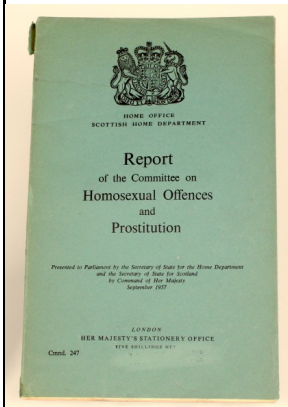


Session A: Event Cards

We have supplied four sets of event cards, one without dates, one set of images only and one set of text only. This is so there is the opportunity of matching the cards with the text, sorting the cards into a timeline and trying to work out the timeline from the text alone. We are trying to make this excellent resource work as hard as possible for you and be useful in a number of ways. If you find other ways to use these cards please do let us know by commenting on the blog post.

Set 1: Names, Dates and Information

The Wolfenden Report (1955-1957)



Commissioned by British government, under Prime Minister Anthony Eden, The Wolfenden Report sought to review the law on homosexuality and prostitution. Wolfenden's report put forward the argument that 'homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private be no longer a criminal offence'. Peter Wildeblood was the only homosexual man to waive anonymity and request the inclusion of his name in contributions to the report.

Key words

Report Homosexuality Prostitution Recommendation Partial Decriminalisation

Peter Wildeblood trial (1954)



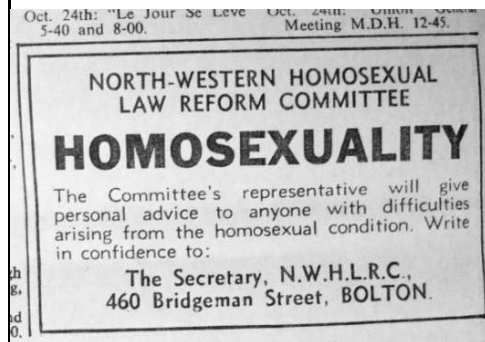
At the time of his arrest and imprisonment Peter Wildeblood was the Diplomatic Correspondent for the Daily Mail. Arrested and convicted alongside aristocratic Lord Montagu and Lord Montagu's cousin Michael Pitt-Rivers, Wildeblood was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. Whilst denying 'homosexual offences' took place, Wildeblood famously stood in court and

stated that he was a homosexual. Wildeblood would later contribute to the Wolfenden Report.

Key words

Conviction Homosexuality Immunity Media Class

Lobbying (1957-1967)



During the decade between the Wolfenden Report and the Sexual Offences Act, significant lobbying took place on a local and national scale. Two bodies were formed which actively campaigned for decriminalisation. The Homosexual Law Reform Society (HLRS) was formed in 1958 whilst the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) began as the North Western Committee for Homosexual Law Reform (NQCHLR) in 1964. The lobbying campaigns included talks at Rotary Clubs, university debates, public meetings and letter-writing .

Key words

Lobbying Homosexual Law Reform Society (HLRS) Letter -writing Debates

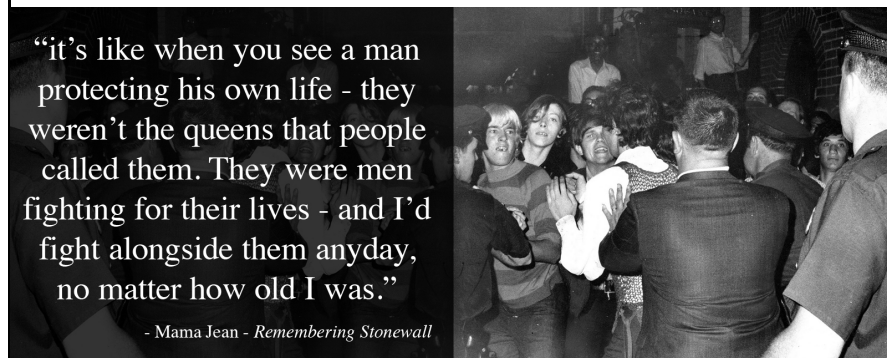
Sexual Offences Act (1967)



In 1967 Labour MP Leo Abse introduced the Sexual Offences bill in parliament. This was not the first attempt made to introduce reform. The bill was successfully passed as the Sexual Offences Act, decriminalising most homosexual acts in private between consenting adults aged 21 and over. However, the act did not extend to the armed forces and prosecutions for 'gross indecency' actually increased after 1967.

Key words

Stonewall Riots (1969)



On June 28 th just after 3am a police raid of the Stonewall Inn turned violent as the LGBT+ customers of the bar, who frequently suffered abuse at the hands of law enforcement, fought back. The riot led to several days of demonstrations in New York, the formation of the Gay Liberation Front, and is frequently cited as inspiring the tradition of LGBT pride marches.

Key words

Transgender activists People of Colour Stonewall Inn Police Brutality

Liberal Party Conference (1975)



The Liberal Party (now known as the Liberal Democrats) passes a conference resolution for homosexual equal rights, to include equalising the age of consent (at that stage kept at 21 years for homosexual acts and 16 for heterosexual acts). The Liberal Party was the first party to support full equality for homosexuals.

Key words

Liberal Party Age of consent Equality Conference resolution

Section 28 (1988 repealed 2003)



Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 prohibited local authorities and schools from “promoting” homosexuality or gay “pretended family relationships”. The Act also prevented councils from spending money on educational materials and projects perceived to promote a gay lifestyle. The act was passed at the height of the AIDs epidemic.

Key words

Education Promotion Ban Pretended family relationships

Armed Forces ban lifted (2000, finally repealed 2016)



After a ruling from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in 1999 found that the current ban breached human rights law, the British government lifted the ban on LGB individuals serving in the armed forces. The ban had suggested that the homosexual lifestyle was "incompatible" with military life due to "close physical conditions...and also because homosexual behaviour can cause offense, polarise relationships, induce ill-discipline and damage morale and unit effectiveness." However, whilst the ban was lifted it was not repealed until 2016. As a result, "homosexual acts" could still lead to discharge from the armed forces until 2016.

Key words

Armed Forces Ban Homosexual Acts 2000 2016 Repeal

Civil Partnership Act (2004)



Passed in 2004, but coming into effect in 2005, the Civil Partnership Act 2004 gives same-sex couples the right to register a civil partnership. Civil Partnerships have almost the same legal rights and obligations as marriage does for heterosexual couples.

Key words

Civil Partnership 2004 Legal Same-Sex

Gender Recognition Act (2004)



Gender Recognition Act 2004

Before the act was passed, transgender individuals had no means to get their UK birth certificate and legal gender changed to reflect their true gender. The act created an application process through which transgender individuals can apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate. The process is long and is not without criticism. To apply individuals must be at least 18 years old, have lived fully for the last two years as their acquired gender and have medical evidence confirming gender dysphoria. If successful, the law will recognise the individual as having all the rights and responsibilities appropriate to a person of their acquired gender.

Key words

Gender Recognition Act Gender dysphoria Application Gender Recognition Certificate

Equality Act (2007 updated in 2010)