

I p c e

N E W S L E T T E R

Number E 30, September 2011 - Last issue

Ipce is a forum for people who are engaged in scholarly discussion about the understanding and emancipation of mutual relationships between children or adolescents and adults. In this context, these relationships are intended to be viewed from an unbiased, non-judgmental perspective and in relation to the human rights of both the young and adult partners. Ipce meets once every one or two years in a different country, publishes a newsletter and a web site, co-ordinates the (electronic) exchange of texts and keeps an archive of specific written publications.

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26 **Ipce's Newsletters and Meetings – Overview**

In this overview, you will see the content all Ipce's Newsletters, especially the reports about the 23 Ipce Meetings. By following the bold fonts, you will have an overview of the history of Ipce.

Introduction

Once upon a time....

... in 1987, Ipce started as a meeting, then without minutes. From the third meeting in 1989, a small Newsletter presented the report. Gradually, the Newsletter grew to a kind of magazine, giving the reports before and after the annual meetings, with gradually more articles.

In those days, once upon a time before the Internet, paper newsletters were the way of communication. From # 06, spring 1992, I have edited the Ipce Newsletters until now: the seven paper Newsletters thereafter, followed by the 30 electronic Newsletters.

I remember in the early nineties having had a great pile of about 80 thick paper Newsletters, copied, in envelopes, with written addresses and with post stamps - quite expensive and time-consuming.

Ipce changed

In 1997, the first electronic Newsletter was made.

During the Meeting of October 1998 in Athens, "IPCE" – abbreviation - changed itself into "Ipce" - name - and from an organization of delegates from organizations into a forum of individuals, each with a vote. Here, our Mission Statement was born. Ipce also decided to open a public website and to make the Newsletters, with the annual reports before and after the annual Meetings, public.

In 1999 the website started. Ipce entered the Internet era. Paper Newsletters were still made and sent to those who had no internet connection, including this last issue, be it to only a very few addresses. From now on, all Ipce information is on the Internet, with now even four libraries, all integrated in a new website. A Newsletter is no longer needed now. A renewed website, integrating the 'old' three libraries and a new Library 4, is made and tested in 2010, and made public in 2011.

For this last issue,

I have made an overview of all Newsletters, especially mentioning the reports of the 23 Meetings Ipce has had since 1987. These reports tell the history of Ipce.

In Memoriam

Excuse me to take a pause now for an In Memoriam. On June 26, 2011, our member Roy Radow is gone, silently and quietly leaving us out of a coma, the end of an illness that came suddenly, heavily and quite quickly on him.

Since many years, Roy managed a service to send news items all over the world, among many others to Ipce's webmaster - about a mean of five each day, year after year, many hundreds of texts.

We owe much to him. About 90% of all Ipce's texts came from him; only a selection of a selection of a severe selection has been placed. May he rest in peace.

Ethics

A part of the time during all those meetings was reserved for the internal matters, organization, finances, structure, procedures. Another part is spoken about society-related topics. Overseeing all meetings, quite frequently, long and intensively is spoken about ethics, actually the most discussed item within Ipce.

By doing so, Ipce has gradually developed ethical criteria, principles or guidelines for consensual and free relationships between adults and children - relationships in which

sexuality was not the great secret or taboo. In most cultures and societies, this taboo still exists in full.

This results in sexuality related problems in society and in adult-adult relationships. One of those problems is child sexual abuse, a term, for us, only referring to real abuse - it does exist - not to every consensual, free and harmless relationship in which sexuality is not the great secret or taboo. These relationships do also exist.

Be not surprised that this last Newsletter opens with a Statement about ... ethics. This is followed by a next collection of Absurdities in the Western culture and societies that demonize every kind of sexuality, even of any bodily or intimate contact, and even any picture of the body of a child. It are this kind of absurdities that Ipce tries to combat by presenting rational ideas and research on a scientific level, or "scholastic level", as our Mission Statement says.

Goodbye

Nearly twenty years, I have been and have signed as "Your secretary". Now ... 'Gone are the days when my heart was young and gay' ... and my body was healthy and vital - my mind still is, not so my eyes. Now, there is a new secretary, and I am the co-secretary (for internal communication) as long as still needed. I am seventy now, and I may greet you,

Frans

Statement: Important ethical criteria

Quoted from

"Positive Memories; Cases of positive memories of erotic and platonic relationships and contacts of children with adults, as seen from the perspective of the former minor, by T. Rivas, 2011; Ipce Publications.

The next passage is here:

< <http://www.ipce.info/host/rivas/discussion.htm#criteria> >

Important ethical criteria

1. Both the adult and child (or teenager) want to have a relationship with each other and experience the relationship as positive. The minor should be able to withdraw from the relationship at any moment.
The adult should also make it clear that any sexual contact should be intrinsically desired by the minor, rather than being just a favor to the adult. [...]
2. In case of erotic contact, there must not be any form of physical harm or unwanted pregnancy.
3. Personal boundaries of minors ought to be respected and any possible erotic contact must be completely consensual.
In case of doubt about the child's wishes (e.g., because these have not been clearly expressed yet), the adult should simply refrain from any erotic contact.
The initiative for such contact should generally lie with the child or teenager. This ensures that any possible erotic contact will be based on the child's own wishes and over-all personality.
Of course, there should not be any signs of manipulation or brainwashing by the adult.

Consensual 'pedophile' erotic contact is by definition based upon the consensual erotic activities that minors typically practice with themselves or other minors. Especially in relationships with young children, normally there will be no penetration, but only kissing, caressing, petting, mutual manual stimulation, shared masturbation, or oral stimulation, with only rare exceptions.

4. The adult must be honest about the nature and extent of his or her feelings and affection for the child or teenager. The minor should be made generally aware of what he or she can expect from the adult and from the relationship to prevent painful disappointments and feelings of being betrayed by the adult. The adult should analyse the nature of the feelings of the minor and find out whether they match his or her own wishes and intentions.
5. The adult must in general respect the child's personality, activities, and wishes, and the minor's personal, social or relational freedom should not in any way be limited by the adult.
6. In case the child or teenager has a relatively good relationship with his or her parents or care-takers, they ought to be fully informed about the relationship. Important parental decisions about the relationship should be respected. The adult should also make sure that the relationship does not negatively affect the emotional bond between the child and the parents. More generally, important boundaries set by societal, religious, and cultural taboos, and the law should not be crossed, as long as this might create a scandal or negatively affect the child's self-perception or perception of the relationship.
In general, any adult who feels attracted to a minor should realize that it may take quite some time (perhaps decades) to change the dominant perception of voluntary and harmless relationships, and always act accordingly.
7. The adult should not spoil the child too much but rather support a positive development of his or her self-esteem and self-control, personal talents and potential, social skills, and a moral, pro-social attitude. Sexuality should not replace other emotional or relational needs and the frequency of erotic contacts should be moderate to avoid so-called sexual addiction.
8. The adult should make the minor aware of the existence of real child abuse and warn him or her of non-consensual sex.
9. Not only should relationships be accepted by (benevolent) care-takers and relatives of the minor, but children should also be protected against avoidable negative reactions of bullies and narrow-minded neighbours. This implies a basic level of discretion about the relationship, although such discretion ought not to lead to 'secrets' towards other adults with whom the minor has a close emotional bond.
10. Relationships should never be ended abruptly and the adult should always try to stay in touch as long as the minor needs this.

[... ..]

In general, affectionate erotic relationships deserve to be continued platonically after the erotic part would have ended.

Only relationships that meet these criteria deserve one's respect and protection.

A role for the parents or care-takers

Ideally, the parents or care-takers have an important role to play during a close intergenerational relationship of their child.

By communicating with their child, they could regularly check (in a relaxed, non-directive way) whether the relationship and its possible erotic aspects really match the child's wishes and expectations and whether the adult adequately respects the child's boundaries.

[...]

More in general, they could also explore the adult's personality and integrity and make sure he or she has no (relevant) criminal record or reputation as a rapist.

Thus, their awareness of criteria for positive and safe relationships will certainly not lead to an increase of real abuse, but rather prevent potential adult partners who have good intentions but unfortunately lack basic empathic skills from endangering the minor's well-being.

Furthermore, de-criminalization of positive relationships will generally lead to more openness between parents or care-takers and minors about such relationships, but also about sexual abuse, and this, in turn, will be discouraging to real child-molesters and dangerous psychopaths. To ensure the child's safety, it could be a good idea, in case of doubts about the adult's intentions, to allow any possible erotic activity only after a period of months of exclusively platonic contact. This may also be important because it familiarizes the minor with what can be expected from the adult and prevents unrealistic dreams about the relationship.

[... ...]

From a moral standpoint, this inevitably means ...

... that, for the time being, it is, in general, not a good idea (for an adult) to engage in consensual 'pedophile' relationships with minors.

Many - or even most - consensual relationships will inevitably end up being re-interpreted as abuse, which may have damaging psychological consequences for the (former) child or teenager, in terms of confusion and guilt.

[...]

Only from a conservative, closed-minded outlook on life and human values may it seem obvious that some phenomena which are consensual and psychologically harmless should still continue to be regarded as immoral. Starting from any other approach, personal experiences are obviously more important than prejudices and caricatures.

Absurdities

Absurd fears

Schools bar parents from sports day... to keep out paedophiles

Daily Mail (UK), 04th July 2009

Parents were banned from attending an inter-school sports day to protect pupils from kidnappers and paedophiles. The host school said they could not prevent 'unsavoury' characters from sneaking in.

More than 270 pupils from four local primaries took part in the East Beds School Sports Partnership Athletics Day at Sandy Upper School in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire last week.

School sports day

Great tradition: The presence of parents is a big boost for children on school sports days, say critics of the ban.

Youngsters aged seven and eight competed in the long jump, hurdles, sprint, 400 metres and relay races. Their parents, many of whom wanted to take time off work to attend, condemned the ban.

One mother [...]: '[...] I think it's just health and safety gone mad.'

Mother-of-three Emma [...] said:

'I would have taken time off work to support my child. It would have meant a lot to me. I'm all for measures to protect the safety of children but lines must be drawn and common sense must prevail.'

Paul Blunt of the East Bedfordshire School Sports Partnership, which ran the event, said the 'ultimate fear' was that a child could be abducted.

He said:

'If we let parents into the school they would have been free to roam the grounds. All unsupervised adults must be kept away from children.'

Nick Seaton, chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, said it was 'totally unreasonable' to ban parents from a sports day.

'It's clearly a serious misjudgement. One of the great pleasures of sports day is that their parents can watch them take part,' he said. 'If you followed the thinking of this ban you wouldn't be able to let your child out of the front door.'

