is trending because idiots are confusing it with Chechnya. If you're not sure whether to laugh or cry, cry,” Chris Jones, user of Twitter, commented this chaos. [44]

This incident exposed the new phenomenon in reporting which is Twitter. The news is published on this social network more quickly than on news websites or on television. Evidently, Twitter is the agent of pressure for traditional media.

4.4 The news agency Reuters

The news agency Reuters, founded in 1851 by the German immigrant Paul Julius Reuter in London, was the first medium which

informed about the end of the WWI or about the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb. The Reuter's Telegram Company additionally broadcasted commercial news. Thereafter, it gained the first subscribers. After a few years, in 1856, the first subdivision was founded in Alexandria, Egypt. One year later Paul Julius Reuter established the first Asiatic subdivision in Bombay and finally, the first South American subdivision was set up in 1874 in Chile. In 2008 a new agency Thomson Reuters was formed by fusion with Canadian company Thomson Corporation. Thomson Reuters resides in New York and focuses on finance sector. [45]

Modern technology was important for Paul Reuter and his followers. The agency was the first agency who broadcasted the news internationally on radio or who used satellite in 1962 for the first time. They also presented the teleprompter for data transfer to London Press. [46] The news agency Reuters transmits the news in English, French, Arabic, German, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, and employs several thousand journalists.

5 THE ANALYSES

5.1 The UK riots in 2011

This analysis deals with the newspapers' coverage of rioting in London in August 2011. The rioting follows a death of Mark Duggan, a 29-year-old, who was shot dead by the police in Tottenham, north London, during a police operation in this suburb. According to the media, he was a British citizen with some immigration roots and a criminal history.

Immediately after the young man's death, his family as well as his friends and relatives walked out into the streets to show their disapproval and to seek justice after the shooting event. During this peaceful demonstration starting in the Broadwater Farm area, the scene of riots in 1985, and continuing towards the police station in Tottenham, turned violent. The police cars were set on fire by thrown bottles. It was believed that Mark Duggan was a victim of racial discrimination. In the next days, the violence, looting and arson spread out into others boroughs in London, and later on into several cities and towns across Britain. By 15th August, 3,100 people were arrested and about 1000 people were brought to justice. Moreover, 5 people died, at least 16 people were injured as a direct result of violence. After the riots, it was estimated there were £200 million worth of property damage. On January 2014, a jury at the Royal Courts of Justice issued a conclusion stating that Mark Duggan was killed lawfully. [47]

For this particular analysis, the attention will be drawn to the articles taken from the broadsheets *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, and the

tabloids *The Daily Mail*, and *The Mirror*, all dated August and September 2011.

5.1.1 The Guardian

In the first days of riots, the left-leaning newspaper *The Guardian*, as well as the others dailies, bring the information about the development on the streets. In the article *Tottenham in flames as riot follows protest* [48], the authors briefly describe the first night of riots. Further, they also inform the readers about the opinion on the events of one woman who claims that 'it started as a peaceful demonstration' and that the police 'lied about what happened. They said he pulled a gun but he wouldn't have done that with armed police. They shot him so badly that his mother could not recognise him'. [49] In the article, the statement of the local residents who were feeling unsafe and who found the police 'very frightened' is given. [50]

The other article elaborates on the matter announcing that the police were shocked by this violence by consequence of which 35 officers were injured. Later on, it concludes that the conviction "was a huge failure" [51] of all politicians, police, communities and households. However, the author remarks that it was easy to condemn them, but it was difficult too to foresee what was going to happen. The riots in Britain are defined as "a defining contest between disorder and order". [52] The author adds that the criminality and the attacks must be ended and the rule of law "must not only be defended against delinquent destruction. It must also be enforced". [53] Later on we can find the criticism of the decision from Cobra's meeting, Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms, to have the army involved in this issue. The author argues further that the water

cannon or baton rounds are the weapons in the last resort, as it was seen in Northern Ireland. At the end of the article, the idea is to appeal to have the problem solved in a humane manner by the Parliament, “rather than grandstanding or partisanship” [54]. On the one hand he voices doubts that the Parliament might be able to do this and that it would be very surprising, on the other hand he shows support.

