

existing and proposed legislation.

We agree with the Law Reform Commission when it states that "serious offences should be dealt with under the ordinary sentencing law."³⁵ Many of the maximum sentences for 'sexual offences' are already quite excessive.

If an individual is to be imprisoned, one of the most drastic forms of punishment at the disposal of the law, the individual should be sentenced for the harm he/she has done and not for what he/she is or might do.

Therefore, the position of the National Gay Rights Coalition (as adopted at the founding conference in June 1975) is that

the legislation which provides for indefinite confinement of 'dangerous sexual offenders' be repealed; and that all cases of such indefinite confinement be immediately reviewed accordingly³⁶

This position is supported by the Law Reform Commission in its Working Paper on Imprisonment and Release:

The existing law relating to dangerous sexual offenders should be abolished. Further, a judge should be appointed to inquire into the cases of the men already found to be dangerous sexual offenders with a view to establishing a release program, a periodic review of their cases and termination of their life sentences after a given period of successful living in the community.³⁷