

**BEFORE  
THE  
ACT**

**A CELEBRATION  
TO COUNTER THE EFFECTS OF SECTION 28**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being here tonight and for your contribution to the Organisation for Lesbian and Gay Action (OLGA) in our fight against Section 28 of the Local Government Act.

OLGA is a national organisation which campaigns on issues affecting lesbians and gay men. Membership is open to anyone who shares our concern, whatever their sexuality, and our constitution ensures that no one political group can take power. Currently, apart from our direct work on Section 28, we have three campaigns - on education, on lesbian custody and on violence against lesbians and gay men.

We are a new organisation, formed in 1987 only days before backbench MPs proposed what was then Clause 14, outlawing 'promotion' of homosexuality by local authorities. OLGA is the outcome of more than a year's planning, consultation, discussion and a national conference on our needs. For sometime, many of us had felt the need for a national organisation which could truly bring together a wide range of all the different sections of lesbian and gay society and through which our many different voices could be heard. Never has that need been more urgent than now.

Since Clause 14 (later 27, 28 and 29) was announced, OLGA members throughout the country have worked non-stop on action against it. We raised its public profile by organising the first national Stop The Clause Rally in January and by organising and speaking at meetings all over Britain. We have lobbied Lords and MPs repeatedly and prepared briefings for them, for councils, for trade unions, for journalists and for the general public. Our tiny make-shift office, staffed entirely by volunteers, has been inundated with calls and letters requesting information and help. More recently, we have also begun to offer support to groups prematurely penalised by local authorities only too anxious to implement the new law.

The money raised by Before The Act will go into a special account, which will be administered by two people from OLGA and two people from the show. It will be used to counter the effects of the Section throughout the country and to offer support to those affected by it. OLGA has adopted the motto 'Lesbian and Gay Rights Are Human Rights'. Thank you for giving your support to the fight to make that a reality.

**Jennie Wilson, Kris Black, Phil King  
on behalf of the OLGA Executive**

## **The Arts Lobby exists to campaign against all attacks on freedoms restricted by Section 28**

### **Works so far include :**

- Organising a triumphant national press conference
- Winning back funding for a threatened gay play
- Successfully supporting a beleaguered bookshop
- Mobilising Equity to liaise with all companies over censorship
- Fighting for the rights of lesbian and gay students at a music college

**We continue to monitor, advise, help and inform**

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**Mr. Tony Banks:** I will be brief, but I want to say something about the speech made by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Edgbaston (Dame J. Knight). I felt that her speech owed more to imagination than to truth. I listened to an interview that the hon. Lady gave on Radio 4's "Today" programme. Mr. Brian Redhead asked her to support her statement that she had a great deal of evidence about schools promoting homosexuality. Mr. Redhead asked her what evidence she had and she replied that she had not brought her files with her, but she claimed that she had the evidence. When she was pressed even further, she said "I didn't offer to name any schools." I am not surprised that the hon. Lady has received letters from parents who have been alarmed about the position. They have been alarmed by what the hon. Lady said.

**Dame Jill Knight:** Will the hon. Gentleman give way?

**Mr. Banks:** No. If the hon. Lady will wait a moment, I will give way to her, and that is more than she did to me or to anyone else.

It is not surprising that parents have become alarmed by the kind of scare stories and fantasies that the hon. Lady has propagated in her various interviews and speeches. She has no evidence and she has never been able to produce evidence, other than that which comes from her over-fertile imagination.

**Dame Jill Knight:** I have repeatedly given a list of local authorities in whose areas this has been going on. It seems odd to me that Opposition Members are apparently

unaware that local authorities run local schools. [HON. MEMBERS: "Name the schools."] I have repeatedly given all the names of the local authorities, and this is local authority policy. I must also say that parents were

9.30 pm

**Mr. Banks:** Which schools?

**Dame Jill Knight:** I have named them. The hon. Gentleman must not nit-pick with me. If he does not understand that local authority education runs the schools, he ought to go back and start learning about how these things are done—[*Interruption.*] Let me complete my remarks to the hon. Member for Newham, North-West (Mr. Banks), who was good enough to give way. None of this clause would have come into being without ample evidence, some of which I have read out tonight. All the parents complained long before I made that broadcast. A pregnant woman was kicked in the stomach and jolly nearly lost her child long before it.