In September 2011, *The Guardian* published an article by Hugh Muir: “*Tottenham riots: missteps in the dance of police and a frustrated community.*” [55] The author deals with two main facts. On the one hand, the police was overwhelmed due to their own unpreparedness, on the other hand he underlines that the situation in Tottenham is not currently easy due to high rates of unemployment and government spending cuts. The author focuses on the known facts as well as on the statement of Scott, Mark Duggan’s relative. He briefly indicates that a relationship between police and the community in Tottenham was fairly fragile, which escalated then into a mob riots. This is further completed by the youth from Tottenham or a local ward councillor’s opinions that their voices are listened to after the riots. They agree that “it is essential the fact that we put more money into youth services and job creation now.” [56] The article ends by giving a final view point that “Tottenham is seeking to heal itself.” [57] The author offers an example of a cross-borough football tournament organised by volunteers from the Haringey Young People Empowered, or the events organised by Youth from Tottenham in order to obtain more money for people who lost their home or businesses.

There are also some controversies regarding the issue with riots. *The Guardian* was accused of anti-Semitic incitement by the media

monitoring the organisation when Paul Lewis referred to 'Hasidic Jews' in his article about the UK Riots. He stated that:

The make-up of the rioters was racially mixed. Most were men or boys, some apparently as young as 10....But families and other local residents, including some from Tottenham's Hasidic Jewish community, also gathered to watch and jeer at police. [58]

5.1.2 The Telegraph

The conservative newspaper *The Telegraph* published the article: *Tottenham riots: police let gangs run riot and loot [59]*. Although the authors reveal the defence speeches of the police, they suggest that the police did not enough to prevent the youth gang from breaking into shops. They also argue that the police 'did not intervene to stop the looting in some areas until 7.30 am the following morning, almost 12 hours after the riots began' [60]. The police defend themselves that the priority was to avoid the death caused by violence as well as to quieten the source of the riots rather than to deal with looting. We briefly hear that the police also had to force against the rumours that Mark Duggan was shot in the head. The article continues with the description of the development of events and the comments from the residents of the area. However, although the residents suffered damages in various ways, they all concur in one observation - there was no presence of the police.

The article: *UK riots: When the thin blue line snapped [61]* criticises the police more than the previous one. The authors focus on the fact that during the riots and the looting, the police was simply in chaos. In *The Guardian*, it is mentioned that the first problem detected was that no senior officer was present in the police station when the Duggan family

arrived there for a justifiable reason – the one of his death. Another reason for riots can be seen in a decline of public confidence in the police in the course of the last years. Additionally, the authors adopt a view that during the riots many families might have realised that the police did not actually help them protect their property. In addition to this, they produce the evidence that during last days there were 3000 officers in the streets, what is only 500 more than during a normal night.

In the article: *London riots: the underclass lashes out* [62] no one seemed surprised when riots happened. The rioters were just waiting for a spark to light them up. Incapability of the government to deal with Mark Duggan's death, stonewalling of his family, are the major events that have lead to a breakdown of order, image of a failing state. There may have been the suggestions in public discussion that those riots were based on ethnicity but this article does not support this opinion as a lot of multiethnic stores sit side by side in a peaceful way. The authors mention unemployment and the cuts as some of the reasons. "Bad income distribution, a business sector engaged in 'corporate larceny', a weak banking structure and an import/export imbalance" [63] are revealed in the article as the real causes. He also focused on that today in Britain rich people become still richer and the UK is less equal. Successive British governments are responsible of the gap that exists between the classes of population. Great Britain is now facing a 'Lost generation', mustering for war. For sure mob violence must be condemned but this is a signal of a wider malaise. The author argues that "in uneasy societies, people power – whether offered or stolen – can be toxic". [64] The article takes a stand that Britain is in bad health and politicians ignore the vote-losing underclass at their peril and at ours. London's riots are the proof that a section of young Britain is falling apart and that seems to be the sign of

the beginning of a crumbling nation. The author considers the current model of society no longer sustainable, especially with regards to financial market, way of educating people, health care model. The author claims that it is heading right into the wall. But what happened in London, unfortunately, is what Great Britain needs if it ever wants to feel safe and prosper again. If the UK does not react properly at this alarm signal, it might be in graver trouble than it thinks. [65]

