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*Read now!*



- 5 JAN 1988

**HAPPY NEW YEAR?!**

It is ironic - is it not - that just as soon as we learn to access resources they change the rules. The Nationality Bill has affected many of us who were not born here. The United Queendom is now one of very few places in the world where even if you were born here you are no longer entitled to residency and could be denied citizenship - especially if you are Black.

The Local Government Bill has been passed in the House of Parliament (15-12-87) before it has a first hearing in the House of Lords commencing January 11th.

Clause 27 of the Local Government Bill (which is a dictate to your Local Borough Council) reads:

"A Local Authority shall not -

- a). Promote homosexuality or publish material for the promotion of homosexuality.
- b). Promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship by the publication of such material or otherwise.
- c). Give financial or other assistance to any person for either of the purposes referred to in a). and b). above.

Nothing above shall be taken to prohibit the doing of anything for the purpose of treating or preventing the spread of disease.

The implications behind "Clause 27" for both the Black and Lesbian and Gay communities are serious; The Black communities might as well see it as a threat to multi-cultural education because it would be the next (il-) logical step that this government would take. The Lesbian and Gay communities are indeed being threatened. The Black Lesbian and Gay Centre is likely to have its funding cut if this clause - within the Local Government Bill becomes an Act of Parliament and thus becomes Law.

It does mean that (all) teachers (be they lesbian, gay or heterosexual) will effectively be gagged by not being able to comment positively or display materials which reveals the homosexual lifestyles of James Baldwin, Bessie Smith, Langston Hughes or any other significant lesbian or gay contributor to the Arts - for example - and there are many!

It does mean the abolition of Local Authority Lesbian and Gay Units which were set up to look at implementing policies and facilities to benefit Lesbian and Gay ratepayers.

It does mean that voluntary groups and youth clubs which cater to the needs of isolated Lesbian and Gay young people will be jeopardised.

**DEMO: SAT 9TH JAN - NOON - TEMPLE TUBE.**

P.T.O. ....



As Diane Abbott MP said in the House of Commons (- Hansard 15-12-87) "This is an illiberal, intolerant Bill, It is based, on a complete misapprehension of what goes on in schools and of the policies of some local authorities. It is based, in short on recycled Conservative election smears. It will lead to an increase in human misery. It is irresponsibly widely drafted, and will cause all sorts of problems in the interpretation for local authorities throughout the country."

Ken Livingston MP made another link: "There may be Conservative members who think that the fears of members of the public who have been lobbying them in the House today are unfounded. I hope that they are right. Only 51 years ago Reichsfuhrer Himmler issued the following decree; I shall read its words, and then we shall see if Conservative Members laugh..."

He quotes: "Just as we today have gone back to the ancient German view on the question of marriages mixing different races, so too in our judgement of homosexuality - a symptom of degeneracy which could destroy our race - we must return to the guiding Nordic principle, extermination of degenerates."

"Many members of the public believe that the clause (27) is one small step on a path that leads to that sort of end result." DO LOBBY YOUR MP BY VISITING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS (- well worth a visit). You should write NOW to either anyone you respect or admire (or have had dealings with in the past) in the HOUSE OF LORDS. The Lords can undermine the ruling in the House of Commons and if enough logic and pressure is brought to bear, could throw out the clause in its entirety.

Point out to your MP or any in the House of Lords the following:

1. No council is promoting homosexuality, they are just presenting it as a balanced part of education.
2. If positive images changed people's sexuality we would all be made heterosexual by the mass media's images.
3. Lesbian and gay teenagers have one of the highest suicide rates and need and deserve support.
4. Lesbians and gay men pay rates too!
5. Local Authority spending on lesbian and gay matters accounts for less than 0.01 percent of their total spending.

If you feel unable to contribute in any of the above ways of campaigning, do write or telephone us here at BLGC and tell us how you feel the clause might affect you.

AND / AND (!) please show up to the PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION against Clause 27 and make your presence felt. Wrap up warm and bring a friend and scarf or hanki to gag yourself because life will be a gag for many of us if Clause 27 is allowed to become an Act of Law.

ROUTE: NOON AT "TEMPLE TUBE; MARCH TO 'STRAND'; TRAFALGAR SQ; WHITEHALL - ACROSS WESTMINSTER BRIDGE; INTO KENNINGTON; RALLY IN GARDENS BEHIND (KING'S COLLEGE) (KING'S COLLEGE)

\* DEMO on Saturday January 9th 1988 - 12noon - Temple Tube Station. \*\*\*\*\*  
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# THERE WAS - IN LONDON - A BLACKGAY MENS CONFERENCE (Oct 87)

No recall of it having been previously announced but there were (seventy!) 70 Blackgay men attending that very significant, first Conference of its kind, which took place on the 31st October 1987. We are still waiting for the organisers to issue a full report on the Conference which needs to be completed urgently. There was only one press report in "Capital Gay" which we are aware of and appeared within the following fortnight. It does seem that the organisers have missed (?) an excellent opportunity to let all-'n'-sundry become aware that we could organise constructively in such numbers - not merely as Black men but more significantly as proud Blackgay men. Let that Conference be forever a testament to our communities: We are here, organised, proud, powerful, loving, gifted, Blackgay men. The Lesbian and Gay Black Group tells us that they received a £50.00 cheque from Ealing Lesbian and Gay Rights Working Party. They had written to all London Borough Councils and did receive some other letters of support; from Lambeth, Housnlow, Lewisham. Camden's Lesbian and Gay Unit approved £200 as the group has been based in the borough for the past six years (£33 per year!) We discovered that the London Borough of Redbridge has no Race Relations Unit!

