Homosexual Relations and the Law in Britain from



if possible, can be achieved.

the Sexual Offences Act 1967 to the Marriage



(Same Sex Couples) Act 2013

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homosexuality.



GAY RIGHTS

Conclusions:

Homosexuality was made punishable by death in the Buggery Act 1533 with

• Wolfenden Report 1957 recommended 'homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in

private should no longer be a criminal offence'. These recommendations were put into practice a

decade later with the backbench bill, Sexual Offences Act 1967 partially decriminalising

• Section 28 of the Local Government Act introduced 1988 under Margaret Thatcher stating



Aims & Objectives:

Introduction:

- To undertake research into homosexual relations in terms of legal processes and societal attitudes, through use of a funded visit to the Hall-Carpenter Archives, housed at the London School of Economics. The Hall-Carpenter Archives, founded in 1980 and named after Marguerite Radclyffe Hall and Edward Carpenter, is the United Kingdom's national lesbian, gay and bisexual archive.
- The time period of my research aimed to begin with the Sexual Offences Act 1967 and concluding with the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.
- To provide a background to homosexuality within the United Kingdom including knowledge of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 and Wolfenden Report 1957.
- Include various areas within my research including key legal processes, events and individuals, resistance to reform and international context.

'[Thatcher] is privatising homosexuality. Well I for one intend to take out shares.' - Ian McKellen on Section 28









the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1855 tightening the law on homosexual relations.

- Age of consent finally became equal for all in 2000.
- UK Government published Civil Partnership Bill, with the first partnerships taking place on 21 December 2005.
- The Government's Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill receives Queen's approval July 2013, facing strident opposition throughout legal process.

1533: Buggery **Act** made male homosexuality punishable by death



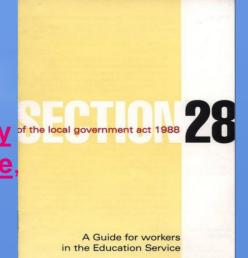


Offences Act nomosexuality

1970: Gay **Liberation Front** hold first gay rights demonstration in Highbury Fields, London

1972: Gay News first homosexual newspaper, founded -First UK **Pride Festiva**

1974: First rights conference Edinburgh



1988: Section 2 against promotion of homosexuality in schools & other areas



formed by **Peter Tatchell** and others

to 16, equal for first time -Section 28 repealed in

Scotland -Ban on homosexuals serving in Armed **Forces**, lifted



2004: Civil **Partnership Bill** published and became

marriage, with the first marriages to be carried out by Summer 2014

1855: Criminal Law mendment Act made all homosexual acts illegal, even those in

<u>1958:</u> **Homosexual Law Reform Society** formed

1969: Com for Homosexua **Equality form** -Stonewall riots in New York

1971: CHE changed First gay march in age of consent for gay men

1973: First national gay eld by CHE in Morecambe

1979: First Home Office recommendation to lower age of consent for homosexual activities

1989:Stonewall **formed** by lan McKellen and Stonewall

1994: Criminal **Justice and Public Order Act** lowers age of consent for gay men to 18

2003: Section 28 repealed in England and Wales

2005: Civil Partnerships came into effect with first registrations