In comparison with the articles from *The Guardian*, this daily does not appear to be afraid of using stronger words and calling the participants of riots *members of a gang, criminals* and *vandals* or *thugs*. It can be actually seen in the article: “*The criminals who shame our nation*”. [66] As the headline indicates, the author explains his critical attitude towards violence and riots. He defends his point of view by stating that the comparison of the mob of recent ways with the London’s mob from 18th century is a fallacious interpretation. One can learn that “the riots of the 1700s usually had a clear motive – be it politics, religion, xenophobia or the price of gin” [67]. But nowadays the new phenomenon can be identified: “violent disorder whose sole intent is criminal”. [68] The author refuses the designation ‘protesters’ used by the BBC. Instead he uses the words such as *looters, vandals* and *thieves* [69]. Also, the article deals with the opinion that the participants are not afraid of the police, and additionally they miss the sense of respect to this institution. He supports this attitude by claiming that “for many of these hooligans, the contract between people and the police has not been broken – it has never existed. Many have grown up in sink estates where the writ of the law scarcely runs”. [70]

5.1.3 The Daily Mail

The newspaper *The Daily Mail* refers as well to the similar issue in its contributions. The author of the article: “*We don't do water cannon, we rely on consent: May rules out tough action as vigilantes are forced to defend shops*” [71], offers a fairly different point of view on the situation. It says that the police lost control. What is revealed there is that the residents “were forced to take the law into their own hands, arming themselves with sticks and chasing looters away from their properties”. [72] The author criticises the inability of the police to step in, however, the Home Secretary Theresa May is criticised ever more for her opinion of “a more softly-softly approach.” [73] Later on, it presents the comments of the residents explaining that the police did nothing. These sources are not named which may provoke some doubts about their authenticity. It appears that *The Daily Mail* is in favour of deployment of the army.

The article with the headline: “*We ran for our lives as thugs ambushed bus: Chaos across the capital as orgy of violence rages on*” [74] is a summary of the riots from all places in Britain. The authors try to express in an attractive and shocking way by bringing up the stories from the streets based mainly on sensation events. The Michelin stars restaurants are mentioned a few times since they were attacked by the rioters. The authors draw the article up from the testimony of the victims of riots such as: “They are threatening us with big sticks. We have to run for our lives”, “I saw them attack shop windows and running around shouting and screaming.” [75] Equally importance, it may be noted that the paper does not keep the ethnic neutrality. They claim that it was mostly black people who attacked white people. A man from Peckham, south-east London, remarks that the teenagers from this area involved in the unrest are unhappy and that is why for them “it’s their only way of

venting their anger.” [76] Also in the same article, another viewpoint is taken, explaining in fact that there were not enough officers on the streets. To render the article even more “catchy”, the authors use such phrases as *orgy of violence*, *restaurant was mugged*, *a war zone*, *scenes became increasingly ugly*. The text is accompanied by a great deal of pictures, mostly capturing burning cars, attacks of the rioters or images of the victims.

The *Daily Mail* published the article: “*Left-wing cynics blame the Tory cuts for orgy of violence: MPs and activists line up to make excuses for thugs*” [77] with more political context. The author expresses the opposing opinions of the main political parties - the Conservatives and the Labour, so as to direct the criticism to the left-wing politicians. They make use of the unrest from the last days in order to blame the true reason of the riots on the Government cuts. The opinion entertained is that “Labour MPs and activists lined up to make excuses for the thugs, spouting claims that disadvantaged youth had no option but to smash up high streets.” [78] According to this article, further, the Twitter comments express the criticism of Tories who never take responsibility for the results. Lee Jasper, a former adviser on policing to Ken Livingstone, sees a connection between the riots and the non-support of the youth in these areas of London. He also blames the austerity which consequently drives and “creates a ‘social division’ which was forcing the police into a conflict with communities.” [79] Later on, the author disapproves with this criticism when mentioning Mike Freer, the Conservative MP. This latter argues that the Labour politicians make use of these problematic riots as a political advantage. However, the author brings also the opinion of “black” London Labour MPs as Chuka Umunna or Diane Abbott who, in this way, will dissociate from their colleagues.