'2010 a magnet for child sex predators'

By Rivonia Naidu; iol.co.za; October 31, 2008

Children will be at risk from sexual predators during the 2010 soccer World Cup. This was the warning sounded by Acting Film and Publications Board CEO Iyaver Chetty on Thursday, at the opening of the board's Durban office.

He said not all those coming to South Africa in 2010 would be football enthusiasts. Among the fans would be paedophiles looking to target children.

Approached for comment, Childline national co-ordinator Joan van Niekerk agreed, saying they were extremely concerned about paedophiles entering the country during 2010.

[...]

Chetty said: [...]

"Our counterparts from overseas have already alerted us to the fact that child abusers and sex offenders from their countries would be here to prey on our young children because these offenders think there won't be adequate policing. [...] These offenders will be able to take advantage of our children, especially our street children and those who come from dysfunctional families."

[...]

Van Niekerk said [...]:

"Because of this, our children will fall through the cracks and we will lose them to sex offenders."

[...]

"We need to [...] send out a stern message to these paedophiles that if they harm our children, they will be caught, punished and spend time in prison. We need to provide a comprehensive safety net for our children."

She also spoke about the dangers linked to the proposed school closures for the duration of the World Cup.

"Unfortunately, a lot of the focus of crime prevention has been devoted to tourist and player safety, and if the national department of education closes schools for six weeks, who is then going to look after our children? School is a safety haven for them, and if it's closed, our children will become more vulnerable," she said.

Provincial police spokesperson Superintendent Jay Naicker said there would be task teams set up in the province to focus on all crimes, including those involving the sexual exploitation of children.

Post Office Puts Buffer Between Kids and Santas

nbcactionnews.com, Dec 2008

NEW YORK (AP) -- A sex offender is responsible for taking away some of the joy of the Postal Service's Operation Santa program: Volunteers who answer children's letters to Santa can no longer deliver gifts in person -- or even know where they're going.

The program resumed Saturday morning in New York and Chicago, three days after it was abruptly suspended after a postal worker in Maryland recognized one volunteer as a registered offender. A postal inspector intervened before the individual could answer a child's letter, but officials decided changes had to be made.

It was a shocking moment for the effort, which started in New York's main post office in the 1920s. Back then, postal clerks answered Santa's mail, buying food and toys for children. Over the years, the number of letters increased, and the program was opened to the public in post offices around the country.

For some gift-givers, one of the personal pleasures was to show up and surprise needy kids at home -- after rifling through piles of letters and envelopes looking for a story that tugged at their heartstrings.

Now, those opportunities for face-to-face contact are gone. Volunteers will no longer have access to the children's last names or addresses.

At New York City's main post office on Saturday, each letter had been removed from its envelope and photocopied, with the child's family name blocked out, if it happened to appear in the text. The addresses were replaced with codes that match computerized addresses known only to the post office.

[... ..]

Absurd arrests

Grandma Arrested for Child Porn

Radley Balko, Reason Magazine, May 4, 2009

Back in 2005, a WalMart worker in Pennsylvania reported 59-year-old Donna Dull to local authorities after Dull dropped off some film that included shots of her three-year-old granddaughter in and just out of the bath. Dull was arrested - roughly, she says -and charged with producing and distributing child pornography. The charges were dropped 15 months later when a Pennsylvania special prosecutor overruled the local DA. Only Dull, her attorney, and police and prosecutors have apparently seen the photos, which are now under seal. She's now suing.

In this follow-up article from the York Daily Record, state officials seem to be trying to reassure parents and grandparents that they have nothing to worry about - that you needn't fret about having your life ruined and reputation destroyed by false child porn charges for taking nude pictures of your infant or toddler. Problem is, their reassurances aren't very convincing.

Christopher Moore, a special prosecutor in the York County District Attorney's Office, is after "perverts, not parents."

Moore was commenting on the "gray area" between the typical family picture of the 2-year-old getting a bath in the kitchen sink and a picture a pedophile may enjoy.

"It can be the same picture", Moore said.

"But," Moore added, "that is not a reason for parents and grandparents to avoid taking those pictures ..."

"It's not what the (child protection) law was designed for. Your rights are not restricted in any form by the law."

But it appears that's precisely what Dull was arrested for. And the DA in Dull's case insists he was right. Or at least he's pretty sure he was:

[District Attorney] Rebert said in Dull's case,

"What made them offensive was their graphic nature. A little girl with her bare butt showing, kind of looking over her shoulder. It's a difficult distinction to make. What's a cute butt and what's pornographic?"

I think what she (Dull) did was stupid and in very poor judgment. It was an interesting case and I think we did the right thing."

So because the photo could have been interpreted as pornographic by someone who was looking for child porn, arresting the woman and ruining her life (or at least severely disrupting it) was the "right thing" to do.

From the description, we aren't talking about splayed legs or exposed genitalia, here. It's a kid's butt, and a playful peer over the shoulder.

I'm glad Special Prosecutor Moore overruled District Attorney Rebert, but that Dull was arrested in the first place puts the lie to Moore's assertion that this sort of hysteria "is not a reason for parents and grandparents to avoid taking those pictures." It most certainly is. Or at least getting them printed somewhere outside your home. Unless you consider an arrest and 15 months under the label of "accused child pornographer" to be harmless.

It only gets more confusing from there. Here's the prosecutor who initially approved the charges against Dull: David Cook, now in private practice . . . declined to say if he disagreed with Rebert's decision to dismiss the charges.

He did say,

"There was no legitimate purpose for those photographs.

I would never pose my daughter or my step-daughter like that. It kind of boils down to a gut feeling. If it feels wrong, it probably is."

That sounds . . . ambiguous. How are Pennsylvania residents supposed to follow the law if the state's prosecutors can't even agree on its application?

Here, once again, is Special Prosecutor Moore, again trying to alleviate fears of parents, and again coming up short:

"It's a subjective versus objective standard," Moore said. "You think it's cute. Someone else might think different. That doesn't make it a crime.

Lots of sexual offenders use the Sears catalog to get off. That doesn't make (the catalog) illegal."

"It's a reasonable person standard with the reasonable person being a juror," Boyles said.

"And reasonable people can disagree," Moore said. "That's the gray area. That's when it comes to us."

Boyles and Moore also agreed that parents don't need to worry unnecessarily.

"Family pictures are family pictures," Boyles said.

"But if more of your pictures of your kids are of them naked rather than clothed, you might have a problem."

So in sum, if you don't want to get arrested and charged for taking nude photos of your infant or toddler, make sure you know what criteria your local prosecutor uses when navigating that "gray area" between a cute butt and a criminally alluring one

(note: you probably don't want to actually pose this question to him).

Also, if you find yourself under investigation after dropping off a roll of film at the CVS, you might want to bake the prosecutor some cookies, since it appears that his "gut" will be the final arbiter of whether you're a doting parent or an accused child pornographer.

Finally, even if the nude photos you've taken of your kids pass the clear-as-mud "cute butt," "gut feeling," and "reasonable people can disagree/that's when it comes to us" tests, and are deemed innocent as a basket of puppies, you could still be in violation of the law if the state determines that the clothed to unclothed-but-innocent ratio in your family photo albums is inappropriate.

Got all that? Good.

Because they promise, you really have nothing to worry about.

Call the cops!

If You See a Father Holding His Child's Hand, Call the Cops!

Glenn Sacks, bloggernews, 25 June, 2007

If dad goes for a walk with his daughter and holds her hand, apparently Virginia Department of Health officials wants you to pick up the phone and destroy his life by reporting him as a possible sexual abuser. I would've thought this article about this campaign was from the Onion or some satirical publication, but it's for real.

One of the most beautiful pictures I've ever seen is a picture of my father walking on the beach near sunset holding my daughter's little hand. The picture [above] of a man holding a child's hand-a touching little scene-is actually supposed to make us think he's sexually abusing the child. Unbelievable.

To read more on similar issues, visit Glenn Sacks' blog at <http://www.glennsacks.com> .

Rush Limbaugh Covers Our Protest of Man-Bashing Virginia Health Department Billboards

Glenn Sacks, bloggernews, June 28th, 2007

In my recent blog post *If You See a Father Holding His Child's Hand, Call the Cops!*, I called attention to the man-bashing Virginia Department of Health poster [pictured above]. In calling on my readers to write and call the Virginia DoH [Department of Health] to protest, I wrote: [... see here above ...]

Many of you wrote the Virginia Department of Health, and apparently the poster has been taken off the website. Rush Limbaugh saw my commentary on the issue (probably via www.MensNewsDaily.com), and covered it on his nationally-syndicated broadcast yesterday.

Campaign advocates recognizing, reporting suspected abuse

Elizabeth Simpson, *The Virginian-Pilot*, June 21, 2007)

For years, campaigns to stop child sexual crimes have focused on encouraging children to speak up about abuse. State health officials are trying a new tactic. The latest push, at least in Hampton Roads, is to educate adults on how to spot - and stop - sexual offenders.

The 'Stop It Now' campaign - just launched locally - will urge people to call a help line if they see an adult whom they suspect of having a sexual relationship with a child.

Billboards and posters show an adult hand holding a child's hand, with the words: 'It doesn't feel right when I see them together.'

A national help line number is listed, and through it callers can get advice about what to do.

Rebecca Odor, who directs the sexual and domestic violence prevention division for the state Department of Health, said officials hope to reach people who might feel uncomfortable reporting a relative or acquaintance to law enforcers.

"We want to teach them to trust their instinct and, if it doesn't feel right, take action,'
Odor said."

[... ...]

Into the Realm of Insanity: When Mooning is a Sex Crime

By Marc Gardner; *Counterpunch*, November 18, 2008

Marc Gardner is a defense lawyer in the Bay Area.

In 1993 JM turned around, dropped his trousers and told his sister-in-law to "kiss my black ass!" The younger sisters laughed, compounding the indignity. To make JM pay for this rude affront, the sister-in-law called the cops. He did three days in the county jail and pled out to misdemeanor indecent exposure and credit for time served.

Sounds pretty harsh, doesn't it? Three day and nights for mooning your sister in law?

Fast forward to 1998 when the voters of California passed "**Megan's Law**", (PC 290) requiring those convicted of certain sex offences to register with the local police for the rest of their lives. Indecent Exposure (PC 314) is listed under PC 290 and is applied retroactively. Required to register under penalty of felony, combined with a taste for illicit substances, JM picked up a new state prison term.

