

Secretariat:
Chair: Jeff Rosson
Secretary: Cathy Rosson
Treasurer: Antony Niall
Editor in Chief: Dr Tuppy Owens
Outreach: Grant Deankinson
Trades Union Policy: David & Wendy



PO BOX 42B
London W1A 4ZB

info line: 0171 460 1979
Fax: 0171 493 4479

www.sfc.org.uk
e-mail: info@sfc.org.uk

SUPPORTERS include:

Individuals:
Kim Airt
Helen Buckingham
Dr E. Chigter
Emmanuel Cooper
Dr Betty Dodson
Mark Dyer
Kellan Farshea
Dr Patricia Gillan
Professor Jim Haynes
Phillip Hodson
Dr Hazel Jones
Helen Knox
George Melly
Dr Robert L. McGinley
Frank Moore
Cynthia Payne
Robin Ray
Nabil Shaban
Annie Sprinkle
Barry & Rona Stock
Jean & Mark Turner
Chad Varah, Companion to
the Queen, OBE, MA DSc

Club Groups:
Black Converts Network
Chameleons
Desyre Foundation
Garden of Delight, Dublin
Hedonism
Kentucky Woman
Priapean Circle
Rude Food Dining Club
Roissy Workshops
Sex Maniac's Ball
S/M Bisexuals
S/M Dykes
S/M Gays
Torture Garden
Violate, Glasgow
Club WideWorld, USA

Law reform/Pressure groups:
Cal-ACT
Campaign Against Censorship
Cannabis Action, London
Conservatives Against Sex Censorship
COYOTE
Disablement in the City
Equality Alliance
Eros Foundation, Australia
Freedom First
The Invisible Language Society,
Amsterdam
Israel Rehabilitation Society
ISW
Integration Trust
International Union of Sex Workers
Libertarian Alliance
National Campaign for the Reform of the
Obscene Publications Acts
The Naturist Society
Sexual Freedom Society, Edinburgh
SM Pride
The Spanner Trust
Society of Swingers

Organisations:
Black Widow's Web, Sweden
Delectus Books
Desire
The Erotic Awards
Fetish Times
Flash Productions
Forum
Guilfin
Head
Leather Archives & Museum, Chicago
Lifestyles, USA
Paradiso
The Private Case
Regulation
SchlagZeiten Hamburg
Sh!
SCHNEWS
Spectator, San Francisco
Ann Summers
Sureline Marketing
Miss Vera's Academy for Boys who want
to be Girls

Sexual Freedom Coalition

Haydee Scarsbrook
Sex Offences Review
Sentencing & Offences Unit
The Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

COPY TO
TED
GOODMAN

21st February 2001

Dear Mr Scarsbrook,

This is the Sexual Freedom Coalition's response to your Consultation Paper SETTING THE BOUNDARIES; REFORMING THE LAW ON SEX OFFENCES.

We are disappointed that, despite offers of our very serious concern and wide forms of expertise, the SFC was never invited to join your External Reference Group or contribute to any of your meetings. However, we are pleased to note that the term "consenting adults" which is the title of our campaign newspaper and a phrase coined by us, is used extensively throughout your Paper, indicating a sure and definite influence which you evidently felt unable to acknowledge.

Many of the areas you have chosen to concentrate on are outside our remit, as we concern ourselves only with the sexual freedom of consenting adults. However, we do have some comments to make, as follows:-

Breach of a relationship of care (4.8) page 75

You need to be very clear when talking about disability about whether this is physical or mental. By blurring the two, it is unclear what you really mean, and this leaves vulnerable people unprotected and innocent people losing their freedom of choice.

Some physically disabled people who are unable to masturbate want to be able to put in the job description of their Personal Assistants that there is an option to relieve them of their sexual frustration, and we do not believe this should be criminalised.

Outraging Public Decency (p144)

The Law Commission has already recommended that this be abolished because it is an outdated "catch-all" law, and the penalty is ridiculous.

Prostitution (p148 to 150)

Most sex workers prefer to work together in a "brothel" type situation for their own safety and convenience. Chief Inspector Christopher Bradford of the Clubs and Vice Unit was quoted in the *Evening Standard* on 16th February as saying that prostitution is

AIMS

- promote pansexual freedom, mutual tolerance & safer sex
- teach individuals, the media and authorities to reverse sexual pleasure
- encourage mutual support of and between other adult sexual freedom campaigns, sex clubs and groups
- reform the sex laws which inhibit the sexual freedom of all consenting adults

impossible to stamp out. Given we are going to have prostitutes, surely it is better that they work safely and happily, without stigma and within the law? The SFC does not advocate trafficking of women or underage prostitutes, but on the other hand, it is senseless for people to be criminalised for owning and/or operating a well-run brothel, which may involve recruiting, managing, employing and advertising the services or prostitutes.

On the subject of prostitution, we refer you to the Sexual Freedom Coalition and International Union of Sexworkers *Recommendations on Prostitution to the Green Party* which is on our website www.sfc.org.uk.

We understand the the Spanner Trust is writing to you on the issues of your document with regards to sadomasochism, and we endorse their views. Sadomasochism is a legitimate sexual activity and should not be criminalised.

We also understand that the Campaign Against Censorship has recommended that you extend your reform to abolish the archaic Disorderly Houses Act of 1751 and the Common Law Offences of Corrupting Public Morals, Keeping a Disorderly House, Outraging Public Decency and Indecent Exhibition. We endorse these views.

I enclose a copy of the Sexual Freedom Bill which has been sent to the Home Office and Prime Minister on several occasions. We feel sure that you will appreciate another copy to share around.

You may be interested to know that Ricoché Films have been commissioned to make a prime-time TV programme for Channel 4 to ridicule the archaic draconian sex laws of this country. Perhaps you should consider climbing down from your ivory towers to meet the real needs of the people in this country.

Dr Tuppy Owens
of behalf of the Sexual Freedom Coalition