5.1.4 The Mirror

The daily *The Mirror* also monitors the riots in London, later on across Britain. As the only newspaper, it puts emphasis on families. In the article “*London riots: capital hit by fresh wave of violence as thousands of jobs take to the streets*” [80] parents were asked by the Scotland Yard's most senior officer to stay informed where are their children and take them to the safety. The author later describes the scenes of violence. It is said by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stephen Kavanagh that the number of officers was tripled. The author briefly mentions the stand of Mr Kavanagh who is asking for deep investigation, as well as the stand of Nick Clegg, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, who considers the violence as ‘completely unacceptable’. [81] Also in this article there are the statements of victims, however, in comparison with *The Daily Mail* they are not so abrasive. The family business was destroyed in the fire after 100 years of existing. “I’m sickened to see this happening in my town,” [82] pronounced the owner. At the end of the article, the author deals with a stand of Mike Fisher, leader of the Croydon Council, who argues that the looting in Croydon has nothing in common with the events in Tottenham. He claims that “if you speak to the people who have done this tonight, they would not even know who Mark Duggan was.” [83]

With relation to the riots, *The Mirror* published the article: “*Britain shamed by night of violence as more cities hit*” [84] which deals with the fact that 9-years-old children took a part in ‘sickening riots’ [85] in Manchester. The City councillor Pat Karney expresses his concern about this fact. Later on, the article is concluded by a brief summary of development across Britain.

The journalist of *The Mirror* reveals the conviction that rap music instigates more violence and which leads to decline of the authority of police and parents. The rap music also “exalts trashy materialism and raves about drugs.” [86] The author criticises the listener’s priorities of living. According to his opinion, for these people “the important things in life are the latest smart phone, fashionable trainers and jeans and idiot computer games.” [87] As the solutions, he argues that government has to change the security, employment and education policies. The author considers the government cuts as a mistake. However, he finds the main solution in a change of culture.

Although the daily *The Mirror* belongs to the tabloids, in the articles ‘catchy’ words are not used in such quantity as it could be seen in *The Daily Mail*. However, the articles are also supplemented by many shocking pictures.

5.2 Underage Drinking

Youth drinking is a widespread problem around the world but western nations seem to be struggling the most with it. Newspapers have been dealing with this issue for a long time. According to the special surveys about youth drinking across Europe, the papers will echo this issue on their front pages almost every year. In 2012, the British newspapers referred to surveys which rank British girls at the very top - above other youth drinkers in Europe as it will illustrate in the analysis.

In 2007 *The Independent* came with the article “*Special report: Underage drinking*” [88] and warned that the situation became worse as more children were admitted into hospital with “drink-related problems”.

[4] The authors introduce the article by the story of Hayley Nash, a young girl who had been an alcoholic since the age of 12. Hayley's drinking escalated from casual drinking with friends in the park to the point when she had "eight cans of lager and a bottle of vodka a day". [89]

The authors point out that there are no NHS facilities for this sort of a problem. It is mentioned the opinion of Professor Mark Bellis, director of the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University and a government adviser on alcohol-related issues who argues that there are more children admitted in the hospital as victims of violence, or pregnant girl but this is also caused by alcohol consumption. The authors refer to the polls about youth drinking which continues to increase every year. They argue that although the government dealt with this issue, the experts blame the drinks industries "promote alcohol as 'sexy' to young" [90]. It is argued that there is a missing help to the children as such Hayley. However, Professor Bellis criticises this opinion by taking a stand that we need to help to the children before it reaches this stadium.

The article is based on the special investigation carried out by *The Independent on Sunday*. This investigation "reveals the dramatic rise in children admitted to hospital because of alcohol-related illnesses." [91] This is caused by the hidden alcohol market on the streets. Nevertheless, it does not describe this investigation in more detail. At the end of the article, they return to Hayley's story as she would like to play a role of a bad example and try to help the others experiencing the similar difficulties.

In 2011, the paper *The Guardian* published an article based on the report written by think-tank Demos which found that "*British girls are the*

biggest teenage binge drinkers in the western world.” [92] The article was taken over from the Press Association which is the national news agency for the UK and Ireland. It deals mostly with the survey and its figures. As it is a borrowed article, probably used also by other papers, it does not attempt to make critical comments or draw any conclusions. It is fairly difficult in terms of reading as almost in every sentence there is a figure expressed as a percentage.

