

# Wolfenden report : to the editor of The Times

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Gradually, if you follow these hints, you may find yourself accepting your new part gracefully and playing it with ease rather than with bitterness.

Think of yourself as a member of the audience instead of trying to be «The Member of the Wedding», and some night you may have a charming surprise. Some night, if you are by now very good in your part as a spectator, it is just barely possible that one of the actors may descend from the stage, take your hand, and sing, «Come On A My House. I'm Gonna Giva You Everything.»

by Hadrian

From English Newspapers:

## Wolfenden Report

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The Government's view, we are told, is that the recommendation of the Wolfenden report upon the private behaviour of consenting adult homosexuals is «very much ahead of public opinion.» We have heard this fairly often in the past year. Mr. Butler, like the Bellman, has said it three times at least; it is, indeed, the one major contribution to the debate which the Government have so far offered.

Those of us who strongly support the Wolfenden findings feel that the time has come to ask one or two more questions. What is this weight of adverse public opinion? Where does it express itself? What credentials does it have for holding up indefinitely a reform of this importance? What qualities of humanity, understanding, and common decency are to be found in its chief spokesmen—and who, in fact, are they?

The demonstrable facts are as follows. The Wolfenden Committee considered the evidence for three years, and recommended reform by the decisive majority of 12 to one. Their findings have been welcomed and supported by the Church of England Moral Welfare Council, the Methodist Church, a Roman Catholic committee, a great many respected Christian and liberal spokesmen, almost every weekly and monthly journal of any standing, almost every national daily newspaper (the *Maily Mail* and the *Daily Express* are the only two exceptions known to me), and too many eminent doctors, psychologists, and sociologists to list. The society with which I am associated has over 100 national figures on its committees, and can testify to widespread concern among informed people about the continued enforcement of an inhumane and discredited law.

If this does not constitute an impressive expression of «public opinion,» it would be interesting to learn what does. If a comparable weight of opinion exists, in print or elsewhere, on the other side, it would be helpful to know where it is to be found.

Until the Government are prepared to deal with this issue much more seriously and constructively than they have done, many of us will continue to think that a humane cause is being sacrificed to political expediency.

Yours faithfully, A. E. DYSON, Honorary Secretary, Homosexual Law Reform Society, 219, Liverpool Road, London N. 1.

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Zurich remercie Bâle

En cette fin d'année, nous nous faisons un devoir de remercier bien sincèrement Ernest, Werner, Karli et l'ensemble des amis fidèles à «ISOLA». Non seulement parce que nous disposons maintenant d'un beau Club pour nos camarades, mais encore parce que «Le Cercle», du fait de l'existence du Club «ISOLA», reçoit en nombre réjouissant de nouveaux abonnés à sa revue. Nous en remercions encore Ernest et ses collaborateurs.

Le Cercle.

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