**Mr. Banks:** The hon. Lady has not mentioned one school. She is clearly guilty but insane. I rest my case.

**Miss Joan Lestor (Eccles):**

Some Conservative Members, among them the hon. Member for Edgbaston, said that they were not concerned with reverting to the law as it was before and did not want to discriminate or make life difficult for homosexuals—they wanted only to protect children. The hon. Lady, who started all this, offered no evidence that children were in danger. When challenged, she has never been able to bring forward evidence, and none has been produced. If hon. Members are concerned on the basis of no evidence, they should not support the clause.

Clause 28

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Local Government Bill

9 MA

**Mr. Pike:** Will the hon. Lady produce evidence to support her claim? Does she recognise that the clause goes way beyond the protection of children? Will she also accept that, if the protection of children is the main cause for concern, we must give the same protection to children from the threat from heterosexual abuse, which is far more common and a bigger threat to children than the lesbian or gay threat.

**Dame Jill Knight:** The clause has nothing to do with criminal abuse. The clause attempts to stop what has been happening to children. The hon. Member for Burnley must understand the point that I have already made twice—if parents did not believe that what was happening was wrong, why did they complain, and complain to some Conservative Members who tried to stand up for their rights?

**Ms. Diane Abbott (Hackney, North and Stoke Newington):** Where?

**Dame Jill Knight:** The evidence is clear for anyone who will take the trouble to read the debates in another place and in this place. I am amazed at the deliberate blindness and deafness of Opposition Members.

**Several Hon. Members rose—**

**Dame Jill Knight:** I will not give way. I want to get on; I do not wish to make a long speech.

**Mr. Fisher:** It is extraordinary, after the clause has been so widely debated in the House, in Committee and in the press, that the hon. Gentleman has not read it. It does not mention local education authorities; it is about all local authorities. The hon. Gentleman should have read the clause before he intervened.

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**Mr. Livingstone:**

... of one school. Again and again we have called for the Conservative Member that is teaching homosexuality. No school in a county or city in this country that is doing what they claim is now so widespread that legislation is needed to stop it. I have listened carefully, and I have heard only three examples given to justify the clause. One was an article in the *Evening Standard* and one was an article in *The Daily Telegraph*. Since when did the legislature base legislation on two articles in newspapers? Before introducing detailed legislation affecting the lives of millions, should we not do a little better than to rely on what some journalist has cobbled together, regardless of whether it is accurate? The only example given to justify the we should perhaps pay

GLC public

# HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICIAL REPORT

**Dame Jill Knight** (Birmingham, Edgbaston): I am concerned that it appears that my hon. Friend has not read any of the debates that have previously taken place. For instance, on 11 January the debate in the other place drew attention to the fact that children under two have had access to gay and lesbian books in Lambeth play centres.

**Mr. Tony Banks:** That is not true.

**Mr. John Fraser** (Norwood): That is a lie.

**Mr. Stuart Holland** (Vauxhall) *rose*—

**Dame Jill Knight:** I am not telling lies and I do not believe that it is the practice in this House for one who has intervened to give way again. I am quoting from the House of Lords debate—

**Mr. Tony Banks:** That does not make it true!

**Dame Jill Knight:** The person in charge, Mrs. Jill Delaney, playleader of the Windmill gardens play centre said.

"We have been on training courses where members have access to take this kind of literature into the playgroups but nearly everyone refused. Some of the books on display were terrible. I have children in here as young as 2 years old and I don't think they should be seeing pictures of grown men in the nude in different sexual practices."—[*Official Report, House of Lords, 11 January 1988, column 491, c. 1013*].

**Mr. Squire:** I cannot respond to that specific point because I do not come from Lambeth and I have not seen the literature about which my hon. Friend complains.

**Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn:** Does my hon. Friend not know of such literature?

**Mr. Squire:** I am quite prepared to admit—

**Dr. Cunningham** *rose*—

**Mr. Squire:** There is a queue forming. In answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Edgbaston (Dame Jill Knight) that that charge has been denied.

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**Mr. David Wilshire** (Spelthorne): My hon. Friend has asked for examples and perhaps I can assist. I have in my hand a leaflet that was handed out to 15-year-olds at a Bristol school. I will not read out the details of that leaflet because I do not think that I should—[**HON. MEMBERS:** "Go on."] Opposition Members may want that, but suffice to say, the leaflet describes and illustrates homosexual activity and underneath that description says: "Go for it! Share the pleasure with a friend." That was handed out to 15-year-olds at a school in Bristol—[**HON. MEMBERS:** "By whom?"] The Terrence Higgins trust.