California's **Proposition 83**, voted and enacted in 2006, prohibits registered sex offenders from living within a certain distance of a school or a park. Most urban areas have no places to live within the required distance. The new law has been determined by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to apply retroactively once a parolee violates parole after the election of 2006, no matter when the 290 offenses took place and even if, as with JM, it wasn't a felony requiring state prison and parole.

Until recently the parole officers have been looking the other way to a certain extent, given the impossibility of actually complying with the law, which explicitly forbids a parolee from spending a night in a non-compliant place.

JM was paroled to a Bay Area city where there are no compliant places. A brand new rule laid down by the CDCR is that one cannot be in the same non-compliant place for two hours. This is

very recent, as we've been seeing these two-hour-rule violations for about the past week or two. JM is fortunate enough to have a trailer and a truck, so he and his wife have been moving his home around the clock. This is probably not a healthy environment for someone with substance abuse issues.

This is the current state of paroled sex offenders: to stay out of prison they have to drift from place to place within two hours, twenty four hours a day. I wish I were making this up. Most of these people have no evidence in their history to show they are a threat to children, and many don't have a record of putting their hands on anyone else.

Things have gone beyond irrational into the realm of insanity. During JM's parole revocation hearing one of the Corrections Officers said that a "college stalker" had recently been at a hearing subject to this madness.

Granted, there are people who have done horrible things and JM's benign example is being used to show the breadth of the dragnet, but these laws are counterproductive in every way and from any angle given how difficult they make it to supervise the parolees and provide treatment, housing and employment opportunities, in addition to public safety issues arising from the unendurable stress that they're put through.

If the voters of California don't want child molesters living near schools or playgrounds, then Section 290 of the California Penal Code has to be drastically overhauled so that it actually applies to convicted child molesters, although it is difficult to imagine any efficacy to a law which foments homelessness and helplessness.

What the cops do

Public Enemy No 1

Denise Buffa; New York Post. March 10, 2008

The parents of two Bronx preschoolers are suing the city, charging that their kids were tossed out of class - and handcuffed by a school-safety officer - for refusing to take a nap.

Lawyer Scott Agulnick said Jaden Diaz and Christopher Brito - both then 4 and students at CS 211, The Bilingual School - told their parents that a substitute teacher took them and another boy to an empty classroom on Nov. 17, 2006, and left them there alone.

Soon, the lawyer said, the school-safety officer entered the room, cuffed the boys' wrists - and further terrified them by telling them that they would never see their parents again.

"I wasn't shot, but my hands were tied," Christopher, now 5, recalled, according to his mother, Vasso Brito, a 34-year-old office worker - who says the little guy is now scared of police officers. Brito, who's trying to transfer Christopher to another public school, said she was "shocked" to learn of what she considers to have been an absolute abuse of authority.

"Right now, I feel [there are] monsters in school," she said. "I'm still perturbed. As I'm talking to you, I'm shaking."

Jaden, now 6, remembers that a man who was dressed like a cop walked in, sat at a big desk - "like the one the judge is on" - and threatened them.

"He was police," Jaden said. "He said, 'You know what happens when you don't go to sleep in there? . . . 'When you go to jail, you're not going to have no fun, no TV, no toys.'"

Jaden - who asked his dad to move far enough away from him so as not to be able to hear his account of what happened - whispered to a reporter that he got a "little scared" when he saw the handcuffs attached to the safety officer's "costume."

He insisted that he was not handcuffed - though his mom, Sasha Diaz, said he confided in her that he was.

"It took me about a day to get it out of him. He didn't want to tell me . . . I don't know if he thought it was his fault," said Diaz, 27, an assistant teacher who now finds herself suddenly struggling to pay for her only child to attend Catholic school.

The families are seeking unspecified damages, said Agulnick, adding:

"Failure to comply with nap time is hardly an offense that warrants being handcuffed, or threatened, for that matter. Nothing would've warranted that."

The city Department of Education and the NYPD, which oversees school-safety officers, did not return requests for comment.

The boys' claims recall two other recent cases. In one, a mentally challenged 10-year-old Brooklyn girl said a school-safety officer handcuffed her outside school. In the other, a 5-year-old Queens boy said a school-safety officer snapped the cuffs on him inside his school.

'Evil destruction' of a happy family

The Telegraph, UK, 28 Sep 2009

However a new case has lately been surfacing, if anything even more shocking. This also involved the arrest of two parents and the abduction of their child by social workers, in a story so bizarre that, at last week's Prime Minister's Questions, Gordon Brown was asked about it by the family's MP, Charles Hendry, who has long been concerned with the case because the mother is a vice-chairman of his local Conservative Association.

The family's horrified GP [General Practitioner (Doctor)] says that, in 43 years of medical practice, he has never "encountered a case of such appalling injustice".

I first planned to describe this case in April, but was pre-empted by the draconian reporting restrictions on family cases, which, for reasons which will become tragically clear, have now been partly lifted.

The story began in April 2007 when "Mr Smith", as I must call him, had a visit from the RSPCA [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] over the dog-breeding business he ran from the family home. He had docked the tails of five new-born puppies – a procedure that had become illegal two days beforehand. Unaware of this, he promised in future to obey the new law.

Three days later, however, at nine o'clock in the morning, two RSPCA officials returned, accompanied in cars and riot vans by 18 policemen, who had apparently been tipped off, quite wrongly, that Mr Smith had guns in the house.

Armed with pepper spray, they ransacked the house, looking for the nonexistent guns. The dogs, released from their kennels, also rampaged through the house.

When Mr Smith and his wife, who was three months pregnant, volubly protested at what was happening, they were forcibly arrested in front of their screaming five-year-old daughter "Jenny" and taken away. Two hours later, with the house in a shambles – the dogs having strewn the rabbit entrails meant for their dinner across the floor – social workers arrived to remove the crying child.

Held for hours in a police cell, Mrs Smith had a miscarriage. When she was finally set free, she returned home that evening to find her daughter gone. It was the beginning of a barely comprehensible nightmare.

Her husband was charged with various offences connected with the dogs, including the tail-docking, but was eventually given a conditional discharge by a judge who accepted that he was "an animal lover" who had not been cruel to his dogs.

Far more serious, however, was that the social workers seemed determined to hang onto the child, now in foster care, on the sole grounds that they had found the house dirty and in a mess (the "animal entrails" played a large part in their evidence).

This was despite the testimony of a woman PC [Police Constable] (who had visited the house a month earlier on a different matter) that she found it "clean and tidy". Two hundred horrified neighbours, who knew the couple as doting parents of a happy, well-cared-for child, were about to stage a protest demonstration when they were stopped by the police, on the social workers' instructions that this might identify the child.

For more than two years the couple have been fighting through more than 100 hearings in the courts to win their daughter back.

From a mass of evidence, including psychiatric reports and tape recordings made at meetings with her parents (only allowed in the presence of social workers), it is clear she has been desperate to return home. It is equally clear that considerable pressure has been brought on the child to turn her against her parents,

One particularly bizarre psychiatric report was compiled after only an hour-long interview with the little girl. When she said she had once choked on a lollipop, this was interpreted as signifying that she could possibly have "been forced to have oral sex with her father".

After Mrs Smith alone had been subjected to four different psychiatric investigations, which came up with mixed findings, she refused to submit to a fifth, and this apparently weighed heavily with the judge who last December ordered that "Jenny" should be put out to adoption.

[...]

What is clear in this case, as in so many others, is that a system involving social workers, police and courts in what is an obviously very close alliance should yet again have left a happy, loving family destroyed for no very obvious reason, almost equally alarming is the way that system manages to shield itself from the world, through reporting restrictions which it claims are designed to protect the children but which too often end up by protecting only the system itself.

What the judges do: absurd penalties

Montevallo man sentenced 480 yr. for producing child pornography

Information from the U.S. Attorney's Office, December 10, 2008, nbc13.com

James Shawn Hulsey, 43, of Montevallo, was sentenced Tuesday, Dec. 9th by Judge Inge Johnson in U.S. District Court, to 480 years in prison for sixteen counts of production of child pornography. Hulsey's prison term is to be followed by Supervised Release for the remainder of his natural life. In addition, Hulsey will be required to register as a sex offender and no unsupervised contact with minors.

Hulsey and a female companion used a female child, who was only a few months old, and a male child, who was less than two years old, to produce child pornography. Hulsey and the female companion produced pictures of each other engaging in sexually explicit conduct with the minor children.

"Hulsey's abuse of this toddler and infant deserved every day of the 480 years he was sentenced to by Judge Johnson. May the light of day be denied to anyone who would abuse a child in this manner", stated United States Attorney Alice H. Martin. "My sincere thanks to our local and state law enforcement partners for bringing this matter to us for prosecution."

One-Size-Fits-All Government

John Stossel, blog, June 7, 2010

A Nevada woman named Michelle Lyn Taylor "kissed a friend's [13 year-old] child, forced him to touch her breast and asked him to have sex with her."

That's bad, but should the punishment be... **life in prison? That was the sentence that she got.** In the sentencing [...], the defense attorney argues:

"The sentence here shocks the conscience. The minimum penalty for first degree murder is 50 years. She could get 25 years for 2nd degree murder... She is getting a greater penalty for letting a boy touch her breast than for murder."

The prosecutor didn't argue that a life sentence was reasonable -- rather, he just informed the judge that there was no choice:

"This is the sentence that the legislature of Nevada has created for this type of crime now really there's nothing left to be done except for the imposition of a life sentence."

After delivering the life sentence, the judge offered a confused-sounding explanation:

Ms. Taylor, you were charged with a crime with this sentence and apparently you weren't offered any plea deal ... I've done a lot of these cases and I can't figure it out. To tell you the truth I don't know why they charge what they charge ... and why they give plea bargains to some and others not, but I know that you had a jury trial, and you were charged, and this is the sentence. Good luck.

Good luck!? Julie Stewart of the group "Families Against Mandatory Minimums" tells us:

We are following this to its bitter end -- fighting to get it overturned in the State Supreme Court -- to try to make sure that this is overturned not just for her case, but that they overturn the law.

Once again, one-size-fits-all government policy imposes its nasty results.

Breast Feeding Her Baby, Sex Offender for LIFE?

When does a snapshot of a mother breast-feeding her child become kiddie porn? Ask the Richardson police.

By Thomas Korosec; Citizens for change, USA, cfcamerica.org

The service was fast, the judgments even hastier. Never did Jacqueline Mercado imagine that four rolls of film dropped off at an Eckerd Drugs one-hour photo lab near her home would turn her life inside out, threaten to send her to jail and prompt the state to take away her kids.

Jacqueline Mercado, a 33-year-old Peruvian immigrant, took a few photos of her young children at bath time. A week later, Richardson police were rummaging through her house for kiddie porn, and a state child welfare worker came to take her kids away.

