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The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) certainly agrees with with the two major gay and lesbian organizations from Norway (FHO and DNF-48) that children have the right to express their sexuality and a right to respect as individuals, no matter what their sexual orientation is. We agree that children, **like adults**, should be protected from any exploitation of their sexuality. Children, **like adults**, have the right to say **NO** to sex. NAMBLA's position papers do not oppose laws that punish persons who fail to respect children's (or **anyone's**) rights. NAMBLA's positions encourage constructive efforts to educate and to create life supports that empower children to deal with the sexual aspects of their lives. NAMBLA initiated and nurtured the paper within the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) that recommends giving appropriate information about human sexuality to children. ...

Passionately held opinion must be based on accurate facts. Rational, scientific solutions to children's problems are morally superior to solutions that rely on religious doctrine and prejudice. Unbiased scientific research will eventually resolve some of the issues involved in pedophilia and child abuse. Meanwhile, NAMBLA can understand the impatience as science builds up and spreads a body of reliable and trustworthy information; NAMBLA shares that impatience. The invitation of Dr. Theo Sandfort to the next ILGA conference is a step in the right direction. We expect his research will get greater critical scrutiny than was given to free lance writer Alf G. Andersen's 1987 Report **Child Pornography, Child Prostitution and Child Trade** hastily

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

prepared on the authority of the Norwegian Department of Justice. This provocative, unscientific report is at the root of the current "moral panic" in Norway.

Blaming "strangers" and "outsiders" to the family for child exploitation, provides parents, religion, and society-as-a-whole an escape from accepting the painful responsibility for the exploitation and neglect of children within the closed nuclear family. ...

The ILGA should reject any appearance of support for the neurotic projection of the family's ambivalence for children onto homosexuals and pedophiles. This is not in the interest of children, especially for children who grow up in homophobic families to become homosexual and pedophile.

The papers from Norway are confusing because sexual offense is not distinguished from sexual abuse. A sexual offense is the act of breaking a law or violating a social norm. ...

Abuse is mistreatment or injury that is perceived by the recipient. Psychological harm **is** often done to children who are sexually abused by family members. This mistreatment and injury **is** perceived by the recipient. Where there is physical or psychological injury, it can be objectively observed and described by the scientific observer. The closed, heterosexual family is more dangerous for children's sexual well being than the open pedophile organizations in the world, for there is no evidence that public pedophile organi-

zations harm some children. Pedophile organizations are sometimes infiltrated by police who watch for every opportunity to prove just that.

The phrase "child sexual abuse" is so misused by the law and by language that the phrase should best be avoided within the ILGA all together to reduce confusion.

The ILGA might seek, at the national and international levels, to **promote the overall sexual welfare** of children and youth. This would be a positive, non-defensive approach to the sexual lives of children and in harmony with the existing sexual liberation aims of the ILGA.

When they are ready, children and youth should be responsibly encouraged to cultivate their capacity for love and skill at love making. Pleasure, touching, positive attitude, the pursuit of happiness, and contact with others are critical to psychological and physical health, and they should not be divorced from sex in every case if that follows naturally. ...

Stjele en Barndom (Cappelen, Oslo 1988, pages 60-61). The former Norwegian Minister of Justice, Helen Bosterud, wrote an Afterword to that book and secured State money to partially finance a t.v. documentary based on this book. The documentary, called **Throwaway Children** was broadcast in 1989. Both the book and the t.v. documentary created a "moral panic," a witch hunt mentality throughout northern Europe. As a result, NAMBLA and other pedophile groups have been exposed to even greater hatred, contempt, and undeserved discrimination. Aggression against pedophiles and pedophile organizations does not benefit the lives of children, nor does it sow the seeds of justice. ...

MAN/BOY & WOMEN/GIRL LOVE

Advocacy for children that is dominated by females and heterosexuals is not enough. Males, including those who have the gift of being gay, pederast, and pedophile, have unique perspectives on children's welfare. A sensitive and democratic child advocacy also includes the contributions of adults who, as young persons, had the pleasure of a positive sexual relationship with an adult. ...

Furthermore, advocacy for children that wants to speak with one voice should not be dominated by the cultural values of Christian, white, Northern Europe. Gays and lesbians from the South and East, gay persons of color, and gays from minority groups also have a contribution to make to the advocacy for children's rights and the sexual welfare of children. Cultivating a climate of receptivity would open the discussion up. For NAMBLA also wants to feel welcomed to participate in formulating the ideological and political framework under which many fewer children would be sexually exploited and harmed. A few of us are very carefully working on new papers that may be ready for presentation

to the next annual ILGA meeting in Stockholm. But it isn't clear that ILGA member organizations need and want their Annual Meeting to be a forum for such an effort.

--Submitted by Ted Bernie of NAMBLA;
edited by the Information Secretary
due to length (4 pages in the original)

The suggested agenda of this general (D) workshop is:

- to give workshop participants an opportunity to respond (if that seems appropriate) to past initiatives of DNF-48 and FHO concerning children's rights, the sexual exploitation of children, and the sexual welfare of the young
- to respond to relevant preconference papers and new papers developed at the Annual Meeting
- to deal with any intolerance for the right to develop a political and ideological agenda by homosexual pedophiles, man/boy lovers, and women/girl lovers and their supporters at this Annual Meeting. All participants at this ILGA Annual Conference have a right to expect fairness and tolerance in the conference proceedings.
- to explore how decisions to be made at this year's plenary sessions might affect those who identify themselves as homosexual pedophiles, man/boy lovers, and women/girl lovers.

The decisions to be taken at this annual meeting that the participants will want to fully support are:

- the selection of new Secretaries General
- the adoption of an improved constitution
- the adoption of a Charter of Rights for the Free Expression of Homosexual Practice.

Minutes will be taken at this general workshop, with recommendations possible to other workshops and the plenary sessions.

--NAMBLA

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS

G & L Legal Issues

Paula Ettlbrick, Lambda
Legal Defense & Educ. Fund
NAMBLA

Man/Boy & Women/Girl Love
Women & Men Working Together
in the G & L Movement

Else Slange, LBL/F-48

Charter of Homosexual Rights:
Women's Workshop

Astrid Mattijssen, Homostudies
& Aaf Tiems, COC

Charter of Homosexual Rights:
Men's Workshop

FAGC (?)