**Mr. Squire:** I can only take at face value what my hon. Friend has said. Of course, it is deplorable and I believe that such leaflets exist and I would be happy to add my list of one. From a brief search I believe that it is...

**Dr. Cunningham:** I believe that the hon. Member for Spelthorne (Mr. Wilshire) should get his facts right. There is no information on the leaflet that he brandished as to who was responsible for its publication or distribution. I believe that the hon. Gentleman should be more accurate and precise in his allegations regarding such sensitive matters.

**Mr. Squire:** I almost feel that there are two debates to be had. I apologise to the extent that I have caused...

**Mr. Wilshire:** My hon. Friend may have reservations about what happens in schools and what legislation is available to prevent it, but will he accept that there is a whole lot more to local government than schools? There is an awful lot more promotion of homosexuality going on by local government outside classrooms.

**Mr. Holland:** First, I should like to comment on a claim made by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Edgbaston (Dame J. Knight) which concerned a Lambeth nursery group. I sought to intervene in her speech to ask for her evidence and I am sorry that she is not in the Chamber at the moment. With a constituency in Lambeth, I share the views of my hon. Friend the member for Norwood (Mr. Fraser) who was able to intervene. The hon. Member for Edgbaston said, "When parents complain." I have not had a single parent alleging what the hon. Member for Edgbaston alleged concerning any school in Lambeth. There has not been a single individual complaint from parents on those grounds. I have not had a single letter supporting the clause. I have received many letters and representations opposing the clause.

I am grateful to the hon. Member for Spelthorne (Mr. Wilshire) for passing across the literature alleged to be from the Terrence Higgins Trust, which was referred to earlier. The hon. Gentleman may agree that it is not evident that that literature was published by the Terrence Higgins Trust. It looks rather as if it was produced by a local group advertising the Healthline service of the Terrence Higgins Trust. The whole thrust of the trust's argument is precisely to combat AIDS. It is widely recognised that unless literature concerning AIDS is sexually explicit it will not reach its target audience and will in no way serve to combat AIDS.

While there is next to no evidence...

**Mr. Roberts:** The only evidence that has been presented by Conservative Members relating to the promotion of homosexuality in schools and its abuse has been quotes from particular newspapers—the *Evening Standard* and the *Daily Telegraph*. Is my hon. Friend aware that in February 1988, the *Daily Telegraph*...

## MENTARY ATES

(SARD)

9 March 1988

**Mr. Pike:** Having spoken in the debate on 15 December, I regret that, at this stage, Conservative Members have still failed to produce any evidence in support of the clause. The problem with tonight's debate is that we can consider only the Lords amendment right hon. and... amendments that have been tabled...

# BEST WISHES

to everyone involved in 'Before the Act'.

*All of the people listed below are opposed to Section 28 of the Local Government Act and have made a financial contribution to tonight's fundraising efforts:*

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## THE ART WORLD PROTESTS

taken from a letter to The Sunday Times, April 3, 1988

**Your editorial on clause 28** (March 13) expressed the hope that the clause, now clause 29, "will be proved to be as unworkable as its critics predicted.....that having been put on the statute books, it will now be forgotten".

Though we appreciate the stand taken by you against the clause, we think it must not be forgotten. The House of Commons did confirm it, and anyone who wishes to invoke it may do so if she or he feels that a local council contravenes it. Contravention of the clause is open to interpretation, both arbitrary and subjective. The mere possibility that anyone may now initiate what are in effect procedures of censorship will also result in self-censorship by libraries, museums, galleries, theatres, and so on funded by local councils. In a country without a declaration of human rights, this clause is a real threat to civil liberties.

David Hockney is not alone in perceiving the pernicious implications of the clause. Any person who is concerned about the erosion of civil liberties in this country must agree that this clause constitutes a grave danger, not just to the arts, but to the future of our society.

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**This letter followed up on David Hockney's public outrage against censorship in England.**

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# BEFORE

## A CELEBRATION TO COUNTER

WORKS WRITTEN BY :  
(in alphabetical order)

