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On 10th December, 1973, the United Nations Association held a symposium on "Human Rights and the Common Man".

Representative organisations were :

Women's Electoral Lobby  
Aboriginal Advancement Council  
Campaign Against Moral Persecution  
Single Mothers  
Divorce Law Reform and Human Rights.

The text of the address by the representative of CAMP is herewith reproduced :

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Some 4000 years ago, the leaders of a small desert tribe, fearful that they might be outnumbered and crushed by their neighbours, commanded their members to be fruitful and to multiply, and those patriarchs ordered that any activity which would thwart an increase in population, would be severely punished. Included in those prohibitions were any primitive attempts at contraception, refusal to marry a widowed sister in law and any sexual expression of love between man and man and between woman and woman.

Ever since, the homosexual has been persecuted by the self-righteous and has been the victim of the bigot, the sadist and the tyrant in the western world.

The homosexuals' only offence in the eyes of the law, is that their love is directed towards a member of his or her own sex - that by an accident of birth or early environment they are unable to express their physical love with the opposite gender.

The homosexual has been called a criminal - when his only crime is a different kind of love. The homosexual has been called a sinner - when his only sin is that he was created different. He has been called unnatural - when nature has fashioned him as he is.

The Campaign Against Moral Persecution was founded in order that inhumane laws, which attempt to force people into the same mould, would be repealed, to allow all men and women to express their love in their own fashion, provided that no harm is done to others. The Campaign was founded in order to educate the people to accept the fact that men and women must find fulfilment in their own way and that all have a right to happiness.

Laws which create crimes without victims, laws which even discriminate between the sexes, for homosexual conduct between women is not a criminal offence. Laws which in any case are unenforceable, are bad laws.

The homosexual male has been caricatured as a mincing transvestite or a dirty old man - the homosexual woman as a mannish virago or a despoiler of innocent girls. Facts speak for themselves. There have been great statesmen, poets, artists who were homosexual, such as Julius Caesar, Michelangelo, Queen Christina of Sweden, Sappho, Somerset Maugham and Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. There have been infamous criminals who were homosexuals, but the vast majority of them are ordinary people, tradesmen, doctors, garbage collectors and even members of parliament. They comprise at least 4 - 5% of the population and your son, your sister or your best friend may well be among them, unbeknown to you. Many of them marry, not by choice but because a bachelor or a spinster is often regarded with suspicion and the fear of being ostracised from society is ever present. Many are forced to live unhappy, unfulfilled lives, without the love and understanding which only true companionship can give. At present there are two young men in this city awaiting sentence, whose only crime is that they love each other and wish to be together, but the law will not allow such a liaison.

On what evidence does society base this condemnation of the homosexual? The law's main argument is that the Bible forbids it. Now we, the Campaign Against Moral Persecution, have no wish to quarrel with the Bible, but let it be said that this book has been interpreted in so many ways and used by so many for the purpose of oppression, that it is possible to condemn or exalt with it all manner of men and activities.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the declaration of human rights by the United Nations, we have tonight four other groups of oppressed people who speak on their own behalf - the Women's Electoral Lobby, who demand equal rights with men in the political field, when male chauvinists tell us that woman's place is in the home and the Bible commands woman to love, honour and above all, to obey.

White supremacists have often told us that the black races share the sin of Ham and exist only to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. The Aboriginal Australians have borne this lot for two hundred years.

Adultery and fornication are unforgivable sins. Single mothers, you stand condemned with us in the eyes of the pious pharisees.

Those narrow-minded bigots who would rather see two people live together and hating the sight of each other than part on amicable terms, cry: "whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder" - and put obstacles into the way of divorce law reform.

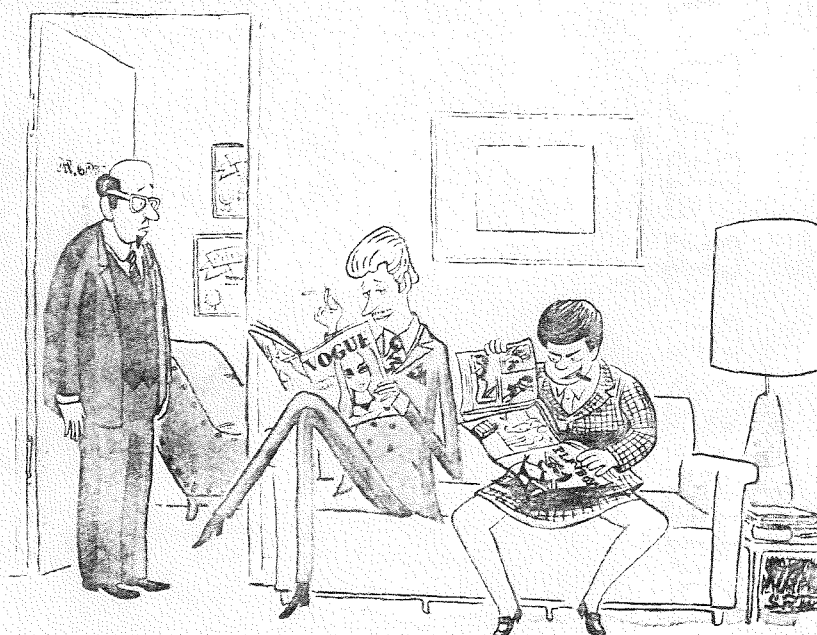
All of us speakers tonight stand condemned by those who look for hatred and sin in the book which preaches love. They castigate the homosexual, when the book tells us of the love surpassing that of man for woman, between David and Jonathan.

A few months ago the Federal Government took the first step since the foundation of this country to liberate homosexuals and to allow them to live useful lives, unhampered by obsolete laws. Last week the Parliament of West Australia initiated legislation in this State, to follow this example. Let us hope that sufficient members of the Upper House will forget party political considerations and align themselves with the forces of progress and human freedom.

The task of the Campaign Against Moral Persecution will of course, not end once the homosexual is no longer regarded as a criminal in the eyes of the law. It will be finished only when people's private lives are no longer the concern of others and men are judged according to their worth to the community.

The Campaign Against Moral Persecution, in the name of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, does not beg for tolerance for the homosexual.

The Campaign demands acceptance of the homosexual on equal terms and on equal conditions.



"Next."

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