The same newspaper returns to this topic of youth drinking in the article: *“Hollywood films encourage teen binge drinking, says new study.”* [93] It refers to a German research showing that Hollywood movies encourage the youth to drink. The article mentions the outcomes of the study performed by the Institute for Therapy and Health Research in six European countries. The comments of the researchers explaining the strong influence of the media on the young people were published. As for the co-author of the study James Sargent, a professor of paediatrics and community and family medicine at Dartmouth Medical School, the alcohol is positively presented in the movies. Further, he also adds that alcohol drinking in the movies is portrayed in the way that can make the young people associate drinking with being rich, funny, etc. [94]

In July 2012, three newspapers published articles based on the report from the Department of Health. The first paper introducing this topic was *The Daily Mail*. The article entitled *“UK’s teenage girls are biggest binge drinkers in Europe as more than half of 15-year-olds drink to excess at least once a month”* [95], refers to ‘33-page submission’, as the report is referred to by the author of the article, made by the Department of Health. According to this report, teenage girls in Britain drink alcohol more often than other European girls. British girls also drink

more than the boys. The article draws attention to the fact that this report “revealed that the debilitating effects of drink cost the UK economy more than £21billion a year” [96]. The author emphasises that the other costs have expended due to alcohol misuse. He argues that the NHS spends £3.5 billion a year because of the increasing hospital admission related to alcohol. [97] Later he mentions the warnings issued by the Department of Health against sixty diseases caused by drinking such as liver disease, stroke or cancer. In the article, it is said that “drink costs the nation £21billion – £11billion in crime, £3.5billion for the NHS, and £7.3billion in lost productivity such as sickness absence and premature deaths”. [98]

The article continues with the comments of the report by Commons health selected committee inquiry included also in the report. In 2007, the research targeted the children across Europe by asking them about drinking habits. This report finds out that British children have the worst figure with regards to drinking. It also mentions that the drink in supermarkets is cheap, so that the children often have something to drink before going out. Moreover, once they are already intoxicated, they often become involved in unexpected situations such as those with a criminal nature. The end of the article goes on to introduce a story of Suzi Fox who began drinking at the age of 11. [99]

The Telegraph follows this topic. The article “*British teenage girls are biggest binge drinkers in Europe*” [100], as well as the previous one, refers to the research carried out by the Department of Health and the report by Commons health select committee inquiry. Therefore, the article also contains the figures concerning the drinking of the young and the warnings against drinking before going out for the young children to be more involved in the crime. In comparison with the article in *The Daily*

Mail, this article is fairly brief. In addition, there are quotations from *The Daily Mail* article.

The last paper which addressed the same topic is *The Independent*. The article is published in the section of blogs. The author is the only one who brings about his own comments. He tackles two different issues - underage drinking in UK which is the biggest in Europe on one hand, and the fact that the British girls drink more than boys without using the statistics and tiring the readers by too many numbers on the other. [101] He argues that “it is still a problem and that politicians are still worried about it.” [102] The author briefly mentions the latest survey by Girlguiding UK which reveals the reason why girls get drunk: mainly to follow their friends. Later, the author comments on the fact that girls drink more than boys do. He ironically explains how it is difficult to be a teenage girl. He states that more than one out of 16-to-18-year-old proclaims that they do not remember what actually happened when they went out and got drunk. [103] This is also connected with the headline of the article: “*Teen girls drink like the rest of us – to forget.*” [104] Later on, the reveals that drinking starts to be a social activity for girls, in the same way as for the boys a social activity is sport.

The Observer presents an article following on this topic: “*Meet the new puritans: young Britons cut back on drink and drugs*” [105] in September 2012. This article refers to a study from Professor Fiona Measham, a criminologist at Durham University. She has been studying an alcohol intake during more than two decades. This study shows in fact the decline of youth drinking in the bars in which Professor Measham observed mostly students. Also, the authors do not forget about the Department of Health statistics which shows the decline in figures of

under-16-aged children in drinking. [106] The lastly mentioned element could be rather strange if compared to the three articles from July of the same year. More precisely, the authors quote the arguments of Professor Measham for this decline as “the worst excesses of the drinks industry have been curtailed by legislation – the free drinks and happy hours and irresponsible promotion of drinking.” [107] They also comment on the opinion of the Professor who “attacked health professionals for being unwilling to recognise the shifting patterns of behaviour, and for persisting with ‘shock tactics’ designed to scare young people.” [108] The article ends with the results of polls made by the authors. The polls of universities around the country correspond with the study of Professor Measham. Cosmo March, an officer at Warwick student union, welcomes this fact and adds that the students are mostly occupied by the social media rather than going out. [109]

5.3 Knife crime

This analysis describes the coverage of knife crime issue in the British newspapers. In the UK, it is illegal to carry a knife and other weapons including any imitations of these. Shops cannot sell knives to persons under 18 years old [110]. Carrying a knife could be penalised by 4 years in prison and a fine of £5,000. [111] According to the media, the rate of violent crime is currently falling down. [112] However, the media largely inform us as well about such knife offences as threats or illegal possession and, moreover, about serious knife attacks almost on everyday basis.

