

Next Meeting:

Tuesday
10th February 1998

8pm

above

The Plough

Museum Street,
Bloomsbury
London WC1

Sexual Freedom Coalition

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AIMS

- promote parsexual 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

Minutes of Campaign Meeting of 18th November at 8pm above The Intrepid Fox in Soho

1. **The Chair** opened with the usual inquiry of police or media presence, then brief introductions around the room. Twenty people signed the Attendance list for inclusion in our regular mailing.

2. **AGENDA:** the provisional agenda was adopted.

3. **ANNUAL REPORT:** seemed well-received & appreciated by our supporters, researchers and media. Bob suggested redraft of Aims, referred to next Annual Conference by Rule 4.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) **Treasurer's Report:** Antony reported that we have £1,307 in the account. Issue Two of *Consenting Adults* will cost £2,000, less £700 raised by advertising income. Sales cannot be predicted. Therefore we urgently need benefit events — venues for around 1,000 people, as well as proposals for smaller events.

(b) **Editor's Report:** Tuppy reported that issue two of *Consenting Adults* was going to press in four days, to be launched at the Erotica Festival, Olympia, where she was providing a sex therapy educational stand. Thirty two pages would include help & advice lines, and still open to late personal ads.

(c) **Press Officer:** Jeff reported increased media interest, particularly by Channel 4 tv co's, requiring more volunteers able & willing to speak up for recreational sex in a lively and entertaining way and avoiding the negative pitfalls. Richard thought that even some negative reporting of the SFC had been to our advantage...

5. WORKING GROUP REPORTS:

(a) **Anarchist Bookfair,** Saturday 18th October 97 at Conway Hall WC1. SFC Stall given key position to distribute our specially targeted leaflet was popular with this quite large annual event, gaining some important recruits.

Debate: "Revolutionary Sexuality" speakers Antony, Tuppy and Kellan persuaded everyone bar some pc sex-negative feminists! Successful.

Female Sex Workers' Show "n"Tell Roadshow premiered: loose, highly successful and unique, to a packed assembly. Roadshow is now ready for new performances, hopefully at colleges and Ivor agreed to offer advice. In future, our performers will hopefully be paid.

(b) **Queer Remembrance Sunday,** 2nd November 1998 at Cenotaph Whitehall, SW1 organised by Outrage! and Rank Outsiders and supported by eight reps of SFC, laid pink wreaths & bouquets to the often forgotten victims of the Holocaust, followed by rare documentary film below Freedom Cafe.

Discussion included suggestions that Queer Remembrance should join in with the official Remembrance Sunday one week later. Tuppy proposed that SFC should promote the inclusion of prostitutes and disabled people who were also often forgotten victims, policy agreed by substantial majority. Melanie noted such events needed earlier notice to achieve potential.

(c) **Conference "Regulating Commercial Sex"** on Friday 14th November 97 at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, Mile End Road, East London attended by Helen, Rachel, Tuppy, Antony & Tim and included Soho residents' society, local authority officers and some European visitors. Above all it was the first chance for the SFC to meet head-on with reps of the notorious West End Clubs & Vice Squad, involving a discussion moving beyond commercial sex in contrasting British regions & Amsterdam to contrasting views on pornography, generally favouring a subtle toleration for special zones like those in Edinburgh & Amsterdam, probably leaving the old laws intact. W/E Clubs & Vice Squad however remained Neanderthal, promoting the classification of porn like drugs, beware! Tuppy spoke up well and brightly for us, reminding the conference how lawyers were especially into S&M, and how police socials required the kinkiest strip shows! Good contributions too by Helen and Rachel at a generally positive event.

Our meeting objected strongly to ideas of driving prostitutes off the streets and out of existence; some of us however would prefer to find alternatives so that prostitutes would not want to streetwalk. Uniforms for prostitutes and a meeting with the KX project were suggested.

(d) **Internet:** John (Webpage master) reported that our site would be up and running by Sunday, address <http://www.dircom.sfc.home.page>. e-mail to sfc@dircom.co.uk. Links to be discussed at next meeting.

Social Stewards: Antony reported the success of our team of trained stewards assisting the recent Torture Garden; more volunteers needed.

SECRETARIAT: Karen reported two recent meetings and a mail-out, with three proposals of this working group to the meeting:

- that all new volunteers and visitors to working groups should first liaise with the appropriate convenor beforehand.
- volunteers should only join working groups as an active component.
- nominations for SFC officers must in future be made in writing prior to our Annual Conference.