## BLACKGAYS PLANNING-CONFERENCE MEETING

There is a need to convene and begin planning a second such event promptly: 2nd Annual Black Gay Men's Conference planning meeting takes place on Friday 29th, January '88, at 62 Marchmont St, London WC1. (For more information phone 01-885 3543 /01-463 9113 /or 01-737 8237.) Do turn up as we did/do need more support to balance the responsibility.

## USA (Feb 88) CONFERENCE

NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN CONFERENCE: 12-14 Feb 1988, Los Angeles, California (USA). AIDS \* BUSINESS \* ORGANISATIONS \* POLITICS \* RELATIONSHIPS \* \*\* EMPOWERMENT \*\*  
The Theme: "Leadership! What have we learned? What can we share?"  
A New Black Gay and Lesbian community is emerging to lead the fight against homophobes and racists. We are witnessing a strong and proud Black Gay and Lesbian leadership that has taken up the gauntlet in opposition to those who would deny us. Responding to the challenges of AIDS, racism, homophobia and sexism across the country (USA), a conference is being convened for ALL Black Lesbians and Gays. For more information or to register please contact: The National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, PO Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90046 -USA-. Tel: (213) 664-4716 or (213) 667-2549.

**FUNDRAISE / Volunteers**

Well! Would you like to help fundraise to send at least two people from the entirety of our (UK) Blacklesbian and Blackgay mailing-list to attend this Conference in February '88?

PHONELINE  
01 885 3543  
THURSDAY 6-9 pm



BLACK LESBIAN  
AND GAY CENTRE

← MORE VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!



# • UK AIDS VIGIL ORGANISATION

Chris Smith MP has invited us <sup>to</sup> support the UK AIDS VIGIL's Conference and Candlelight Procession. "The World Health Ministers' Summit On AIDS is taking place in London from 26-28 January 1988. It is the first ever inter-governmental conference on AIDS. It is also the most important meeting to ever take place on the subject of the AIDS pandemic because it will discuss a global strategy to combat AIDS which will influence the policies of individual governments all over the world. Judging from the present repressive policies of many countries, it is feared that some Health Ministers may argue for international agreement on measures which would variously threaten the HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF people with AIDS /HIV; and the rights and liberties of people variously perceived to be at high-risk of HIV infection such as Africans and other Black peoples, gay and bisexual men, users of injectable drugs, and people with haemophilia."

• **CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION:** Sunday 24th January 1988  
Assemble 3pm Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, and depart at 3.45pm for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster (venue of the World Health Ministers' Summit on AIDS), arriving at 4.45pm. You are encouraged to bring along the stubby 1" deep candels placed in a plastic beaker - shielded from winds - and wrap yourself up warm!! **COME ON DOWN!**

• **PRESS CONFERENCE:** Monday 25th January 1988  
10am - 1.30pm Westminster Central Hall is for the press and representatives of organisations who register with the UK Aids Vigil.

UK AIDS Vigil Organisation (c/o Co-Convenor Peter Tatchell, 45 Arrol Hse, Rockingham St, London SE1 6QL. Tel: 01-403 1790 /01-251 3789 tansph) have issued a 24 point document which they are hoping the World Health Ministers' Summit will adopt. Point 1. reads: "We call on governments to reject the various attempts to blame or scapegoat Africans and other Black peoples, gay and bisexual men, users of injectable drugs, or people with haemophilia for the AIDS pandemic; and we urge governments to unite all their communities to wholeheartedly fight the disease,

# • LESBIAN AND GAY BLACK GROUP LONDON

*Lesbian and Gay Black Group (London) meets regularly every Friday from 7.30pm at 62 Marchmont St, London WC1. (Tel: 01-885 3543 /01-463 9113 /or 01-737 8237) The group is a social group and network for Blacklesbians and Blackgay men. From time to time campaigning initiatives are discussed. Numbers vary from 10 to 30 persons being present on any given Friday night. This Friday, January 8th, is earmarked for continuing the strategy to oppose Clause 27, and sharing of information. Also, at this meeting we will plan the next two months essential agenda items.*

# • PROJECT SIGMA

SIGMA aims to study the links between male gay and bisexual lifestyles and the spread of HIV infection and AIDS in Britain. They are holding a meeting on Saturday 23rd January 3pm at the London Lesbian and Gay Centre 67-69 Cowcross St, London EC1. Contact SIGMA on 01-928 8989 ex2877 or write to SIGMA, Dept of Social Sciences, South Bank Polytechnic, London SE1 0AA.

# • LEICESTER - OUR EXTENDING FAMILY

We salute all in Leicester's highly organised Black Lesbian and Gay Group. They have sent greetings in person (Macsud, Tyrone, Carole, Reggie, Glynis etc.) You are welcome to organise your weekends away via LBL+GG c/o Blackthorne Bookshop, 70 High Street, Leicester.