Also for this analysis, the articles from the broadsheets *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, and the tabloids *The Daily Mail*, and *The Mirror* were used.

5.3.1 The Telegraph

With regards to knife crime problems, in its articles *The Telegraph* often mentions that penalties for offenders happen to be lower than they normally should be. In 2008, the article with the headline: “*Time to get tough on knife crime*” [113] reveals the fact that for some children carrying a knife is becoming a routine. As it shows further, from the beginning of 2008 till May, twenty-eight youngsters were murdered with knives. [114] The author suggests that, on the one hand, teenagers are not able to recognize which sentences they could be given and “disgracefully, they are correct”. [115] On the other hand, it is often difficult to defend the offenders. Additionally, the teenagers are aware of this fact. In 2006, more than 7,000 people were condemned of possessing knives, but only nine persons received the maximal sentence. [116] The author argues that “it is understandable that courts should be reluctant to send a teenager to prison. But there is nothing compassionate about allowing schools to become lawless.” [117] The reason why the youth carry knives is explained by the fact that teenagers are afraid of the police, however, these are also the other teenagers that they fear more.

The same opinion is brought by the other article published in 2008. This one focuses on the figures brought by the police showing that knife crime has been spreading out largely. [118] It is said that “seventy-two people are stabbed or robbed at knifepoint in Britain every day”. [119] In

the same text, the Government is asked to solve this problem in a short term.

The article *Youths carrying knives less likely to be jailed than a year ago* [120] published in 2012, returns to this issue. The opinion offered here is that the police are fairly 'soft' to impose the sentences. As per the Ministry of Justice figures, only 58 of 696 teenagers possessing knives were jailed, the others were reprimanded or were released with community sentences. [121] The article states a review from David Green, Director of the Civitas think-tank, who blames the Government for a 'weak position' as it does not want to increase a prison population. "You can't pursue the rigorous anti-crime policy without putting more people in prison," he argues. [122]

Chris Grayling, the Justice Secretary, agrees with this matter and adds that offenders still avoid jail by receiving the cautions and other non-custodial punishments from the court. He takes a stand saying that "cautions are used too frequently" [123] and further adds that it should be used much less or better not at all for serious offences. However, in the same article Jeremy Wright, the Justice Minister, opposes by claiming that knife crime is decreasing while more people are jailed due to knife possession. [124] In other article, the same stand as the one of Mr Grayling is adopted and based on the statement that the society does not have a confidence in a justice system. [125]

This opinion is supported by Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, the Lord Chief Justice, who argues that "more severe punishments could help cut the 'prevalence' of such crimes". [126] Lord Thomas pushes for imposing tougher sentences by the magistrates.

5.3.2 The Guardian

In 2009, *The Guardian* published an article with the headline: “*We need fresh ideas on knife crime.*” [127] The author holds an opinion that it is important to protect the youth from knife crime if this issue has to be solved. He sees the main problem in the gang culture. On the one hand, children carry knives because they are members of these gangs. On the other hand, they carry them because they are afraid of gangs. The author argues that “we have to break this culture if we are to deal with the problem of knife crime”. [128] He takes a stand that there is a strong “correlation between social breakdown and the gang culture”. [129] It is said that the children who mostly become new members of gangs often come from difficult family backgrounds or they often feel unwanted in their environment. Later on, the author criticises the Government for not solving the social breakdowns in the society as well as the police for sitting behind the desk instead of searching criminals on the street. [130]

In the same year, *The Guardian* publishes an article titled “*Number jailed for knife crime up 23%.*” [131] The author discusses the rise of prison sentences compared with the decline of cautions. As reported by this article contribution, the justice ministry statistics show that there is the evident increase, almost a quarter (23%), of people jailed for possessing knives since October 2008. [132]

