

MEDICAL CANNABIS PROTEST LONDON WED JUNE 25TH 2008



The medicinal cannabis protest, has the aim to get the government to change the cannabis laws in the UK, so medicinal cannabis users have the right to use cannabis without the fear of prosecution.

Win's View

I recently met a fellow campaigners Pinky (Jimmy) Starr and his wife Emma at the LondonProtest08, a protest where people stood for the right to self medicate!

As we got there, I was already quite medicated, I saw a carnival atmosphere, with bright banners and quiet people listening to Jimmy attentively, he was mesmerizing the audience. Looking among the happy, bright looking, familiar, friendly bunch, I saw many acknowledged seasoned campaigners, although lots of new faces, with a few police dotted gently around at the edges.

People were interviewing others, Disability Now, Release, NHS, the LCA were all very busy, Jan and June were giving out leaflets and chatting to members of the public, I noticed representatives from the British Coffeeshop culture movement giving out cards.

The police didn't mind people taking cannabis as long as they were not too loud, or too near the police, this I found out by being told not to smoke too close to them as it was uncomfortable for them, so I moved away.

Pinky and Crew were doing such a great job that the ice was broken quickly. Then Chris Baldwin and Pinky went to do the TV debate on Sky TV.

The crowd went a touch quiet, initially, losing their main engines, but the slow revs of good vibes and noise soon entered the passing ears of tourist visitors, most of whom smiled at our group.

On the return of our two TV stars after their debate with a crazy comedian, a sing along got started in a corner, which went down well. Then the petition was delivered by Pinky, Emma, Don and June. After a few more speeches, which were most effective. Pinky started putting letters on peoples bums for the mooning!

This certainly broke the ice even more with everyone, as you got your letters and had to hold onto your clothing strategically so, neither the letters or other parts were exposed, mixed sexes stood and mooned at Downing Street!

The police smiled and some moved out of the shot not wishing to be filmed in this. The day finished with a raffle, I was glad I'd been able to medicate as it enabled me to stay all day, because sitting in pain, no matter how much you feel your doing right, is an awful experience, the power of the herb is proved to me everyday, much to the annoyance of the pharmaceutical companies I should guess! A historical day for cannabis users and for Pinky, Emma and Crew!

Win

A MEDICAL NECESSITY PROTEST

The pressure to legalise and utilise cannabis does not abate for Prime Minister Brown. As he was whizzed past our sunbathed protest, some 100 medical users congregated from all over England making their feelings perfectly clear.

After the disastrous decision to reclassify cannabis back to class B, against the overwhelming scientific advice of the ACMD and against the majority feeling in the police force in general, not just with Chief Constable Brunstrom, this protest to stop medical marijuana users being prosecuted was almost inevitable.

Those who grow their own, because of large scale cannabis contaminations and no state control over it, and who do so for their own consumption within their private sphere, should not be prosecuted or busted in dawn rates.

Biz Ivoll, a prominent campaigner from Orkney, died from stress and harassment by officialdom, Lezley Gibson and Pat Tabram, both very ill and suffering from debilitating diseases, were dragged through the courts and harassed by an unjust law.

Cannabis provides pain relief and relaxation of muscles no other drug can shake a stick at, with no side effects in many.

Compare this to many prescription drugs which cause numerous side effects including: bleeding orifices, eczemas, itchy skin and much more. Frequently, those drugs are the underlying direct cause leading to the death of thousands worldwide, without regress.

As it is such a good stress relief, should not cannabis be decriminalised with a view to legalisation?

Putting on my cap as environmental spokesperson for the LCA, I can argue that the 55.000 products that can be derived from the Hemp plant, mostly in environmentally benign processes, it is criminal to deny us the utilisation of this plant.

Cannabis and Hemp could revolutionise agriculture and strengthen farmers, establish cottage industries and co-ops that would benefit nature and society. The savings for the NHS, should it decide to utilise this vastly unexplored drug, would be immense, sadly this also points to the lobbying from behind the scenes by vested interests, against such a move by any Government..

So whatever anyone thinks of cannabis and why it should be legalised, these above reasons all apply and some are vitally important to people as they make their lives more liveable, Gordon just had to hear about it and we thank everyone of the thousands who signed the petition to enable this.

Ingo Wagenknecht

IS SOCIETY REALLY THAT SICK?



It was announced recently that the maximum sentence for carrying a knife is going up from 2 years to 4 years. I then started thinking about the fact that the maximum sentence for possession of cannabis is soon to go up from 2 years to 5 years.

