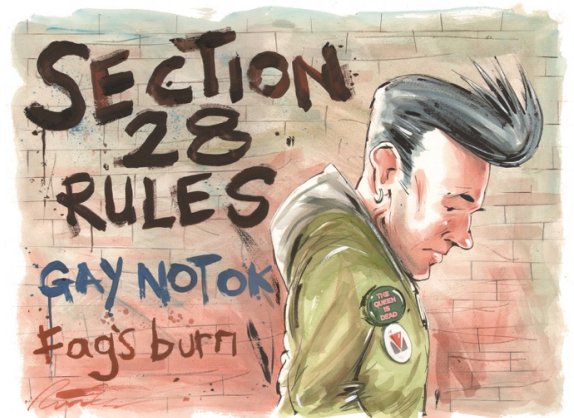


🤔🙄 CLAUSE 28 – SECTION 28 🙄🤔

UK Prohibition on promoting homosexuality by teaching or by publishing material

1988-2003

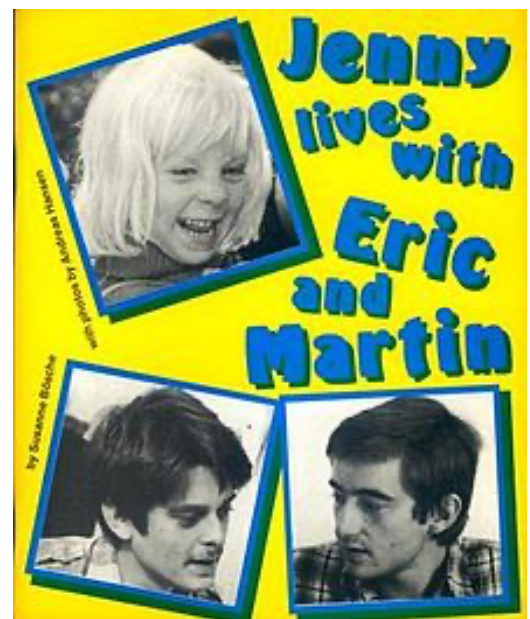
!!! It started in 1988 when the AIDS crisis was deeply hurting the gay community.



a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship"

One of the triggers that drove conservative Britain to madness

This book by the Danish writer Susanne Bösche was published in English in 1983. It tells the story of the five-year-old Nee who lives with her dad and his boyfriend. Just the one copy was available in the Isledon Teachers Centre and only older children could see it after consultation with parents. The library was run by the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority. Nevertheless, the press and politicians got very upset.





“Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught they have an inalienable right to be gay... all of those children are being cheated out of a sound start in life. Yes, cheated!”

(Thatcher at 1987 Conservative Party Conference)

Conservative Party Propaganda



As with “Jenny lives with Eric and Martin,” the books, “[Young, Gay, and Proud](#)” (for adolescents) and “*The Playbook for Kids about Sex*” (with info about both straight and gay sex), were actually only rarely considered yet by anybody. The [pamphlet “Police: Out of School”](#) was issued by just a London branch of the National Union of Teachers and because of a concern to lose trust of black pupils and their parents.

From a legal point of view, it wasn't quite clear whether the clause applied to schools or teachers themselves. The quote from Thatcher, however, makes it obvious what its intention was and teachers acted cautiously afraid of breaking the law.



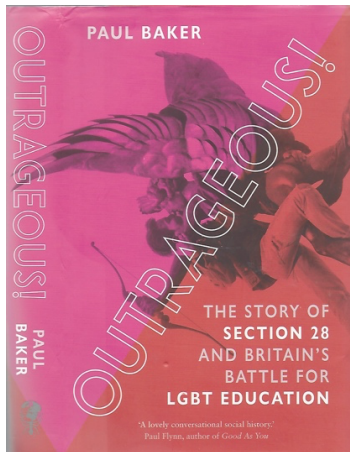
Consequences of Clause 28 for queer human beings

- Loneliness
- [Growing up in silence](#)
- Low self-esteem (read discussion below)
- Fear (read discussion below)
- Discrimination
- Bullying; And teachers couldn't deal with this effectively



Cartoon in the Sun newspaper; apparently acceptable

Read



for a superb comprehensive overview

and read the brilliant



to understand the long-term consequences.