For Mercado and her family, last fall was a happy time, one they wanted to record and save in the venerable tradition of the family photo. Johnny Fernandez, Mercado's boyfriend, had just

emigrated from Lima, Peru, ending a yearlong separation, and on top of that, it was their son's first birthday.

The photographs they took over several days in late October included pictures of Fernandez reunited with the family at their modest home in suburban Richardson. Others captured their 1-year-old son Rodrigo, and 4-year-old Pablizio, from Mercado's earlier marriage, playing in a neighborhood park. Using the camera's timer, they also took three snapshots of themselves, naked in their bed. They arranged their bodies in ways that showed less flesh than most freeway billboards.

A half-dozen others recorded the kids at bath time. Fernandez took several photos of the boys "playing around," naked and innocent, with the oldest flashing a big smile. Mercado, who says she often bathed with the kids, is in several of the shots unclothed from the waist up, holding her arm modestly across her bare chest.

In one -- the photo that would threaten to send Mercado and her boyfriend to prison -- the infant Rodrigo is suckling her left breast.

After Mercado dropped off the film for processing, a technician viewed the images and decided they were "suspicious," according to a police report. As required under Texas law, he immediately contacted local police. Mercado says that when she went to pick up her pictures, the clerk told her there would be a delay, and then only returned three of the four sets of prints.

To Richardson police, who arrived at the store that afternoon and apparently made up their minds from the content of the pictures alone, this was nothing short of a felony case of child pornography.

"We thought they contained sexuality," says Sergeant Danny Martin, a Richardson police spokesman, explaining why two Richardson police detectives began pursuing a criminal case. "If you saw the photos, you'd know what I mean."

With nothing else to support their contention that the photos were related to sex or sexual gratification, the police and the Dallas County District Attorney's Office presented the photos to a grand jury in January and came away with indictments against Mercado and Fernandez for "sexual performance of a child," a second-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. The charges centered on a single photo, the breast-feeding shot. Fernandez and Mercado say they took it -- although the child had ceased breast-feeding -- to memorialize that stage of their baby's development.

"We wanted to see if he would take it, and he did," says Mercado, explaining through an interpreter that it was a spur-of-the-moment notion to which they gave little thought.

"Johnny never saw the child breast-feeding, so this was for memories. For us."

Mercado, who brushed back strands of brown hair from her reddened eyes as she spoke, has a story that has not changed from the start. She told the Richardson police officer who responded to the store's call that she had always taken pictures of her children nude, and that it wasn't uncommon in her native Peru to do so. They were innocent baby pictures, taken for the family's benefit, she said.

Five days later, when a state child welfare investigator and two detectives arrived at her house, Mercado again insisted that she saw nothing wrong with the photos. She allowed the group to search the couple's cramped room, and the detectives went through everything, including their photo albums, apparently looking for more evidence of child porn. They found nothing.

"We fought so hard to come to this country," says Mercado, a 33-year-old who was a nurse in Peru and aspires to become licensed in the United States one day. "For this to happen is unbelievable."

Andrew Chatham, one of three lawyers working on behalf of Mercado and her boyfriend, says it is difficult to imagine a clearer case of over-reaching by police and prosecutors.

"Their theory, which is supported by nothing, is that these pictures were taken to satisfy the boyfriend's sexual desires. These aren't pictures that were peddled on the open market. This wasn't on someone's Web site. This is just a mother who took a roll of film and left it off at Eckerd's. The state used them to arrest her, indict her for a felony and take away her kids."

On November 13, the day Richardson police "tossed" or searched Mercado's house, a caseworker with the Dallas County Child Protective Services Unit of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services took custody of the children and recommended to a family judge that they be placed in a foster home.

The caseworker's notes state that a supervisor, acting on the content of the photos alone, decided that

"the children needed to be removed from their mother's care."

Her hard-rubbed eyes drooping with worry, Mercado says she told the caseworker,

"Please don't take our children. We love our children."

In the months since, one of the couple's most onerous problems has been resolved.

In late March, a week after the Dallas Observer asked District Attorney Bill Hill about the case, he ordered the criminal charges against both parents dropped.

"It has some gray areas to it, but it doesn't rise to the level of a crime," Hill said.

He said justice comes from more than isolating facts and interpreting them in a way to make them narrowly fit into a criminal statute.

Still, at press time, child welfare authorities continue to maintain control of the boys, even though a lawyer appointed to represent them says he believes they should go home. In its latest legal filing, the state said it would not consent to releasing the boys until the couple jumps through more hoops, including a lie-detector test they must take at their own expense.

"They ripped out my heart," Mercado says. "Even if we get them back, I don't know how we'll recover from what's been done."

"How could they accuse me of doing something with our own children?" says Fernandez, a lanky 35-year-old who worked as a hospital technician in Peru before embarking on his disastrous start in Texas. "How can they accuse us of being something we're not?"

It wasn't difficult at all.

When Andrew Chatham first learned of the Mercado-Fernandez case from lawyer Steven Lafuente, who the family hired at the outset, he was certain there must be more to it than a picture of a mother with an infant's lips on her breast.

"I wondered what I wasn't getting," he says. "There had to be more."

There was not.

Police and child welfare files contain no criminal histories, no hint that there were other suspicions or evidence of child abuse or neglect.

Mercado and Fernandez had not been in the United States long enough to have histories of much of anything. She arrived in August 2001, moved in with her parents in Richardson and took a job cleaning a nearby Wal-Mart in the middle of the night. Johnny arrived about 13 months later and went to work cleaning stores, too, before moving on to a job in a budget steak house. By the time Chatham became involved in the case, which his partner Bill Stovall took on without a fee, the parents were devastated and penniless.

"I think the police department and the DA's office select people to prosecute who have the least ability to defend themselves," says Chatham, who says he took the case on principle. "If these pictures were on their way back to some big home in Highland Park, they would have turned around and left. They were going after easy marks."

Mercado and Fernandez -- who were released on bonds of \$ 10,000 and \$ 12,500, respectively -- borrowed money from their family to get out of jail and drew comfort from the help and encouragement they received from their church.

Maybell Palacios, Mercado's aunt, says her niece is as dedicated a mother as she has ever seen.

"She'd be working seven days a week at nights, and when she'd come home tired she had time for her children. To feed them. Wash them. Do their clothes."

Victor Jaeger, pastor of the Iglesia Adventista del 7 Dia de Richardson, says,

"The community has been very supportive of them. They see it as a big misunderstanding."

About a third of his Spanish-speaking Seventh Day Adventist congregation in blue-collar East Richardson is Peruvian-born.

The pastor says he was prepared to testify on the couple's behalf and explain what appears to him to have been a cultural misunderstanding. Jaeger, who grew up in Peru, says breast-feeding is culturally important in his native country and considered acceptable to do in public, particularly in the country's jungle regions.

"My cousin sent me a picture of her newborn, and it was of the baby being breast-fed," he says. "As someone who has lived here for 20 years, I asked myself, 'Why did she send me that picture?' To her, it was nothing."

To memorialize the act of breast-feeding in a snapshot is as common in Peru as wanting to save a photo of a first step, or a first two-wheeler, or a first baseball game, he says.

Jaeger says Mercado and Fernandez, who both have roots in rural Peru, "sat in my office crying" on several occasions. He has come to the conclusion that they are good parents caught in an awful bind.

Their most pressing problem was the breast-feeding picture, which the indictment characterized as sexual,

"to wit; actual lewd exhibition of ... a portion of the female breast below the top of the areola, and the said defendant did and then employ, authorize and induce Rodrigo Fernandez, a child younger than 18 years of age, to engage in said sexual conduct and sexual performance."

In other words, says Chatham, the act of simulated breast-feeding, captured on film, was being portrayed as a sex act.

"They're saying the guy who took the picture is a sicko and wanted a photo of this to satisfy his sexual desire."

Through the ages, Chatham says, images of breast-feeding have been viewed more as art than deviancy.

"Look at this," he says, handing over a print of The Lucca Madonna, painted in 1436 by the Dutch master Jan van Eyck. The painting, depicting an enthroned Mary suckling the baby Jesus, hangs in the Stadelches Kunstinstitut, an art museum in Frankfurt, Germany.

"My sister-in-law was an art major in college, and when I told her about this, she said, 'Andy, there are thousands of great works of art portraying the breast-feeding of children. They grace the halls of great art museums around the world. I could have used dozens of others.'"

Adds Stovall, his law partner,

"I was just up at Z Gallery last weekend, and there's a print of a woman breast-feeding." The breast-feeding Madonnas no doubt were done with live models, Chatham says. "You may think it's kooky, but through the ages this is how we've portrayed the bond between mother and child."

In late February, Chatham drafted a legal motion seeking dismissal of the indictments, using The Lucca Madonna as his star exhibit.

"The material at issue falls squarely within the ambit of the First Amendment's protection," Chatham wrote in his brief. "The portrayal of the suckling child is found in countless numbers of artwork. Whether the medium is canvas, marble or Kodak film is irrelevant for the purposes of First Amendment protection."

The motion was pending and being studied by an assistant prosecutor in late March when the Observer asked Bill Hill about the Mercado-Fernandez case.

"I'll look into it," he said. A week later, he said his assistant thought the case would "wash out of court" on The Lucca Madonna motion, so Hill says he ordered him to dismiss it. "I looked at those pictures and there were some quirky things to them, and I can see where the grand jury had probable cause. But a woman has her breast exposed, and her child is there. I'm not sure that is a prosecutable offense," he says. He says his assistant agreed the case was "weak."

Hill did not fault the work of his assistants who presented the case to the grand jury, or the police who now are reportedly perturbed that their case was dumped. The charges and the couple's arrests were no doubt "traumatic," he says, "but in this instance the system worked."

Not if you are Rodrigo and Pablizio, who have not been returned to their mother yet. Lieutenant Bill Walsh, head of the Dallas Police Department's youth and family crimes section, says calls from photo labs and computer repair shops are a useful tool in policing child sexual abuse and child pornography. His department makes several important cases a year after being alerted by technicians who stumble across the evidence.

"The law in Texas says all adults must report suspicion of child abuse, but it doesn't set out what the boundaries for that are," he says.

Once detectives review the pictures, Walsh says, it is usually a "no-brainer" which ones are the work of abusers and child pornographers and which are innocent pictures of bathing children and

"the cute one of the kid whose bathing suit fell off when he ran through the sprinkler."

Naked baby pictures and photos of toddlers' backsides are on display in work cubicles and office credenzas all over town.

"We don't see many sticky cases," Walsh says. "Child porn usually isn't subtle."