All three proposals were agreed unanimously and adopted as SFC Policy.

PETITION & LAW REFORM: Robert reported no reply yet received from the Home Office to our Sexual Freedom Bill & Summary, delivered by our SF Parade on 21st June! We are advised for protocol not to send our Bill to the MP's until some reply is received, however frustrating that is to us. However, any contact with any MPs sympathetic to us in part or whole is most urgently sought NOW! We still have a few Bills in a 16 page booklet form available at £1 from our box number, necessitating a reprint and allowing for further amendments to be made.

-----10 minute break-----

6. **STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Jeff reported our need to meet sympathetic MPs, to carefully monitor our supporters, and urged supporters to keep sending us all relevant press cuttings, especially local ones. Tuppy confirmed that a volunteer on the newspaper is busy filing, creating a great archive.

7. OTHER REPORTS:

HM Customs recently confiscated a copy of "Gay Black Male" from a visitor, although it is freely on sale throughout the United Kingdom! The visitor has received legal advice from CAC, and our action pends his request.

8. FUTURE EVENTS

(a) **National Conference, "Prostitution: Violence Against Women and Children"** on Friday 28th November 97 at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, SW1. Female supporters to distribute special leaflets, and Helen will attend as a delegate.

(b) **Erotica Festival** at Olympia on 28-30th November: Tuppy needs volunteers to help launch C.A. from her sex-therapy stall.

9. OTHER IDEAS & PROPOSALS:

Antony proposed that the SFC should be a supporting signatory to the current Petition to legalise Cannabis promoted by the campaign of the *Independent on Sunday* newspaper. Some thought this was an unnecessary, unpopular or unwise extension of our scope of policy, and after full discussion it was put to a vote: The proposition was agreed by a substantial majority of 14 votes; with 5 votes against and 2 abstentions A letter will be sent.

Paul O'Laughlin, the Head of Research & Development for the *Parliamentary Review*, spoke of his interest in covering the debate on Sexual Freedom in his magazine, and was invited to attend a future meeting of the Steering Committee.

10. **THE NEXT CAMPAIGN MEETING** to be held early Feb (see above, top left).

Please bring this with you and note our **new venue**
(The Intrepid Fox is unavailable due to renovation)

The Plough in Museum St, London WC1 lies between Great & Little Russell Streets,
three minutes from Tottenham Crt Rd tube.

Please make every effort to come

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

for the **Sexual Freedom Coalition** Campaign Meeting
at the Plough, Museum Street, London WC1

8pm sharp, Tuesday 10th February 1998

1. **Chair's (Jeff) opening and general introductions, briefly around the room**
 2. **Minutes** of SFC Campaign Meeting of 18/11/97
 3. **Agenda**
 4. **Officers' reports:** Treasurer, Editor, Press Officer
 5. **Working Group Reports:** Law Reform
Consenting Adults
Sex Workers' Show'n'Tell
Prostitution Pride
Benefit Events
-
- 10 minutes break-----
6. **Steering Committee** report
 7. **Other reports** with relevant information
 8. **Future events**
 9. **Other ideas, proposals or business**
 10. **Date and venue of next SFC Campaign Meeting**

Appeals

We urgently need

- 1) **Driver** with van for our social events (expenses met)
- 2) **Accountant**
- 3) **Women to train as social stewards**
- 4) **Volunteers** for the door, cloakroom, etc at social events
- 5) **Distributors** for our newspaper
- 6) **Advertising Sales person** for our newspaper
- 7) **Donations** — we are currently broke!

SFC Rules

- 1) the SEXUAL FREEDOM COALITION expects all its supporters, through the good liaison with the Secretariat, to avoid taking actions that could be detrimental to our confidentiality, Aims, Rules, reputation or good progress.
- 2) general meetings will be open and democratic through the Chair's calling in rotation, all those indicating to speak by raising their hands, and by ruling against interruptions.
- 3) documents submitted for our approval must be accompanied by a proposing speaker willing to answer questions.
- 4) discussion of our Aims will be limited to our Annual Conferences.
- 5) the Chair shall ask each general meeting whether Police or Media are present and if they will so indicate.
- 6) our broad and diverse Coalition requires that we have no insulting words or behaviour and will exclude repeating offenders.