

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The Communist Party opposes discrimination and victimisation against homosexuals, and supports the following changes in law:

*** The criminal law should not distinguish homosexual activities from heterosexual activities. This means that...

- (a) The law should be the same in Scotland and Northern Ireland as it is in England and Wales.
- (b) Homosexual acts should be legal for men and women in the armed forces and on merchant ships.
- (c) The age of consent should be the same as for heterosexual acts, with the same allowance for a "reasonable belief" that the other party was over age.
- (d) Penalties for indecent assault should be the same if the victim is a male as if the victim is a female.
- (e) The definition of privacy should be the same as for heterosexual acts.
- (f) It should not be an offence to publish contact advertisements for homosexual relationships.
- (g) No enactment or by-law should prohibit conduct between persons of the same sex if it does not also prohibit similar conduct between persons of opposite sexes.

Just as there has been legislation to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sex or race, so legislation should be passed to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the following fields:-

- Employment - to cover recruitment, training, promotion and job security.
- Education, including professional training and qualification.
- The provision of goods, facilities and services, especially in housing and in places for meetings, conferences and socials.

It is important to recognise that much more than legal reform is necessary to achieve homosexual liberation.