A photo of a mother breast-feeding, or a couple of smiling kids getting ready for a bath, or, separately, two nude consenting adults,

"aren't something we're going to be too concerned with," he says. "The most important thing is to look at the pictures in context. Under what circumstances were they taken."

To make a case against Mercado and Fernandez as parents, Richardson police and CPS investigators made no mention in their reports of any other photos on the four rolls, such as the ones of five kids at a birthday party. They focused only on the naked ones.

"It's like they took something from each one and twisted it to try to make a case," says Lafuente, who is handling the custody side of the couple's legal problems.

In his report to CPS, Richardson Detective John Wakefield wrote,

"I viewed the photographs and had concern of possible sexual abuse, inappropriate sexual behavior and possible child pornography from nine [of them]."

The four photos in which Mercado is seen with her forearm closely covering her chest, for instance, Wakefield described thusly:

"Mercado is in the photograph topless and touching her breast."

In two others he notes that the older boy was "touching his genital area."

Mercado told Wakefield, and anyone else who cared, that the boy had a rash and was constantly scratching himself there. She produced a tube of prescription medication to prove he was being treated for the problem, police reports show.

Her explanations and defenses came long before she was forced to hire lawyers, and they have not changed since the day the Richardson officers knocked on her door.

Lafuente says the actions of CPS and criminal authorities tended to reinforce each other, to the family's detriment, as the case has gone along. Meanwhile, nobody was interested in Mercado's and Fernandez's explanations.

"I wanted Jacqueline to waive her Fifth Amendment right and testify before the grand jury. They didn't want to hear from her," he says.

CPS reports, meanwhile, make prominent mention of the fact that the couple had been indicted on felony charges.

Says Stovall:

"The very accusation in this case carries such a bad taste that they automatically assume the worst. I tell you they are charged with possession of child pornography, and you automatically envision the worst possible scenario."

Lafuente says he has been willing to concede that the photos show behavior that some people of a conservative nature might consider inappropriate, such as a mother bathing with her 4-year-old, or being topless around the kids. Yet those hardly rise to the level of sexual abuse. The family lives together in one room, making privacy difficult, but that does not mean Mercado and Fernandez are not loving parents, he says.

At a December 5 hearing on CPS's removal of the children, Lafuente reached a compromise with the state to put them in the temporary custody of Mercado's former husband, who also lives in the Dallas area. Mercado says that in the five months since, he has given her liberal visitation

rights, but she and Fernandez cannot be left alone with the children, nor can the children sleep at the couple's house.

They also agreed to attend "group treatment for sexual issues" and submitted to extensive psychological exams.

At the group counseling, Mercado says, she has learned that kids in the United States are subject to the most horrendous abuse.

"Their parents are on drugs ... They're left with relatives who molest them. It's horrible."

None of it seems to apply to her and her boyfriend, she says, although they say they attend the sessions regularly and try to partake.

"It's about as useful as tits on a bull," sniffs Chatham.

In their psychological exams, which they made available for this report, the only problems the experts could discern in interviews with the parents were those heaped on them by CPS and the police. And those, too, seemed to be held against them in the less-than-empirical world of psychoanalysis.

"When asked about problems occurring in his life currently, Mr. Fernandez states that the children have been removed, there is little money for lawyers, and it's all a big injustice," wrote Robert Antonetti, a Dallas psychologist who interviewed the couple earlier this year. "He reported currently feeling anxious, angry at the injustice he is enduring and fearful of what may happen. When asked about coping with stress he said he's been praying a lot."

In his summary and recommendations, Antonetti mentions no evidence of sexual deviancy in either parent. Instead, he concludes that Fernandez

"feels very vulnerable to criticism and judgment."

The accusation that you're a sexual deviant who victimizes his own children might tend to do that.

The psychologist divines from his own psychological tests -- and no material evidence whatsoever -- that Fernandez appeared to be so "anxious to please" that he might be hiding something.

"The profile suggests the probability that he attempted to present himself in an improbably favorable light," Antonetti concludes.

Hence, the state-hired Antonetti recommended Fernandez be made to take a polygraph test before getting his son back. He recommended Mercado should be hooked up to one, too. He further recommended both should undergo parenting classes, individual counseling and couples counseling.

Two weeks ago, with a deadline looming for the state either to return the children or go back to court and ask to remove them permanently, Dallas Assistant District Attorney April Carter asked the judge in the case to require the parents to take the tests and attend the counseling before anyone goes home.

"There are concerns we need to address," says Carter, who is representing CPS in family court.

She says the store clerk, the Richardson police, the grand jury and others took issue with the photos and without further proof,

"it's not clear whether this was sexual or cultural."

She says she believes lie-detector tests would put that question to rest.

At press time, a hearing on that matter was pending. "We're going to fight it," says Lafuente, saying the state has dragged out the matter long enough and has had five months to ask courts to

order tests or counseling. He says there might be a disagreement over appropriate parental behavior, but it isn't something that will be settled by psychologists or lie detectors.

Robert Herrera, who was appointed by the family court to represent the interests of the children alone, agrees.

"My feeling is at this point the children should be returned to their parents," he says. "I don't know how strongly CPS disagrees with that, but I think this should be resolved without any more trips to court."

If what she and her boyfriend did was wrong, Mercado says,

"I'm sorry. I didn't know these pictures were wrong ... I just want my children back. They belong with us."

Extended therapy for seeing a book

Mom: Son in 'extensive therapy' after viewing library book

Brian Hughes; Florida Freedom Newspapers & Daily news, July 05, 2010

A Japanese serial graphic novel genre popular with young teens has raised the ire of a Crestview mother whose teenage son got hold of an adult version of the genre from the Crestview Public Library.

"Manga" depicts highly stylized adventure and, occasionally, violence in fantasy settings. Margaret Barbaree, founder of a citizens' group called Protect Our Children, presented examples from a manga book to the Crestview City Council last week that she described as "graphic" and "shocking," taken from material she said is "available to children" at the Crestview Public Library. "My son lost his mind when he found this," Barbaree said of the manga book from which her examples were taken.

She said her son had removed the book unsupervised from the library's general stacks last summer and put it in his backpack. She has kept it ever since.

"Now he's in a home for extensive therapy," she said.

Several months ago, Barbaree had circulated a petition bearing 226 signatures of citizens protesting the availability of manga, which she mistakenly referred to as "anime," or Japanese animation. However, the library said some patrons complained they were misled when they signed the petition.

"They told us she (Barbaree) approached them at the Christmas parade and asked them to sign a petition protesting pornography in the library," said Resource Librarian Sandra Dreaden.

[... ...]

Baugh also confirmed that the book Barbaree's son had taken was in the general stacks well away from the children's and young adult books.

[... ...]

That book had been in the general stacks, on a top shelf in a section with other graphic novels and comic books not geared toward young readers.

"We have policies and procedures in place to prevent underage children from accessing those materials," Baugh said.

Do not touch any child

Teacher banned for touching Boy's arm

May 18,2009

A teacher with 50 years' experience has told of her devastation after being banned from her school over claims she assaulted a pupil. Thelma Hoskins, 67, said she simply put her hand on the nine-year-old boy's arm after telling him off in class for disrupting a lesson. A parent made a complaint and she was ordered to stay away from St Winefride's Catholic Primary School in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The school's head teacher, Maureen Cairns, has also been suspended by the Catholic Diocese of Leeds.

Teachers at the school are understood to have rallied round the pair.

One said:

"They have done nothing wrong and have been treated disgracefully. Now you can't even tell off a child without getting into trouble."

Mrs Hoskins, who has taught at the school for two and half years, said: "I chastised a child who would not shut up. We had been doing some work and each group was showing what they were doing. I had him out in the front and told him: 'Do you know you are doing wrong? Shut up and listen!'"

"Later a parent made a complaint to the head. Mrs Cairns and I spoke to the little boy together and he agreed that he had been disruptive and said sorry to Mrs Cairns. I went off on holiday for Easter assuming it was all done with."

"When I got back the deputy head told me the governors had asked me to stay away. It is terrible when you know you have done nothing wrong."

Bradford Council said:

"It would be inappropriate for us to comment until the investigation is concluded."

Music teachers advised not to touch children to avoid abuse claims

Music teachers are being told to have no physical contact with children during lessons to protect themselves from allegations of abuse.

David Harrison, The Sunday Telegraph, UK, 09 Nov 2008

The guidelines from the Musicians' Union have prompted an angry response from teachers who claim that some contact is essential, when showing a child how to hold an instrument or use a keyboard.

The union says its "no touching" advice was prompted by members' concerns at a growing number of "misunderstandings" that led to false allegations of child abuse and automatic suspension while the claims were investigated.

The Sunday Telegraph has learnt of one case where a cello teacher was told by a school's child protection officer to stop touching pupils when showing them how to hold the bow.

A source close to the teacher, who does not wish to be identified, said:

"She was shocked and very upset. She was told it was to protect herself from any misunderstanding and accusations of child abuse. It's unbelievable."

But a spokeswoman for the Musicians' Union, which last week held its first conference on child protection, said:

"A cello teacher should have a cello to show a pupil what to do. There should be no need to touch."

The guidelines issued to its 30,000 members, most of whom teach at some point in their careers, say:

"Instrumental teachers working with individual or small groups of pupils may find themselves in vulnerable situations where their professional conduct is questioned.

"Any physical contact with pupils can be potentially subject to misinterpretation or even malicious allegations. The best advice for instrumental teachers is to avoid physical contact with their pupils altogether."

The spokeswoman added:

"There are occasionally genuine cases of serious abuse and they are reported to the police. But most of the cases we deal with involve allegations made when children misunderstand the teacher's intent or when teachers use inappropriate language.

"Avoiding all physical contact may not be the best way to teach a musical instrument and will not stop a malicious allegation. But if there is no touching there will be no misunderstanding."

But many teachers feel the advice goes too far.

Diana Lyness, the headteacher at Kew College prep school in southwest London and a Royal College of Music graduate, said stopping all physical contact with children would hinder the musician's ability to teach effectively.

"It is vital that we take child protection issues seriously but it is going too far to suggest that there should be no physical contact at all," she said.

"It's bad for the child and bad for the teacher. Children need to have their fingers placed on a keyboard or a guitar to show them how to play."

Neil Watson, 55, who teaches double bass and guitar to under-11s, said:

"I cannot imagine teaching music without touching the child's hand. I have to touch children to put their hand in the right position for playing the instrument."

Mr Watson, a former double bass player with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra who is currently preparing to go on a UK tour with Katherine Jenkins, the Welsh mezzo-soprano, added:

"The stupidity of it is that you could spend a whole lesson telling children what to do with their hands but if you take hold of them you can show them in two seconds."