I don't know how you feel about this but it makes me a bit angry because it says to me that the Government consider someone who smokes a bit of pot to be more of a criminal than someone who carries a knife. Let's take a look at this:

It is illegal to carry a knife because it is assumed (and quite rightly) that you are going to use it on someone else. This crime will result in death or injury to some poor unfortunate person.

It is illegal to carry cannabis because it is assumed (also quite rightly) that you are gonna smoke it. This crime will result in a person who chooses to do so getting stoned.

I don't know about you but I've always been pretty miffed that the Government sees me as a criminal in the first place. The fact that they see me as more of a criminal than a knife carrying thug really rattles my cage.

4 Years for a knife, 5 Years for cannabis. Is society really that sick?

Chris Baldwin LCA



The Legalise Cannabis Alliance - We Don't Believe in Violence

- Quote Patman Rainbow Denning, Green Britain 2002. (RIP)

The LCA formed in 1999 as a political party, and over the years stood in many general elections, Howard Marks even stood as a parliamentary candidate. The idea for the LCA was to fight the politics surrounding cannabis by becoming political, and hitting politicians where it hurt, in the ballot box.

We gained support from all corners of the political game and then finally cannabis was reclassified to a C from a B, meaning lesser sentences for cannabis possession and dealing, however the law also brought the banning of smoking in public places, around schools and colleges and worryingly no definition between what was a personal amount of cannabis and what was deemed as dealing.

When the law changed people became comfortable, for many people class C meant cannabis was legal and no matter how much publicity the government put out, it seems more and more people were into cannabis, many believing it now legal.

But politics were becoming complicated; many of our supporters were now concerned by the war in Iraq, petrol prices, education, environmental issues and the future of the country as a whole.

We always raised our own funds for standing a candidate and this was always managed but seemed unfair when bigger mainstream parties had funding and backhanders.

As a single issue party, that finds such a diverse membership decided to put it to a vote to members, should we remain a single issue party with little chance of winning an election? Would anyone wish to develop a bigger campaign covering more issues (with a lot of work required) or become a campaigning group?

The vote saw us decide to de-register as a political party and become a pressure group with the same aims, and we could welcome people from any political party to join us, as in politics you can only affiliate to one party, and we knew there were staunch labour and conservative members that also believed in legalising cannabis.

ALL IT TAKES FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL, IS FOR THE GOOD PEOPLE TO DO NOTHING - SO SHOULD WE DO NOTHING? OR SHOULD WE KICK THIS EVIL LAW INTO TOUCH? BEING THE GOOD PEOPLE WE ARE! LETS CAMPAIGN.

EDITORIAL



COMMITMENT

I am relatively new to the LCA and am very pleased to produce this publication and look after media production. I must say that I have worked with similar groups on media production and publicity in the past, however I have never found the empathy and commitment that I have found in

this organisation. I hope to continue in this new role for me until the fight for the right to use medicinal cannabis has been won.

I would like to quote from WH Murray about commitment and how the forces of good can move and help those who commit to a just cause.

norrisnuvo

"This may sound too simple, but is great in consequence. Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings and material assistance, which no one could have dreamt would have come their way."

WH Murray

In recent months, we have been discussing a court support group to help people charged with cannabis offences, we have begun contacting other counties to link our campaigns, we are also forming a campaign Think Tank, and have recently attended Pinkie's Medical Demo in London.

We work with ENCOD and hope to open our campaign up to others who support the legalisation of cannabis.

We are currently discussing holding a meeting for the Think tank, writing to each and every member of the House of Lords to protest the governments decision to reclassify cannabis, and have an on-going questionnaire so we can begin using real results from real cannabis users to fight the law as it stands today.

We support users of cannabis and have our own set of aims and proposals that are the foundations of the group.

The LCA run a membership scheme and the fees help cover the running costs. Membership is just 50p per week or £24 a year. Of course we welcome donations which can be given anonymously.

Members benefit from discounts at many on line and street retailers and receive a membership card and access to our dedicated members forum.

If you want to change the law, join the campaign, we have an open forum for LCA supporters at www.lca-uk.org/lcaforum

Or you can write to us at LCA, PO Box 2883, Stoke on Trent, ST4 9EE.

Read history, find links for other groups and see our work at www.lca-uk.org and the cannabis campaigners guide online.

Or find us on Facebook, Myspace and YouTube for our own latest videos.

Free the Weed - Please

Clara



A ROYAL REQUEST

Our Pride, Your Majesty,

We, the Legalise Cannabis Alliance, represent the interests of those members of the tax paying British public who choose to use cannabis for either medical or recreational purposes.