<b>W H Auden</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Sharon Barba</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Alan Bennett</b>	<i>A Woman Of No Importance</i>
<b>Leonard Bernstein</b>	<i>Island Magic</i>
<b>Benjamin Britten</b>	<i>Down By The Sally Gardens</i>
<b>C P Cavafy</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Noel Coward</b>	<i>Hands Across The Sea</i>
<b>Sarah Daniels</b>	<i>Neaptide</i>
<b>Peter Maxwell Davies</b>	<i>Lullaby</i>
<b>Maureen Duffy</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Flying Lizards</b>	<i>Sex Machine</i>
<b>Reynaldo Hahn</b>	<i>Mozart In Paris</i>
<b>Tony Holland</b>	<i>Simply Soap!</i>
<b>Robin Hooper</b>	<i>Astonishment</i>
<b>A E Houseman</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Max Jacob</b>	<i>Lyrics For Poulenc</i>
<b>Adam Mars Jones</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Debby Klein</b>	<i>At The Hairdresser</i>
<b>Edward Lear</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Chris Lowe</b>	<i>It Couldn't Happen Here</i>
<b>Christopher Marlowe</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Sean Mathias</b>	<i>Prayer For Wings</i>
<b>Fidelis Morgan</b>	<i>As Someone Might Like It</i>
<b>Morriconi</b>	<i>It Couldn't Happen Here</i>
<b>Carl Morse</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Joe Orton</b>	<i>Entertaining Mr Sloane</i>
<b>Cole Porter</b>	<i>Anything Goes</i>
<b>Francis Poulenc</b>	<i>Songs</i>
<b>Gertrude (Ma) Rainey</b>	<i>Prove It On Me</i>
<b>Saint Saens</b>	<i>Swan</i>
<b>Sappho</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Martin Sherman</b>	<i>Bent</i>
<b>Dame Ethel Smythe</b>	<i>March Of The Women</i>
<b>Neil Tennant</b>	<i>It Couldn't Happen Here</i>
<b>Michael Tippett</b>	<i>Two Songs For Ariel</i>
<b>Tchaikovsky</b>	<i>Souvenirs de Florence</i>
<b>Oscar Wilde</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Tennessee Williams</b>	<i>Verse</i>
<b>Sandy Wilson</b>	<i>When All The Girls Were Pretty</i>

EXTRACTS DIRECTED BY :

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**Philip Prowse  
John Burgess**

**Nigel Charnock & Lloyd Newson**

**Philip Hedley  
Robin Hooper**

**Fidelis Morgan**

**Sean Mathias**

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A BENEFIT AGAINST SECTION 28 FOR TH

# THE ACT

THE EFFECTS OF SECTION 28

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Rupert Everett - Maggie Ford - Stephen Fry - Michael Gambon -  
David Gillespie - Sheila Gish - Jill Gomez - Rupert Graves -  
Richard Griffiths - Gary Hailes - Sheila Hancock - Heather Harper -  
Steven Hartley - Ron Havant - Lesley Hayes - Juliet Hill -  
Patricia Hodge - Hot Doris Band (Sayan Akaddas - Katrina Buchanan -  
Mandy Short - Rebecca Clow) - Celia Imrie - Judith Jacob - Lucy Jenkins -  
Sue Johnston - Miriam Karlin - David Kernan - Janis Kelly -  
Alice Kinlock - Maureen Lipman - Lesley Manville - Christopher McHalle -  
Ian McKellen - Medici String Quartet (Paul Robertson - David Matthews -  
Anthony Lewis - Ivo-Jan van der Werff plus guests) - Aveilia Moysey -  
Edna O'Brien - Gary Oldham - John Owen-Edwards - Geoffrey Parsons -  
Parker & Klein (Karen Parker - Debby Klein) - Stifyn Parri - Ken Parry -  
The Pet Shop Boys (Chris Lowe - Neil Tennant) - Anna Raeburn -  
Anthony Sher - Dean Sullivan - Joan Plowright - Harold Pinter -  
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# BEFORE THE ACT

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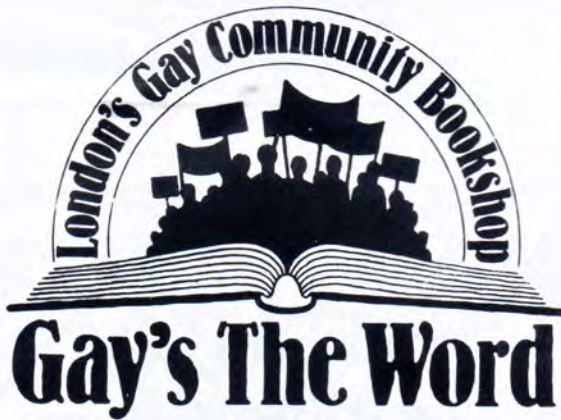


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Helpline: 01-242 1010 Administration: 01-831 0330 Vistel: 01-405 2463