But the Musicians' Union is so concerned about the problem that it is running a series of workshops to prepare members for potential problems in what are usually one-on-one lessons with children.

Last week more than 100 members attended a two-day event, in Peterborough, where they were taught how to avoid difficult situations and unfounded allegations.

They were also instructed in child protection laws and older, usually male, teachers were warned to avoid calling girl pupils "my darling" and "sweetheart".

Alice Lemon, the union's officer for the London region, said:

"We had one older teacher who used to take his small group of students for a drink of lemonade. He was advised to stop doing that for his own protection. Our members are worried because there are more and more cases of misunderstandings between teachers and pupils."

The unions says music teachers are particularly vulnerable because they are often self-employed, part-time or peripatetic and do not have the child protection training given to staff teachers. All allegations of abuse are kept on record and show up when a prospective employer conducts a criminal records check.

Ms Lemon said the union dealt with about eight child abuse disciplinary cases in the London area each year and received at least one call every month from teachers asking for advice. She added:

"We have teachers who ask their pupils: 'Do you mind if I put your fingers in position on the flute', or, 'Do you mind if I touch your hand?'

"Asking children can make them feel uncomfortable, although if you don't ask you could end up in more trouble. That's why our advice is no physical contact at all."

Rosie Brown, a child protection expert who took part in the conference, said a debate was needed about "safe touching". She said:

"If teachers feel that touching is absolutely necessary they have to find a way to do it safely. Kids need to know that not all touch is bad or sexual. We have to stop the false allegations."

Mick Brookes, spokesman for the National Association of Head Teachers, said:

"Teachers are vulnerable to unfounded accusations and are being treated as guilty until proven innocent.

"There has to be balance between protecting children and protecting the rights of teachers not to have their lives ruined by accusations which can be the result of a misunderstanding or malice. At the moment that balance is not right and there is a climate of mistrust."

Take a knife

Knife vigilante woman spared jail for kill threat on 'paedophile'

The Sunderland Echo, 24 November 2008

A vigilante who armed herself with a large kitchen knife to attack an alleged paedophile has been spared jail.

Michelle Smith said she was going to kill the Sunderland man who she believed had been involved in a sexual offence against a child, and also his partner.

Newcastle Crown Court heard how the potential victims of the knife attack were not at home and Smith was arrested when a neighbour contacted the police.

The 39-year-old told officers:

"I took a large knife with me. I was going to stick them both. He's not going to get away with it. I was going to kill both of them I had a lot of vodka to drink to give me courage."

Smith, of Patrick Crescent, South Hetton, admitted having an offensive weapon.

Defence barrister Julian Smith said Smith was drunk when the incident happened.

[The Crown Court convicted] Smith to a community order for two years with supervision.

Hysteria is dangerous

Did Pedophilia Hysteria Cause Child's Death?

Wendy McElroy, FoxNews, April 04, 2006

On Nov. 28, 2002, 2-year-old Abigail Rae died by drowning in a village pond in England. Her death is currently stirring debate because the ongoing inquest revealed an explosive fact. A man passing by was afraid to guide the lost child to safety **because he feared being labeled "a pervert."**

In the article "Day of the dad: paedophilia hysteria leaves men afraid to help," The Telegraph raises a question that applies equally to North America:

- Have high profile cases of pedophilia created such public hysteria that the average decent human being, especially a man, is now reluctant to approach a child in need?

Consider what happened to Abby. The toddler wandered from her nursery school, Ready Teddy Go, through a door left open. A bricklayer named Clive Peachey drove past her in his truck. At the inquest, he stated,

"I kept thinking I should go back. The reason I didn't was because I thought people might think I was trying to abduct her."

Instead, he assured himself that the parents must be "driving around" and would find her. A few minutes thereafter, Abby fatally fell into an algae-covered pond. Meanwhile, the nursery staff searched. When the mother noticed the staff near her home, she was told they were looking for a "lost dog" but the truth soon emerged. The frantic mother's search ended when she leaped into the pond to fish out what she thought was Abby's shoe.

She stated,

"As I grabbed for the shoe, I missed and was shocked to touch what felt like a leg. I pulled the leg upwards."

The dead child emerged.

Abby's case may be extreme but it hinges on a question that commonly confronts everyone who interacts with other people's children:

- Is it possible to touch a child in a non-abusive manner without risking terrible repercussions?

Before moving to this question, however, it is necessary to consider a related issue that arises in almost every discussions of Abby.

- Is Clive Peachey legally or morally responsible for her death?

For several reasons, I argue that he is not.

First and foremost, the responsibility lies with the nursery staff who became her guardians. Abby was in no immediate danger when Peachey saw her and he contacted the police upon later hearing a 'missing child' report.

Arguably, if he had phoned the police immediately, Abby would have been dead long before they arrived. Moreover, by coming forth, Peachey has accepted the damage to his life that comes with the public disgrace of saying "I drove past her."

Important information in judging Peachey is missing. For example, if Peachey has a family, he may have been reluctant to place his reputation or livelihood at risk. He may have balanced possible harm to his own children against helping a stranger's child.

Peachey's fears have precedence on this side of the Atlantic.

Last summer, an Illinois man lost an appeal on his conviction as a sex offender for grabbing the arm of a 14-year-old girl. She had stepped directly in front of his car, causing him to swerve in order to avoid hitting her.

The 28-year-old Fitzroy Barnaby jumped out his car, grabbed her arm and lectured her on how not to get killed. Nothing more occurred. Nevertheless, that one action made him guilty of "the unlawful restraint of a minor," which is a sexual offense in Illinois. Both the jury and judge believed him.

Nevertheless, Barnaby went through years of legal proceedings that ended with his name on a sex offender registry, where his photograph and address are publicly available. He must report to authorities. His employment options are severely limited; he cannot live near schools or parks.

Arguably, the law would have punished Barnaby less had he hit the girl or not cared enough to lecture her. Perhaps that's the equation that ran through Peachey's mind.

Again, Barnaby is an extreme case. But ordinary people make decisions on how to interact with children based on such high profile stories.

The effect on average people in non-extreme situations can be partially gauged through a study conducted by Dr. Heather Piper at Manchester Metropolitan University: "The Problematics of 'Touching' Between Children and Professionals." Piper examined six case-study schools through interviews with teachers, parents and children regarding the propriety of touch.

Commentator Josie Appleton reviewed the study,

"Reported cases include the teacher who avoided putting a plaster [bandaid] on a child's scraped leg; nursery staff calling a child's mother every time he needed to go to the toilet; a male gym teacher leaving a girl injured in the hall while he waited for a female colleague."

One school reportedly kept an account of every 'touching incident.' They stated,

"We write down a short account and date it and put which staff were present and at what time, we then explain it to the parent and ask them to read and sign it."

Appleton observed that this is more in keeping with "police logs than teaching children."

The last words encapsulate the problem. Touching a child, even to render medical assistance, has become a potential police matter.

Child abuse must be addressed but it is worse than folly to punish those who help children. Our society is creating Clive Peachey -- decent men who will walk away from a child in need.

Abby Rae died not only from drowning but also from bad politics.

Ipce's Newsletters and Meetings - Overview

In this overview, you will see the content all Ipce's Newsletters, especially the reports about the 23 Ipce Meetings. By following the bold fonts, you will have an overview of the history of Ipce.

The Paper Newsletters

[01] - # 1 - Year 1, Autumn 1989

The first Newsletter is actually **the report of the third Ipce Meeting in July 1989, Amsterdam**. Here before, there have been **two meetings, 1987 & 1988 (not reported)**, meant as preparations to the annual ILGA (International Gay & Lesbian Association) Meetings. After the expelling of NAMBLA from ILGA, Ipce continued its meetings as an independent organization, then being a meeting of delegates from then about 30 national or local organizations and some individuals. In Amsterdam, reports from the countries were followed by a brainstorm session and some presentations of researchers. Reports thereabout and about other projects are added to the Newsletter: Sandfort, Baurmann, Lautmann.

[02] - # 2 - Year 1, Spring 1990

This Newsletter was meant to be ready for the next ILGA Meeting 1990. Several national organizations and individuals had sent reports: news, activities, research. A long report of the 9th ILGA Conference in Köln, 1987 is given. The same about the 10th ILGA Conference in Oslo, 1988, as well as the 11th ILGA Conference in Vienna, 1989 and the European Regional ILGA Conference in Athens, 1989. In 38 pages, we read reports, minutes of workshops, and recommendations, most of the about Children and Sexuality.

[03] - # 2 - Year 2, Autumn 1990

Here we read the minutes of **Ipce's 4th Meeting in Amsterdam, July 1990**. Delegates from 12 organizations were gathered. They reported and discussed, among others about a (better) organization of Ipce itself, as well of its aims and priorities. A report is given about the 12th ILGA Conference in Stockholm, July 1990. A short research report (Lautmann) and some news items followed.

[04] - # 1 - Year 3, Spring 1991

This thin Newsletter only mentions the next Ipce Meeting and gives some news items.

[05] - # 2 - Year 3, Summer 1991

Here we see an invitation or the 5th Ipce Meeting in Haarlem, The Netherlands, August 1991. This is followed by an article of [late] Edward Brongersma and two essays about the concept 'pedophilia' as it is defined and interpreted in quite different ways with clearly different views on the background.

[06] - # 1 - Year 4, Spring 1992

Before the 5th IPCE meeting in 1991, the Association Martijn, The Netherlands, was the Secretary of IPCE, and so the editor of the Newsletter. From then on, the a Workgroup of the NVSH, the Dutch Association for Sexual Reform, was the Secretary, in the person of Frans, who has been the secretary and editor until now, now you read the 30th Electronic Newsletter in 2011.

This 48-page Newsletter gives the minutes of **the 5th Ipce Meeting in Haarlem, The Netherlands, August 1991** - the minutes, made by a USA member, located the meeting in Amsterdam; actually, it was nearby Amsterdam, in Haarlem. I remember this as a meeting of about 80 people. We read reports from several countries, among others New Zealand, Canada, Spain, Sweden and Italy, and organizations, as well as several papers, reports from other countries, essays, Australia, Israel, Austria, and a literature list, followed by a lot of papers from Germany and its several local groups, all written and edited in German.

[07] - # 2 - Year 4, Summer 1992

The Newsletter presents some questions and answers about IPCE, and short reports from several countries, Brasil, Russia, Estonia, Hungary, Tsjecho-Slovakia, Spain, Finland, and especially

Quebec, Canada en from NAMBLA, USA, including 'Recommended Readings' and a long list of publications from the latter.

