

LIBERTY

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Minutes of Liberty Council Meeting Saturday 8 October 2005

Present: Marian Fitzgerald, Stephen Ward, Doreen Lawrence, Richard Stone, Lou Simans, Mazin Zeki, Paul Bogan, Martin Stott, Tish Andrewartha, Michael Ellman, Madeline Colvin, Nick O'Shea, Michael McColgan, Sarah Ludford, Louise Christian, Bill Bowring, Glenroy Watson

Attendance: Shami Chakrabarti, Gareth Crossman, Doug Jewell

1) Apologies

Frances Butler, Richard Clayton, Rod Robertson, Liz Atherton, Mohammed Aziz, Ghargi Bhattacharyya, Barbara Cohen, David Downes, Shaheed Fatima, Pam Giddy, Francesca Klug, John Lyons, Scarlett MccGwire, John Wadham, Fiona Horlick

MZ asked that anyone not attending for over 3 meetings should be deemed to have resigned and that resignation should be accepted. SC said it was not automatic and that the office would write to non attendees.

2) Minutes of last meeting.

Page 2 correction (2nd para) change to say 's.60 is being increasingly used beyond its original purpose – for example on the pretext of preventing robbery. Statistics show much higher levels of disproportionality than Section 1 and a low rate of arrest, most likely because there is no 'reasonable suspicion' requirement.'

MZ said he was unhappy with the remitting process and said the minutes did not reflect the lack of debate. SC said there been votes that there should be no debate and to affirm the existing position. Unanimously agreed to keep the minutes unamended.

Matters arising. RS asked to raise concern that the Home Office has disbanded the Stephen Lawrence steering group. SC offered to write to HO to say this was premature. RS and DL will draft letter.

MF asked for office to be aware of the increasing numbers of bodies are able to ask for parenting orders. The office will monitor developments.

3) Office update

New Press officer Jen Corlew has started. Thanks passed on to DJ for work in holding press phone as well as doing his existing job.

New Policy Officer Jago Russell just appointed.

Legal Officer vacancy filled by Anna Fairclough

Membership Assistant role filled by Jay Hunt

4) Campaign updates

Terrorism – there was some discussion on the anti terrorism bill and on the ECHR compatibility with the use of lethal force.

Closing down places of worship consultation –MZ, ME, RS, LC

Crime – Victims involvement in sentencing consultation N O’S, BB, MZ, LC

Culture of Rights – Forced Marriage MZ, ME, GW

5) Main discussion – Community cohesion and terrorism policy.

There was a wide ranging discussion which raised a number of useful points which the office will use in debate over the coming months. There was particular interest in the issue of faith schools and Liberty may need to develop further policy on this at a later stage.

6) AOB

There was discussion about whether there would be 3 or 4 council meetings in 2006. General agreement that 3 should be sufficient.