

Confidential

ALBANY TRUST

PAEDOPHILIA

A meeting was held at 31 Clapham Road, London SW9 on 18th February 1976 in order to discuss further some of the issues raised at the previous meeting held on 7th January.

PRESENT:

Ian Bell
David Bloomfield
Antony Grey
John Heather
John Holmstrom
Keith Hose
Dr Fay Hutchinson
Harold Haywood
Iain Melville
Warren Middleton

Discussion centered on the need to build up a supportive group for those in need of help, and the desirability of producing an informative pamphlet which would inform professional people, parents and the general public of the available facts and issues involved.

The need to work towards greater awareness of the sexuality of children was emphasised. Until this was accepted as valid, any sexual activities in which children engaged would continue to be regarded as "child molestation" and "corruption". The legal position relating to consent, while ostensibly protective, was felt to make potential victims not only of adult paedophiles but also of nearly all children when they engaged in sexual experimentation and were found out in doing so. Public opinion - and especially medical opinion - was felt to be crucial on this issue. It needed to be emphasised that there were more positive ways of protecting children in their period of sexual development than through the criminal law.

It was agreed to hold two further meetings - one on Wednesday 24th March to consider supportive help, and another on Thursday 22nd April to discuss the reproduction of an information booklet. It was felt that this should be framed so that the public could identify with it in terms of their own growth experience. Case histories of positive relations and also of those which had been destroyed by legal and social interference should be included as well as any available statistics.

The need to help those who were in trouble with the law to find competent and sympathetic legal advice, and to obtain work and somewhere to live after their release from prison, was emphasised. Albany Trust representatives reported that they were already in touch with NACRO and the Home Office over the provision of help for sexual offenders. The need to make voluntary agencies such as the Samaritans better informed about the difficulties of paedophiles was also raised, and it was felt that it was also necessary to draw in more individuals and agencies to share in the work envisaged.

Next meetings:

Wednesday 24 March at 7.0 (sandwiches) for 7.30pm
Thursday 22 April at 7.0 (sandwiches) for 7.30pm

Both at 31 Clapham Road, London SW9