We also see the first list of the IPCE Documentation Service, a selection from the same service of the Dutch group LWGP, part of NVSH. Until 2010, these lists will end Ipce's Newsletters.

[08] - # 1 - year 5, winter 1993

Here we find for the first time a financial report of IPCE. Sending thick paper Newsletters all over the world had its costs. Then we see the report of **the 6th Ipce Meeting in Amsterdam, July 1992**, written by a NAMBLA reporter and published in its Bulletin. About 40 people joined the meeting.

Many topics were discussed in this three-day conference, among others the influence of the media, fear and demonization of sex, new publications, censorship and harassment, laws, sexology, gay movement, demonization of sexually active children and adolescents, rhetoric, the 'sex abuse industry' - and more.

From several countries was reported, while other reports are sent and published afterwards in the same Newsletter. Verbal reports came from the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, France, Denmark, Germany, Austria, the UK and the Netherlands. The 54-page newsletter continues with reports from, among others, the UK, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Spain, Guatemala and several reports auf Deutsch from Germany's local groups.

[09] - # 2 - year 5, summer 1993

This 43-page Newsletter gives the papers for the next Ipce Meeting, partly being, or followed by, reports or letters from Estonia, Russia, new Zealand, Austria, Switzerland, Germany (auf Deutsch), Denmark, France (partly *en français*), Thailand, Italia, Canada, USA and the Netherlands.

The themes of the next Meeting are prepared by papers about ethics, the mass media, Eastern Europe (after 1989!).

[010] - # 1 - Year 6, winter 1994

Again, a financial report is given in this 61-page Newsletter, followed by the reports of **the 7th Ipce Meeting, Copenhagen, July 1993**.

As usual, reports from the eleven countries of the participants were given, now also Poland, and Russia. One of the themes was how to act, now the borders to the former communist states are open. The Newsletter publishes several reports and letters, among others from Germany (*auf Deutsch*) and France and Japan (*en français*).

Another theme was how to act with the mass media. Experience learned - then - that openness to the public media was the best way to act, even as it did not change the public opinion.

Ethics

A third theme was: ethics, discussed in three discussion groups.

The first group formulated a basic rule: "Be sensitive for the needs of others".

In the second group, four basic rules are formulated.

"The usual ethics in our societies are not appropriate to answer ethical questions in this field. The usual morals deprive children of every sexual, so many intimate and personal contacts. Thus, new ethics are needed on a new fundament: not 'Gods Will in Heaven', but 'Humanity on earth'."

The group agreed about some first primary rules:

- (1) De careful for the children.
- (2) Be open toward the children, to their feelings, wishes, ideas, culture ...

- (3) Have an eye for the environment of the children.
- (4) Create a safe space in which the child can express its real feelings and wishes; in such a space the boundaries can be broadened.

Even within this safe room, there are criteria for the acceptability of more intimate contacts. The group accepted the next four:

- (a) The child can say yes or no.
- (b) The adult has to be conscious of the norms and morals of the child.
- (c) There has to be open communication.
- (d) There has to be some support group or [social] system for the child outside the relationship.

When asked 'Is sexuality ethical responsible in a youth-adult relationship?', most of the members answered: 'In fact, quite seldom, especially if the child is young. Play *body-games* rather than *sex-games*.

The group mentioned three pitfalls for the search of a new morality:

- Do not search for ONE Ipce morality, but for basic ideas to search personal ethics.
- Do not speak about behavior, that's for animals, but about how to act in a responsible human being.
- Do not speak about pedophiles, but about youth/adult relationships.

The third group accepted as a basic rule:

- "No damage or hurt to the children". And:
- "Respect for the child's wished [goes] above the adult's wishes".
- There are great differences between the several age groups.
- "Extreme care should be taken to avoid manipulation."
- The adult should be conscious of society's norms, and inform the child on possible dangers.

The plenary session accepted the conclusion of the three groups. The word "care" (second group, rule 1) should be interpreted as tender loving care. An important differentiation should be made between consensual and non-consensual contacts. Several participants pointed to the quite different culture and its rules in the different countries. Be aware of your factual and actual social environment.

Then, a paper about ethics from the Danish participants was discussed. This led to a second version, the next plenary discussion to a third version, which is published in this Newsletter on page 15 and further. The reversed criteria are:

*Four primary criteria
to evaluate a child-adult sexual experience*

- (A) Did the participants [...] feel that they were in a position to say no or yes and did they really want it?
- (B) Which sexual values and norms did the child and the adult have prior to the experience, and were they taken into consideration?
- (C) Was there an open communication between the involved partners?

- (D) Were there persons in the participant's immediate environment who were ready to support the participants, and did such support actually take place?

These criteria are followed by 11 'possible reflections adults might make on child-adult sex and power differences'. See page 15 and 16 on < <http://www.ipce.info/node/99> >.

The Newsletter continued with several papers about a conflict between ILGA and its members NAMBLA (USA) and Martijn (The Netherlands). This conflict is never resolved: both organizations are later expelled from ILGA.

[11] - # 1 - Year 7, Spring 1995

This Newsletter opens with the report of **the 8th Ipce Meeting, July 1994, Amsterdam**.

As usual, the meeting started with reports from the countries and organizations, now USA, UK, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France, Poland, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, New Zealand, Greece and the Netherlands. There was a written report from the Canary Islands.

A first problem spoken about was child prostitution in countries as Thailand. Prostitution as such was condemned, but politicians must have an eye for the intense poverty of families in such countries, one of the sources of the child prostitution there.

Ethics and morals was the next subject.

All participating organizations were asked to discuss the papers mentioned here above in Newsletter [10], 1994. It appeared that only a Dutch group had done this and could report about it.

In general, the papers are seen as a good start, but with several unclear passages and terms, and more a list of targets than a list of usable criteria: "Only saints can perform this". Not usable for jurists, politicians or the general public. The papers are good to start an internal discussion, not yet for a public discussion. The 'targets' and 'questions' should be reformulated into 'criteria'.

In the discussion, most participants agreed with this view. More difference should be along the line of the age of the child. And the 'criteria' should be usable as 'guidelines'.

Followed some presentations, one by Don Mader, another by the Dutch group, named "Two different worlds", referring to the discourse of 'the sexual abuse of children' and the 'positively experienced ... contacts ...'.

A part of the meeting, and thus of the Newsletter, was devoted to the internal Ipce regulations as name, membership, admission to the meetings, voting rights, financial dues, the Newsletter, the task of the Secretary, the languages, and more.

The next section of this Newsletter presented several papers about the conflict between ILGA and three 'pedophilia-minded' organizations, NAMBLA (USA), Martijn (the Netherlands) and BVH/VSG, two gay groups in Germany. The papers are partly in German. Now, expelling from ILGA was a fact.

A mix of news, book reviews, parts of books, and *Nouvelles de France*, as well as the next Documentation Service List, concluded the 62 pages of this Newsletter.

[12] - # 1 - Year 8, Summer 1996

This Newsletter opens with the conference papers for the next Ipce Meeting in Copenhagen, followed by the report of **the 9th Ipce Meeting in Amsterdam, summer 1995**.

First we had the reports from the countries: Greece, Denmark, New Zealand, US, UK, Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, the latter presenting the

about twenty local groups or national organizations in this field.

The first theme was 'How to survive' as a group and as individuals.

The next strategies are mentioned: diversity, flexibility, responsibility, self-confidence, use of publicity and openness where this is still possible.

The second theme was 'Ethics, morals and distinctions'.

The main concept discussed was 'consent' - not to be seen as a simple yes or no, but rather as an interpersonal process, not free from the social context, which quite differs by culture, country and era. You have to know the reasons, consciousness, motives and feelings behind a yes or no. Note, that in most cultures nowadays nearly nobody will really listen to the child.

The ethics and morals developed now within Ipce cannot be juridical criteria; it are ethic guidelines rather than exact criteria.

The third theme was 'Religion and inter-generational relationships',

introduced by Reverend Don Mader, who gave us an overview of literature and practice in several religious communities. Don is a volunteer in a Rotterdam church, lead by Reverend Hans Visser, who actively helps many minority groups, as drug users and people with pedophilic feelings.

Churches and other religious communities, and their sacred texts are, seen over ages, very different in sexual matters. The oldest ones have had more freedom, until - among other influences - Platonism and neo-Platonism preached a more strict moral in cases of the body and sexuality. Fundamentalism and strict rules are lively still today, but there are also communities that are more open for the human side of the human being. Sometimes, the old spirit is discovered again.

The fourth theme was: 'Intergenerational intimacy and working with children'.

Introductions were given by a child care worker and by me, Frans, about my research project about handling conflicts so that the worker can create and maintain a child-loving atmosphere in which affection can be given. Neither 'controlling the behavior', nor 'avoiding the conflict' can result in such an atmosphere, only 'meeting the person' can do this. It is the art of this profession, child care worker, to avoid and prevent sexuality, but to create and maintain all other kinds of affection and intimacy the children need.

Also the internal organization of Ipce was subject of discussion and decisions. The proposals of the year before were, some more or less changed, changed into decisions about membership, voting rights, admission, and more. Some of the proposals were moved on to the next meeting. The next section of this Newsletter gives a variety of articles, partly written by Ipce members. One of the articles came from a group in Quebec, Canada, with schemes and lists about *Trois niveaux de confrontation idéologique / Pedophilia* and three ideological perspectives, partly in French, partly in English: Traditionalism, and two kinds of Neutral modernism. Articles in German and some various contributions ended, with the Documentation Service List, this 64-page Newsletter - the last paper version.

The electronic Newsletters

In 1995, still was said the Ipce had not to be mentioned on the Internet, this opinion changed. In 1997, the first electronic Newsletter was sent, still only to the members, by e-mail, on diskette, and still on paper. Since the Meeting in 1998 had taken important decisions, from 1999 Ipce opened its website on line, and made the Newsletters, thus also the reports of the meetings, publicly available, starting with Newsletter E(lectronic) # 1. Because these Newsletters now are

easily to find on the Ipce website, the description may be short. More attention is given to the annual meetings, because they reflect the history of Ipce.

E-01, July 1997

The Newsletter gives (only, except an addition) the minutes of **the 10th Ipce Meeting in Copenhagen, summer 1996**.

As usual, reports from the countries opened the Meeting. Among others Greece, France, Sweden, Italy and New Zealand.