!!! PRIDE USED TO BE SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A BIG PARTY !!!

Quotes from the “leaders” of Great Britain in parliament during the process of getting the bill accepted several bigots and some heroes

The Earl of Halsbury: *“I did not think . . . that lesbians were a problem. They do not molest little girls. They do not indulge in disgusting and unnatural practices like buggery. They are not wildly promiscuous and do not spread venereal disease. It is part of the softening up propaganda that lesbians and gays are nearly always referred to in that order. The relatively harmless lesbian leads on the vicious gay. That was what I thought . . . and what I still in part continue to think, but I have been warned that the loony Left is hardening up the lesbian camp and that they are becoming increasingly aggressive.”... “One of the characteristics of our time is that we have for several decades past been emancipating minorities who claimed that they were disadvantaged. Are they grateful? Not a bit. We emancipated races and got inverted racism. We emancipate homosexuals and they condemn heterosexism as chauvinist sexism, male oppression and so on. They will push us off the pavement if we give them a chance.”*

Dame Jill Knight: *“Millions outside Parliament object to little children being perverted, diverted or converted from normal family life to a lifestyle which is desperately dangerous for society and extremely dangerous for them.” ... “Very few hon. Members fail to appreciate the seriousness of the danger that AIDS presents to the whole of our society, yet some of that which is being taught to children in our schools would undoubtedly lead to a great spread of AIDS.”*

Lord Marshall of Leeds: *“In my view the legislature of this country has never legalised homosexuality, not even between consenting adults; it has merely protected from criminal prosecutions adults who committed homosexual acts together by consent.”*

Outside parliament

On July 7 1986, The Sun newspaper reported (without providing proof): *“Courses to teach children about homosexuality and lesbianism are to be started in schools run by Barmy Bernie Grant’s left-wing council. And Haringey council may even extend the scheme to nursery and primary schools.”*

On October 186, the Daily Mail wrote: *“As parents burned a copy [of Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin] they were jeered by homosexuals and lesbians entering the building. Inside, parents were bombarded with missiles and spat on from the public gallery as they spoke against Labour councils’ ‘anti-heterosexist’ policy.”*

Labour MP Frank Dobson: *“The ‘Loony Labour Left’ is now taking its toll; the gays and lesbians issue is costing us dear among pensioners ...”*

Betty Sheridan from the Parents’ Rights group in Haringey: *“I live in Haringey. I’m Worried with two children. And I’m scared. If you vote Labour they’ll go on teaching my kids about GAYS and LESBIANS, instead of giving them proper lessons.”*

MP Elaine Kellett-Bowman after it was mentioned in parliament that the offices of *Capital Gay* in London were firebombed: *"Quite right ... I am quite prepared to affirm that it is quite right that there should be an intolerance of evil."*

During the debate on the repeal

Lady Saltoun of Abernethy (in 1999 during an unsuccessful attempt to repeal): *"Why do homosexuals proselytize? I think it is rather in the same way that drunks try to persuade everyone round them to drink too – because they feel more comfortable if all around are the same as them. If I were purple with orange spots, I should probably want every one of your Lordships to become purple with orange spots, so that I should feel at home."*

Boris Johnson in the Spectator April 15 2000: *"This British legislator is voting in favour of Labour's appalling agenda, encouraging the teaching of homosexuality in schools, and all the rest of it, ..."*

But some understood what was going on!!!!

The Viscount of Falkland: "A significant minority of our citizens—some 6 million people or perhaps more—are homosexuals. By trying to put the clause on the statute book, we are saying that we wish to make 6 million people second-class citizens." ...*"That will be the effect of the clause. There is a movement in this country which is prompted by the spread of the terrifying disease of AIDS. That must be taken together with a misconceived view of sexual behaviour which worries not only the homosexual community, who are immediately at risk from the backlash of ignorance, but also heterosexuals. I ought not to have to say that I am a heterosexual. I should say that 50 per cent, of my post bag, which is enormous—I believe that many Members of the Committee will have been inundated with letters in the same way—comes from people who live what are generally described as normal or orthodox sexual lives. I prefer the word "orthodox"; I think that the word "normal" is deprecating and even insulting. To a homosexual, his relationship is normal. The Committee must bear that in mind in considering the clause.*

Apart from the fear and ignorance concerning homosexuality or unorthodox sexual relationships, there is the confusion between sexual relationships and sexual acts. Many people in this country—and indeed a section of the popular press—have been moved not by a concern about relationships as such but by an idea (which I can understand) of the widespread promotion of the extraordinary nature of the sexual act. I submit that the fear that people have of unorthodox sexual acts is quite reasonable. I should not want my children to be taught, or have described or unnecessarily underlined to them, information concerning homosexual acts. Nor should I want them to be exposed unnecessarily to the details of heterosexual acts. It seems to me that there is an enormous confusion which goes through much of our sex education. What matters in our lives and our sexuality is that we develop loving relationships.

