

## Summary of the

# SEXUAL FREEDOM BILL

*This bill will enable consenting adults in the United Kingdom to conduct their sexual activities free from outside interference and to have freedom of expression regarding sexual and religious matters in the same way as citizens of other member States of the European Union.*

**Our Sexual Freedom Bill has been drafted by a team** of lawyers and concerned citizens including sex therapists, agony aunts, Tantrics, anti-censorship and law reform campaigners, art historians, sociologists, sado-masochists, swingers, prostitutes, and gay, bisexual, monogamous and polyamorous men and women.

We used the general principle that criminal law should only prohibit behaviour that harms others, following the guidelines of **The Home Office Williams Report on Obscenity and Film Censorship** (CMND 7772) which concluded that sexual legislation should define who is trying to protect whom, from what, and why. This official report was rejected by Margaret Thatcher's government in 1979.

**The United Kingdom is one of the only countries in the Western world to retain state censorship**

In 1993, the Home Secretary publically confirmed that Britain has some of the strictest censorship laws in the world.

**Nearly every other country in the Western world has removed such restrictions**

e.g. Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

## *What British people will gain*

### Intimate communication by letter and phone will at last become legal!

Consenting adults will be allowed to write to each other as they wish, and send their sexy letters through the post.

Consenting adults will be free to communicate by telephone as they wish (but non-consensual "obscene" communication will still be illegal).

### Privacy to enjoy ourselves as we wish in our bedrooms

Adults will be allowed to enjoy consensual sado-masochism (the words "consent shall be a defence to this offence" to be added to the laws against unlawful wounding and actual bodily harm), as recommended by the Law Commission.

### No more hassles at Customs

People won't get busted for importing books, magazines and videos for personal use.

### Homosexuals will live under the same sex laws as heterosexuals

The age of consent for gay men will be brought into line with heterosexuals, i.e. 16 years old.

Local authority libraries will be allowed to stock books on homosexuality and other local authority departments won't be forced to exclude homosexuality from items on their agenda.

Homosexuals will be allowed to have sex involving more than two persons.

### Brothels will be legal, and vulnerable prostitutes and clients will be protected from exploitation and humiliation

Brothels will become legal, providing indoor workspace for most of the prostitutes who currently work on the streets. Street workers who cause nuisance may still be prosecuted under the laws of "obstruction" and "causing public nuisance" but will be protected from police and public who use them as targets for their anti-sex and anti-prostitution, or otherwise hypocritical morality crusades.

Without street prostitution, kerb crawling will no longer be necessary. Clients will be protected from persecution by the police and by the Press, if the proposed Privacy Bill becomes law (which we support).

The laws against "causing prostitution, living off immoral earnings and controlling prostitutes" will be abolished. Bosses who insist their staff engage in unsafe sex practices, intimidate them, deny them access to their passports and/or take extortionate amounts of money from their earnings, can still be prosecuted under the laws of assault and extortion.

Landlords will no longer be allowed to terminate leases on the grounds of immoral earnings.

### No more State Censorship!

Like the rest of Europe, there will be no more censorship of videos, and films.

Sex shops will no longer be required to apply for licences (many of which are denied or, when granted, may cost as much as £19,000 per year)

Theatres will be allowed to show erotic acts to adults, and licences for striptease will no longer be necessary.

Erotic imagery will become legal.

### Families will no longer be busted for taking photos of their babies

Innocent photos of bare babies and naturist family photos will no longer be unlawful (although obscene photos, publications and videos of children will still be illegal).

### Freedom to Party!

Consenting adults will be allowed to enjoy erotic performances and engage in sex at private parties and clubs (as they can in most other countries).

Consenting adults will be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages when copulating commercially.

### Freedom of expression

Consenting adults will be allowed freedom of expression on TV and radio, and programmes about sex won't be banned. This will provide *freedom of choice* in listening and viewing.

Blasphemous libel and blasphemy will no longer be illegal.

### No more old repressive laws!

As recommended by the Law Commission Report on Conspiracy and Criminal Law Reform, people will no longer be subjected to arrest under ancient common laws such as Conspiracy to Outrage Public Morals and Obscene Libel.

# "SEX PLEASE—WE'RE BRITISH" NATIONAL PETITION

**WHEREAS:** Our confusing sex laws, some centuries old, are being strengthened to control us even further and successive governments reinforce repression, hypocrisy and fear of sex, we seek a morality which promotes tolerance honesty and love.

**TODAY** Britain criminalises consenting adults, bans harmless pornography, erotic acts and events, discriminates against sex workers, bisexuals, and homosexuals, making this country the most sexually repressed in Europe.

**NEW GOVERNMENTS DO** introduce long overdue reforms.

30 YEARS AGO, after a change in Government, we gained abortion rights for women, abolition of theatre censorship, and legal sex for gay men over 21 in private.

**NOW IS THE TIME, 30 YEARS LATER,** for this new government to abolish all laws preventing consenting adults from exercising sexual choice.

**WE THE UNDERSIGNED** petition the new Home Secretary to introduce to Parliament the Sexual Freedom Bill summarised overleaf, which is based upon respect for civil liberties, and would bring the UK into line with the rest of the European Union.

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Please return, completed or not, by 31st May 1997, to the Sexual Freedom Coalition, PO Box 4ZB, London W1A 4ZB  
and request more petition sheets as you need them

**THIS MAY BE THE ONLY CHANCE FOR YOU TO EXPRESS WHAT YOU WANT**

Our petition will be handed to the Home Secretary after the next general election,  
at the end of a sexy summer ceremonial pageant celebrating Prostitution Pride 1997.

Send an SAE for details so you can join us.