Cannabis in our society has been around for thousands of years and is part of our culture, just like the monarchy. In fact it is well documented that Queen Victoria used cannabis to ease menstrual pain and discomfort.

The public has however been misinformed and lied to by the government and the British media, leading to potential reclassification of cannabis to the more serious Class B, alongside much more harmful substances such as amphetamine.

The laws against cannabis are being mis-applied, leading to Human Rights violation. This means that the law is causing more harm than good and is punishing those very people it is designed to protect.

The police invade people's homes on a daily basis across the UK for the sole purpose of stopping possession or small scale cultivation of cannabis for personal use. These are often sick people using cannabis for medical reasons.

This interference with the Private Lives of individuals, without reason of protection of public health, public order, national security or the Rights of others, constitutes an offence under Human Rights law.

The police seem to target otherwise law-abiding cannabis users in order to meet government targets. Unfortunately we, Your people, feel powerless to stop this.

We propose that adults be allowed to grow cannabis for both medical and recreational use, within their own homes without fear of conviction. We believe this will dramatically reduce the availability of cannabis on the black market and therefore reduce it's availability to children.

Your Majesty, the British people believe You are more than a statue or a tourist attraction and need Your help with protecting our freedom, our choice and our right to self-medicate.

Your Majesty, we hope You hear our cries and would like to invite You to a Medical Cannabis Protest in Parliaments Square on June 25th 2008. These are Your people.

Dilys



NUMBER CRUNCHING

Our government earlier this year said there were about 3 million cannabis user in the UK! The population of London alone is 7,500,000 and as a whole the UK is home to 60,943,912 residents, according to CIA world factbook.

Which theoretically means 57 million people do not smoke cannabis in the United Kingdom. Yet I guarantee you will not find a secondary school in the UK where at least 100 pupils have not tried cannabis in the last year. There are 4438 secondary and private schools in the UK, multiply that by a hundred and we are 1/6th of our grand total???

And what about the half a million medical users? What about the millions of employed people that use cannabis for recreation? What about the college and university students?

What about the religious users? This government needs to open it's eyes, Prohibition hasn't worked and will never work, its immoral and unjustifiable.

Quite frankly I wouldn't be surprised to find out that 10million Brits had smoked cannabis in the last year!

jimmy finch

Pride in Brighton & Hove



Festivals/Events - Brighton

'Pride Around The World'. Week of events 3, culminating in the UK's biggest FREE Pride event. Opening Times: 2008 Summer Pride festival week - Saturday 26 July to Sunday 3 August. Parade: Saturday 2 August 2008.

The carnival parade starts at Madeira Drive next to Brighton Pier, setting off at 11.00am The route takes it along Kingsway, up West Street, down North Street, left onto the Old Steine, along Marlborough Place, Gloucester Place, London Road, Preston Road, arriving at Preston Park at about 1.00pm.

<http://www.brightonpride.org/>

With up to fifty different entries, representing countries and cities from all over the globe this year is set to be the most colourful and flamboyant yet. Over the next few weeks groups, charities, individuals and businesses will be busy cutting, gluing, fixing, fastening and stitching to create the most fabulous floats costumes, and walking groups imaginable. Spectators can look forward to entries based on countries from around the world including Brazil, Scotland, Iceland, Australia, Greece, Antarctica, Noah's Ark, Zimbabwe, Bangkok, Denmark, Hawaiian Beach and of course Britain.

PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF SEEDS

On Wednesday 9th July Tom Brake MP for Carshalton and Wallington introduced his Ten Minute Rule Bill: Cannabis Seeds (Prohibition) in the House of Commons. The bill is a response to the vast number of concerned constituents who contacted Tom about the shop, 'Your High', which legally trades in drugs paraphernalia and cannabis seeds just around the corner from a local primary school in Wallington.

During the debate Mr Brake said: "My purpose today is simple: to prohibit the sale of cannabis seeds. That minor change to the law would send a major message and ensure consistency between the law on the sale of drugs such as cannabis and the law on the sale of cannabis seeds, which help people to grow their own!"

The bill was opposed by Paul Flynn MP who suggested that it should have considered the use of cannabis for medical purposes. Paul Flynn did not press the bill to a vote. The second reading of the bill is scheduled for Friday 17th October 2008.

source <http://www.tombrake.co.uk/>

SEE PRESS RELEASE ON THE BACK PAGE

Soft Secrets
Soft Secrets is published six times a year by Discover Publisher BV Netherlands



LEGALISE CANNABIS ALLIANCE PHOTO COMPETITION

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS!

