



OFFICE OF FILM  
& LITERATURE  
CLASSIFICATION

*Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tūbitūbinga*

## What classifications was *The Passion of the Christ* given in other countries?

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Belgium     | 16  |
| Finland     | 18 for excessive, sadistic, extreme and extensive violence.   |
| France      | 12 for oppressive scenes of flogging and crucifixion. Sub-commission was divided (7:1) between 12 and tous publics with a warning. Plenary favoured 12 over 16 by 23 votes to 4. (Tous publics is general admission.)   |
| Germany     | 16. Faithful to the Gospels. No glorification of violence. But too intense and emotionally demanding for 12 year olds who may also lack the knowledge to make sense of the events on screen. The charges of anti-Semitism were not founded.                           |
| Ireland     | 15PG for brutal and unrelenting violence. But given the particular interest and awareness in Ireland of the subject matter, a higher classification was not necessary. However, a warning of the explicit violence in the work was carried on all publicity material. |
| Netherlands | 16 for violence and horror (fear).  |
| New Zealand | R15: Prolonged sequences of brutal violence, torture and cruelty.   |
| Portugal    | 16 for strong physical violence.  |
| Sweden      | 15 for extensive and detailed scenes of gross assault and battery and crucifixion.  |
| UK          | 18 for strong bloody violence. Anti-semitism was not an issue for us in a film that was faithful to the Gospels. We discussed 15 given the well-known nature of the story and clear CA. But ultimately, our guidelines on violence required the adult category.       |
| USA         | R: Under 17 requires accompanying parent or guardian. Rated R for sequences of graphic violence.  |

### Questions

Why were such widely varying classifications given to this film?

Why would countries have such different standards?

What do you think about young children going to this film with their parents?