



STATEMENT: NEW STATESMAN ADVERTISEMENTS : 2nd October, 2012

Core Issues Trust is aware of the New Statesman's decision not to publish the third agreed advert calling the major political parties to respect the rights of individuals who wish to move away from homosexuality.

The articles, concurrent with Lib Dem, Labour and Tory conference editions of the Statesman, called on party political leaders to respect those who, in marriage or singleness, choose to reduce homosexual feelings according to their personal values - which trump sexual expression. It also called them to recognise that the World Health Organisation affirms the rights of those whose values conflict with their sexuality, to seek and receive appropriate professional help.

Core Issues Trust upholds the right of men and women to self-identify in the matter of how they wish to express sexuality, and by which label they wish to be identified. Mainstream political parties have a duty to recognise that our society includes individuals who do not identify as "gay" but do experience homosexual feelings, which they wish to reduce or change.

Professional psychotherapeutic bodies in the United Kingdom continue to refuse individuals the right of self-determination in the matter of sexual identity and expression. Client autonomy is now secondary to the ideological determination to ensure that no individual identifies as "ex-gay", "post-gay" or "non-practising homosexual".

If a married individual presents to a psychotherapist accredited to the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP), for example, such a therapist may not work with the client's agenda to reduce, or even attempt to reduce homosexual feelings, without penalty from that professional body. Thus a married man, who wishes to stay with his wife and to protect his children and continue to love his wife in a viable marriage, may not be assisted to reduce homosexual feelings. In fact, he may only be helped to express his homosexual feelings. This is unjust, anti-marriage and anti-family showing no concern for children – and is a violation of the human rights of this minority population.

We urge the political and professional bodies in the UK to revisit the scientific findings and ethical judgements relating to client rights in respect of reducing homosexual feelings. Sexual identity should be a matter of choice. Those with unwanted same-sex attractions should not be prohibited from seeking and receiving professional help in reducing these, to achieve personal goals.

The New Statesman advert promoted a recently released publication by the Trust: "The Right to Decide" (2012). This publication provides moving, personal accounts of individuals who now are forbidden in the UK to receive professional help to achieve their personal goals and the right to self-determination, autonomy and personal choice.

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