These arguments are also used in the article from the year 2010. It deals with the fact that teenagers consider carrying a knife a normal habit. Professor Simon Hallsworth, an expert on gang crime, points out that the possessors of weapons are mostly teenagers, and, in addition, originating from ‘disadvantaged areas’. [133] The latter is also supported by

professor Lawrence Sherman, a criminologist, claiming that “knife culture is rooted in poverty”. [134]

Another article published in 2011 determines the Government cuts as the cause of the rise of knife crime and gang violence. [135] Some experts, including the Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, may argue that the cuts to youth services will largely impact youth violence. As show the figures given to *The Guardian*, in London knife crime already increased with a 9.6%. Professor John Pitts, an expert on gangs and violent crime, warns that with cuts of summer activities for the youth could make the streets more dangerous. [136]

This point of view is supported by the other article dealing with the fact that anti-knife crime projects organised by charities are gradually reducing due to the Government cuts. [137] Further, it says that these “projects that have tried to dissuade hundreds of English teenagers from carrying weapons are being forced to end or are being scaled back through lack of funds”. [138]

In the same year, the article: “*Nurse's warning to youngsters on carrying knives*” [139] focuses on the example of crime prevention. The author introduces a project of A&E nurse clinician Rob Jackson who is visiting secondary schools in Liverpool to have a presentation about the topic of knife crime and his own experiences as a nurse. Such presentations are followed by photographs of knife-related injuries. It is believed that “injuries from knife attacks in Liverpool have decreased by 28% during the 18 months Jackson has been doing this pioneering work”. [140] Thanks to Rob Jackson, the local youth offending service received

funding from the Youth Justice Board to organise similar presentation with others healthcare workers involved in the knife crime prevention. [141]

5.3.3 The Daily Mail

In 2008, *The Daily Mail* published the article: “*Pathetic posturing won't stop knife crime*”. [142] The article brings a sharp criticism of the Government solution to combat the knife crime. This ‘pathetic solution’ is an anti-crime advertising campaign on the internet that is found fairly ridiculous by the author. He also mentions a new report by the think tank Civitas, published in the same week as the article itself, which focuses on the fact that the middle classes do not have confidence in the police and their attempts to reduce the crime. It shows that from 7,000 arrested persons only nine were jailed with the maximum sentence. [143] The author also criticises Ian Blair, the highest-ranking officer within the Metropolitan Police Service, who recommends to parents to “teach their children not to carry knives” more. [144]

Later on, the paper displays the articles with the same topic as in *The Telegraph* by presenting the comments of Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd. He asks more often for using of custodial sentences for possessors of knives. “It is important for public confidence in the criminal justice system that the man or woman caught in possession of a knife or offensive weapon without reasonable excuse should normally be brought before the courts and prosecuted,” argues Lord Thomas in the article. [145]

5.3.4 The Mirror

This paper seems to have found the key solution in education with regards to the article from 2008. The stand taken is the one of Alan Mains, a crime adviser to Police Service of Northern Ireland, who assumes that only education could help to reduce knife crime. He opposes such opinions as that the tougher sentences are the right way to combat it. He puts great emphasis on lessons about the dangers of carrying knives for every pupil from 11 years old. [146] Further, the author lets the readers know that “stop and search is the priority for the police in the short term. The only way to definitely check somebody is not carrying a weapon is with scanners.” [147] He adds that young people should realise that they may be searched anytime. [148]

Another article presents an announcement of Home Secretary Jacqui Smith stating that “mums should be the frontline in the war against knife gangs and that by talking to their children they can warn them of the dangers”. [149] The author later brings up the ways of how it could be avoided that children carry knives. He recommends to parents that they talk about this topic with their children and listen to them without playing a role of the clever one. Moreover, the article advises parents to share the fear with their children as well as to discuss the issue of gangs with them. [150] The anti-knife crime project is briefly referred to in the very conclusion of the article. This project aims at teaching the youth of “what can happen when they carry a knife”. [151] According to this opinion, it seems to have been successful. David Morris, one of its 330 trainers, suggests that the way of giving them more information and mainly the choice, could actually work better than the bans. [152]

6 CONCLUSION

The principal objective of this thesis, as stated in its introduction, was to show the difference between newspapers traditionally affiliated across the political spectrum by means of the analysis of the articles dealing with antisocial issues. The beginning of the thesis approaches the current British society as well as the survey of the newspapers in the UK. It also contains the definition of the anti-social behaviour.