Send us a photo of yourself (or a loved one) in an LCA T-shirt, badge or other LCA regalia. The wierder the better!

We want strange, unusual and/or comical photos for use on our website and elsewhere.

The photos must be of good quality and the person pictured must agree to being published on the LCA website and other related websites or publications.

There are prizes for the Best Four photos (to be decided by the Admin Team).

You can choose from a selection of seeds (5 feminized or 10 regular), a Honey Bee extractor or a 3-part Roor glass bong.

GET YOUR T-SHIRTS ON AND YOUR CAMERAS OUT!!!!!!
Closing Date for entries 30th September 2008.

T-shirts are available at:

£6.50 inc p&p via LCA, PO Box 2883, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7QU
or £7 inc p&p via PayPal on lca@lca-uk.org



Legalise Cannabis Alliance Press Release

THE COPPER'S DILEMMA

No Embargo

Cannabis Campaigners urge MP's to reject prohibition of cannabis seeds bill

In a political U-turn, the Liberal Democrats not-so-liberal drugs legalisation policies on cannabis was thrown into question last week by Tom Brake MP, who split his party in the middle by introducing Bill 136, the Prohibition of Cannabis Seeds Bill.

Ingo Wagenknecht, a spokesman for the Legalise Cannabis Alliance (UK) said: "Such a bill will not only be unenforceable, impractical and an outright waste of taxpayers money to enforce. It will diminish our agricultural choices and introduce a Government-led cartel regime as to what species can be grown. Farmers, just as with GMO's, currently growing hemp for industrial and medicinal purposes under Government license, would have to agree not to sell or save seeds for the next year, a ludicrous suggestion that belies Lib Dem unity on their policies."

He added: "The Hemp genus is far too valuable to us to have it further prohibited, indeed it is criminal to withhold it from society when it could benefit us so much, never mind the drugs that can be won from it."

"Whilst splitting the Lib Dems and self-deluding us into believing that they are tough on drugs, especially at this point in time when we are looking for real alternatives to our oil based economies when we want to cut down on CO2 and want to reduce harm to our youngsters, our future taxpayers and pension providers, this proposal does nothing to forward debate. It perpetuates the same old prohibitive messages that have served to proliferate drugs and keep it in the hands of criminals."

"How can you have a policy wanting to legalise cannabis and then ban the seeds?"

"Until this bill 136 falls, we will be advising our members to only vote for candidates that have voiced their support for the equal application of the Human Rights act, the legalisation and control over cannabis and for real harm reduction in society"

"The LCA urges all MP's to deny this bill a second reading on October 17th. It already represents a waste of public funds and time."

"In the two-month leading up to the second reading our members will lobby MP's, we hope to avert this bill before it becomes another unwieldy and useless tool for an overburdened police force and stick in the mud bureaucratic structures that are currently determining drug prohibition and harm on our streets."

14.July 2008: Press Dept: Don Barnard

Legalise Cannabis Alliance
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Event: Smokey Bears Picnic
"Big Smoke up in Chelmsford Central Park"
What: Workshop
Host: Smokey bear
Start Time: Sunday, August 31 at 2:00pm
End Time: Sunday, August 31 at 7:00pm
Where: Chelmsford Central Park

TRANSFORM
DRUG POLICY FOUNDATION

What's in a name.....

It's definitely true that the BBC is censoring the word "cannabis" on the 5 live website. If you go here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/mbfivelive/AddThread> You can put a new thread up to the moderators. Include the word "cannabis" and it returns a message: "This message has been blocked as it contains a word which other users may find offensive. Please edit your message and post it again." But neither "marijuana" nor "pot" return this message. They censor, but being the BBC, they do it in an arbitrary and ignorant fashion! Another way round it is to put the word cannabis in brackets or between asterixes!

MOUTHPIECE



WE BELIEVE THAT ANY POLICE OFFICER WOULD USE COMMON SENSE AND ARREST THE MAN WITH THE KNIFE BUT THE LAW DICTATES THAT SMOKING POT IS A MORE SERIOUS CRIME THAN CARRYING A KNIFE

ASK YOURSELF THIS QUESTION...

WHICH MAN WOULD YOU PREFER TO SEE ARRESTED?

POSSESSION OF A KNIFE
4 YEARS MAXIMUM
POSSESSION OF CANNABIS
5 YEARS MAXIMUM

THE LAW - YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!!

The Legalise Cannabis Alliance
PO Box 2883, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 9EE
<http://www.lca-uk.org>

WHAT'S THE MINIMUM AGE TO BUY DRUGS ON THE STREETS? - THE ANSWER IS £20!



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