Terry Higgins was one of the first people in the UK to die of AIDS - he was also gay. The Terrence Higgins Trust was set up in 1982 by some of his friends, and soon became the first organisation in this country to operate an AIDS helpline, offer counselling and support, and distribute safer sex advice. We currently provide the following services to the community:

Support, practical help and counselling to people with AIDS and their supporters; drug education and counselling to IV drug users, both in the community and in the prison; health education and training; legal and welfare services to people with AIDS; information to individuals, organisations and groups worldwide; advice and support to women affected by HIV and AIDS. This is just some of the work we do with the help of staff and volunteers of all ages, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

The Terrence Higgins Trust is concerned that Section 28 may affect areas of our work, as well as increase institutionalised homophobia, and for those reasons wholeheartedly endorses this event and the campaign. Without lesbians and gay men the Trust would not exist.

Helpline 01 242 1010 3pm - 10pm daily. Vistel 01 405  
2463 7pm - 10pm daily (for the deaf and hard of  
hearing). Legal Line 01 405 2381 7pm - 10pm  
Wednesdays. Administration 01 831 0330  
weekdays.



Haringey Lesbian and Gay Unit

- working for our Communities -



## Events for Lesbian Strength & Gay Pride '88

Wednesday June 15th

Irish Lesbian & Gays celebrate at the  
Haringey Irish Cultural Centre N17.

Friday 17th

Black lesbian and Gay Pride at the West  
Indian Cultural centre N8.

Thursday 23rd

Cypriot Lesbian and Gay Group Strength  
and Pride Social at Chestnuts Community  
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Tickets and more information for Lesbian  
and Gay Unit 48 Grand Parade, Green Lanes  
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all  
Paul xx*

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the Act' and to  
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16 CHENIES STREET, LONDON WC1E 7EX

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# LYNNE KERWIN ASSOCIATES

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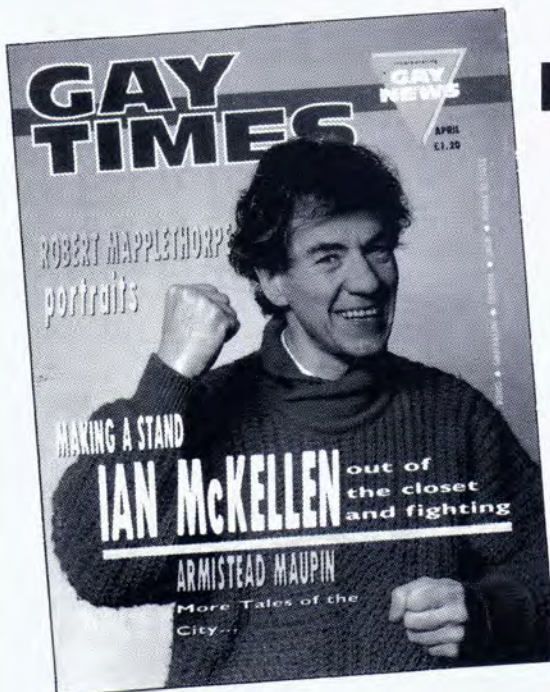
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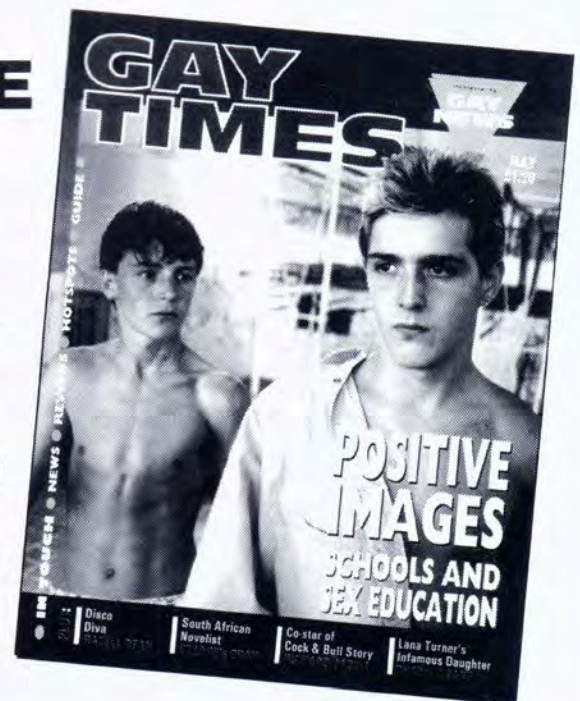
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