The main part of the thesis consists of the analysis of the articles taken from the British press presenting the three types of the anti-social behaviour: first, the UK riots in 2011, second, underage drinking and last, knife crime. The aim of this part was to introduce a different attitude adopted by British newspapers towards these problems and the way in which they are presented in various dailies such as broadsheets or tabloids.

As the first issue, it is the analysis of the UK riots in 2011 that was presented. All of the British media seem to have covered this topic in detail. However, the left-leaning newspapers (*The Guardian, The Mirror*) tend to find a human manner so as to solve this problem; also, they determinate Government cuts, unemployment and difficult social situation in the areas of riots as the sources of it. The right-leaning newspapers (*The Telegraph, The Daily Mail*) focus, in its articles, on the fact that the police failed in this issue to protect the people and their property. *The Daily Mail* blames the Labour party for using the riots as the means of criticism of the Government cuts. It is claimed by *The Telegraph* that the police lost the confidence received from the public. The paper argues that unemployment and cuts could be identified as the reason of riots, but it

calls for punishment of the participants who, with regards to this paper, lost the sense of respect for the police.

The second analysis elaborated on the issues of underage drinking. The selected articles focus on the new report showing that British girls are the biggest 'binge' drinkers in Europe. Although the newspapers do not present any crucially different points of view, it could be seen from the analysis, however, that the newspapers use the other as their sources. Only in the archive of *The Guardian*, no article dealing with this topic was found. Nevertheless, later on, they published the article writing about the decline of consumption of alcohol by the youth.

The last analysis targets the matters related to knife crime in Great Britain. Right-wing newspapers (*The Telegraph*, *The Daily Mail*) blame the inadequate punishment seen as the reason of this problematic question. They request more severe sentences. What is indicated as important in the articles is that carrying knives has become a routine mainly for teenagers. Left-wing papers (*The Guardian*, *The Mirror*) argue that the youth are impacted by the bad social situation and by the disadvantaged areas. Equally, the articles blame the Government cuts to be the reason for crime rising. It is revealed that due to the cuts, many anti-crime projects are declined.

The analysis basically illustrates the different ways of how the media may present the information concerned. As for tabloids, these do so in a catchy way by using shocking words and phrases. The articles are often supplemented by real story from the society.

In conclusion, newspapers in general have a significant influence on their readers. The analyses of selected articles cover only few points of view of the authors since there are certainly more of other areas which could be analysed as well in the same manner.

7 ENDNOTES

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- 3 Ibid., p. 6-7.
- 4 Ibid., p. 9.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid., p. 11-12.
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9 ABSTRACT

The bachelor thesis aims at the anti-social behaviour in the British media. The main objective is to present the influence of media on readers and present the difference how the newspapers publish the information. It is divided into two main chapters. The first chapter deals with the current British society, anti-social behaviour and the summary of the British press.

The bachelor thesis mainly consists of the analyses of the issues dealing with anti-social behaviour. Three topics were used for these analyses: underage drinking, the UK riots in 2011 and knife crime.

It was summarized that the media has a huge power on readers. The stances of media are different with regards to various issues. However, its main goal is the profit. The competition is very high nowadays, so the media has to react very fast on the new affaires.

10 RESUME

Cílem této bakalářské práce je poukázat na antisociální jevy v britském tisku a médiích celkově. Jejím hlavním cílem je prezentovat rozdíly mezi jednotlivými médii a také jaký mají vliv na čtenáře. Bakalářská práce je rozdělena do dvou hlavních kapitol. Ta první popisuje současnou Velkou Británii a její společnost, antisociální jevy a přináší přehled Britského tisku.

Práce je především založena na analýzách antisociálních jevů prezentovaných v médiích: alkoholismus nezletilých, nepokoje ve Velké Británii v roce 2011 a kriminalita prostřednictvím nože.

Celkový závěr této práce tvrdí, že média mají v současné době velký vliv na čtenáře. Postoj médií se dost změnil a jejich hlavním cíle je v současnosti zisk. Konkurence je velká a tak média musí rychle reagovat na jednotlivé události.