There is a suggestion in the clause that in no way can a homosexual have a loving, caring or responsible relationship. That is an opinion which has caused deep feeling among homosexuals because they are extremely vulnerable to the implications of this clause, and it seems to me to be an offensive and arrogant suggestion. It is one of the reasons, probably the main one, why I have stood up in this debate as an individual. On this occasion I do not pretend to identify myself with my party grouping. I rise as an individual and hope that I shall be supported by members of my party. It offends me that in this country we should seek by statute to create an illiberal and prejudiced view of one section of our community." ... "The Government have introduced a clause which deals with homosexuality and attempts to make it unacceptable—another word which occurs in the clause that I do not find easy to accept. They wish to say that homosexuality is unacceptable. Homosexuality is legal in this country. I suggest that we are putting back the clock to the days before it was legalised and are creating an enormous fear among the homosexual community, particularly the young. We are encouraging a backlash within the rest of the community which puts at risk all classes of homosexual and particularly young people.

We are encouraging discrimination and violence which is out of step with the very responsible attitude that the Government have taken as regards AIDS. I consider that attitude to be more responsible and more effective than that which has been taken in the United States of America. Responsible homosexual groups have been consulted. The country is becoming fully aware of a meeting of minds and the productive movement between the homosexual community and the Government in creating a

proper list of measures and precautions against AIDS. By promoting alarm among the homosexual and the heterosexual communities, the clause will create confusion in people's minds to where they stand.

The clause remains with us and I suggest quite honestly that one of the main arguments against it is that it uses a very large hammer—a pile-driver—to smash a pane of glass. The splinters will go wide and far with the possibility of damaging and wounding a number of people. That will be regrettable. *I think that those people who now view this clause with favour will agree with me later on that it is regrettable that we should have sought to put on to statute a clause which, through its loose wording and vague ideas, creates confusion in the minds not only of homosexuals and the general public but even of lawyers.*

I seem to remember that when I was about seven years old I had vague stirrings of attraction to the opposite sex that have not left me in the 45-odd years that have ensued. But nobody promoted these ideas to me. It is an absurd idea that one can go into a classroom, to a meeting, or on a holiday course, or whatever, and that someone can make attractive the idea that one can change the drift of one's own sexuality."

Lord Soper: *"Do I not sense a smell of fascism about this emphasis on homosexuality? I do. And I am old enough to remember what it was like when that was rampant not so very long ago. Do I notice a kind of attitude in which there is confusion between homosexuality as a condition and homosexual acts—good and some bad? Of course, I do, and that confusion is written into this clause. What I find so desperately important is the kind of compassion which I thought irradiated the initial speech of the noble Viscount in talking about matters which are intimate. I can speak of them in my old age as retrospective, and what nostalgia I have is hard to command. But at the same time, I have no doubt whatever in my own mind that we are in a perilous strait of circumstance if we isolate problems like homosexuality as if they belonged to the category of evil just as heterosexuality may be regarded as the category of good."*

Sources for much of the above:

- <https://www.attitude.co.uk/article/how-section-28s-painful-legacy-is-still-being-felt-three-decades-on/18009/>
- <http://www.schools-out.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Section-28-and-Education-Sue-Sanders-Gillian-Spragg-1989.pdf>
- <https://www.twentysixdigital.com/blog/growing-up-silence-short-history-section-28/>
- <https://hackneyhistory.wordpress.com/2011/05/23/police-out-of-school-1985/>
- https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/lords/1988/feb/01/local-government-bill#S5LV0492P0_19880201_HOL_247
- Chapter 4 of *Gay in the 80s: From Fighting for Our Rights to Fighting for Our Lives* by Colin Clews.