- A first theme was: how to react to the child abuse industry?
- A second theme: how to use Internet for internal and external communication? Proposed, and later decided, was to open an e-mail list for members only, and still not to start a website for the public. Also the Newsletters are given in an electronic format.
- Third theme: How to survive, as IPCE, and as a national and local group?
- Fourth theme: the relations with the gay movement; participants reported from their country hereabout.
- Followed: internal discussions and decisions about the structure, the rules and regulations of Ipce. Remembering and re-accepting the rules formed in 1994 and 1995, now a complete set of rules was decided to.
 - [Note, that the same structure and rules thoroughly have been changed in 1998.]

A financial report ended the Newsletter.

E-02, October 1997

Here we see the report of **the 11th Ipce meeting in München, July 1997**.

After the reports from the countries, now also Spain and Austria, followed a theme: report and discussion about the relations with the gay movement. Then, a media experiment and training was presented.

A next question was:

"Is lowering the legal age of consent a good aim for IPCE members? If yes, what should be that age? Is it better to combat age of consent laws? Is there a better criterion than age? Is there an alternative?"

The conclusion:

"The delegates were all agreed that a legal age of consent is not the right criterion. If a country lowers the age of consent, we can only agree if we interpret this as a little step on the way, an intermediate step on a longer way. A legal age of consent, even a lower age, should not be our final aim. In the meantime, we should work to develop alternative solutions."

Then, Ipce decided about Ipce: to continue the mailing list, still to not start a public website. The rule that an organization should manage the function of the secretary was changed: now also a capable person could be the secretary. So, I, Frans, continued my task, but now as a person.

The last day of the Meeting, the German groups presented themselves. An impressive number of groups and people filled the room and had an open interview. The evaluation of the meeting was, as usable, quite positive.

One article ended the Newsletter (and the Documentation Service List): a call for reports about positively experienced 'pedofilic' relationships. This was in 1997.

- Note, that the result of this, many years later, in 2011 ended in a book, published by Ipce: "Positive Memories": < http://www.ipce.info/host/rivas/positive_memories.htm >

E-03, September 1998

This Newsletter presents a lot of articles. Because the table of contents, and the Newsletter, is easily to find by clicking on the link here above, a short description will be enough.

First, eight *in memoriam*'s: four men, four boys ...

Then: opinions about Ipce itself, meant as a preparation to the next meeting, just once month later.

Follow several articles from several countries with several opinions. Then some more scientific articles and the usual Documentation Service List.

Ipce changes itself: important Meeting

E-04, January 1999

During the 12th Ipce Meeting in Athens, October 1998, Ipce has changed itself by some important decisions:

- The name changed from "IPCE" - abbreviation - into "Ipce" - name.
- A Mission Statement is formulated, that since then is given on page 1 or 2 of every Newsletter.
- Ipce changed itself from an 'organization with (delegates of) organizations' as members (with a complex voting system) , into a forum with only individuals as members, whereby each member present at the meeting had one voice.
- A website would be built with articles and the Newsletters, from then on publicly readable.

As usual, a financial report is presented and published.

Reports of the countries follow, partly told by letters, among others from French, Ireland and Australia.

Followed some themes discussed during the meeting: orientation, helping each other, the ancient Greeks, concepts, and Youth's turn of 180°:

"... that which was supposed to be consensual and positive is now apparently seen as coercive and negative. Supposedly, thus turnabout is not predictable; it seems to be a 50/50 chance. Maybe, for a child, sex is just a playful activity only. Later, sex is explained to them and then it becomes a problem. Or is it that the social climate is influencing the youth to make this turn in their feelings?"

The next section of meeting and thus Newsletter is devoted to the attempt to start a new gay and lesbian organization, to be named "IOLH - International Organization for the Liberation of Homosexuality", as a counterbalance to ILGA. There has been a conference in Barcelona, from which a Manifest is translated from Spanish. Regrettably, the new organization has never come to live.

An article (Statement) from Germany (in German) and the list of documents end this Newsletter.

E-05, February 1999

The first part of this Newsletter is dedicated to the UNESCO Conference, hold in Paris, January 1999. Given are long quotes (with comment) from the conference papers, as well as the decisions of the conference. Two critical letters to the conference, written by Ipce members, are given in full text.

What follows, are a section with two background articles, and a section of Opinion and discussion, in which two threads from the forum BoyChat are presented here: "Difficult childhood?" and "Tolerance, please".

The Newsletter is closed by "The Doctor and the Reverend", presenting two articles by [now late] Dr Frits Bernard - in German - and by Rev. Hans Visser, Paul's Church, Rotterdam, the Netherlands: "Pastorate and pedophilia".

E-06, July 1999

The first section is about "Repression of Eros and it's alternative": six articles.

Then, a section "Groups discuss" with a letter from DPA to UNESCO, and a report of a conference in Leipzig about "Psychosocial effects of pedophilia".

The third group discussing is actually Ipce itself. Actually it reports **an informal Ipce Meeting 1999 On Line**:

There was no Ipce Meeting this summer because our host, the Lambda Group in Barcelona, did not invite us. So we have met only on line. For those who only read the paper version of the Newsletter, I've made this overview of the discussion and the voting.

The discussion took place on the E-mail list, named "IMO" = Ipce Meets Online. Most of the messages are archived at the internal IMO web site, known by the IMO List members.

You will see that the mission statement (or the colophon at the first or second page of each newsletter) has been changed, but not (yet?) the name. The discussion about another name and the mission statement is still ongoing."

The Newsletter presents the quite long discussion thread in the form of quotes, followed by the decision made by on-line agreement.

The next section present some more scientific articles, especially about the research of the Rind c.s. Team, presented in 1998.

E-07, December 1999

The newsletter presents articles, some about the Rind c.s. research.

E-08, June 2000

This Newsletter presents the papers for the next Ipce Meeting, July 2000, about the theme "What to do?" and the internal papers as the annual reports of the secretary, the webmaster and the treasurer.

This is followed by a section "Scientists speak out": Foucault, Van Ree (NLs), James Kincaid. It ends with the documentation list.

E-09, August 2000

The Newsletter reports **the 13th Ipce Meeting in the East of the Netherlands, June-July 2000**, and two related articles.

The Statement - most Newsletters open with a Statement - is important: Universal sexual human rights.

The theme of the meeting was "What to do? What can we do? What can I do?" This was discussed in two rounds. The question can be answered on several levels.

- Firstly, there is the personal level. This level can be seen as a very important one. Everyone should try to be as honest and open as possible in his or her personal environment. Everyone can prove to be a human being and not a demon or a monster.

- Secondly, there is the internal level. On this level, people should support each other. Supporting prisoners and ex-prisoners was one of the issues of the meeting. Every member should, it was said, support at least one prisoner. Also newcomers should be welcomed and supported in finding their way of living. Also accused people, falsely or not, should receive support and information.
- Most of the Ipce members are active people, makers of magazines, web sites, leaders of groups or writers of books and articles. Members can support each other. Try to connect people with each other. Exchange documents, make libraries, learn languages.
- Thirdly, there is the public level. On this level, we make magazines or web sites; we write books and articles; we write to critical reporters and politicians. This is not easily done. One has to think clearly about the concepts and words to be used and whom we want to reach. The Ipce web site is such a public site that seems to work quite well. The Ipce web has a German and a French section as well now. A Spanish section is in preparation. A lecture for a congress of sexology in Paris, in 2000 as well in 2001 is also such a project.
- More on the background, everyone can gather documents, books and articles and can formulate insights to use them later on. Learn about the world and think. Learn from experiences and history. Learn about the phobias and the ideologies. Study the laws and think about ethics. Be independent and organize your life in good order.

The internal matters included among others the annual financial report, and a decision about the voting system en rights: now every member can vote by e-mail - for some still by paper post. If the majority agrees with a proposal, Ipce has accepted the proposal.

Three projects were discussed. One of them was to participate in the World Congress of Sexologists in Paris, 2001. Followed a lecture by me, Frans: Treatment, self-help and real therapy.

Then, the Dutch groups presented themselves: ten groups, each with a presentation and a discussion.

Added are two related articles:

- Sexual Privacy for Paedophiles and Children, by Tom O'Carroll; paper, Sympisition on Sexual privacy, Paris 2000, and
- An Outline of Major Events in the UK from January 1999 - May 2000.

E-10, April 2001

Articles.

E-11, July 2001

This issue gives the two lectures made for the 15th World Congress of Sexology, Paris, June 2001:

- one (presented during the congress) of Frans Gieles (in English, French, German and Spanish),
- the other (refused by the congress management) of Tom O'Carroll; both with background articles.

E-12, August 2001

Here Ipce presents its report of **the 14th Ipce Meeting, Berlin, June & July 2001**. We see an introduction by the secretary: "What is Ipce and what is it not?"

This was just the hidden question of an undercover journalist from Finland, present during the Meeting. His report was mentioned in a TV documentary, titled "Child sex network", was aired in Finnish television on 9.10.2001, partly translated in a later Newsletter, # E-19, under "A Journalist reported about Ipce":

"Among the hundreds of pedophile internet sites that caught ones eye, there is one were the discussion is more legitimate. An organization called Ipce has collected a lot of literature on the subject. There are no pictures on the site and no links to child pornography. [...]

About 20 pedophiles from different parts of the world gathered at a hotel favored by backpackers. Among them several doctors; medical doctors, sociologists, former teachers, several computer specialists, students and a couple of journalists. [...]

The beginning of the meeting resembles very much a therapy session where everyone tells there life story and the happy and not so happy moments from the last year.

There are not many happy moments to tell about. [...]

The results of scientific research interest the participants. [...]

During the Ipce meeting there is also an interesting discussion about ethics. [...]

The discussion is continued in the evening at a restaurant in Berlin. I wait in vain for the discussion to turn to child contacts or distribution of child porn. Ipce is an organization for responsible pedophiles and there are nothing illegal going on at the meetings. [...]"

Followed a session in which all members speak out about the questions:

- Who am I? Why am I here? What did I do last year?
- My insights, doubts, questions, my power and my strength.

Followed a report from the World Congress in Paris, and reports from several projects and problems. As reported above, a discussion about ethics followed, as well as the internal matters and decisions. The next day, the German groups presented themselves, many of them being present.

E-13, June 2002

This Newsletters gives articles, the first of which is "The debate about the publications of Rind, Bauserman & Tromovitch goes on – a bird's eye view, 1997 – 2002; by Dr Frans Gieles ".After some other articles, quotes, references, are here the internal papers to prepare the next meeting, and an article summarizing the former discussions about ethics: "First do not harm".

E-14, October 2001

The article about ethics is repeated here, after a next discussion on ethics **during the 15th Ipce Meeting, Rotterdam, July 2001.**

"The meeting discussing this [ethics], globally accepted the cadre [of the proposed article mentioned just here above] , and concentrated its discussion again on the four guidelines. The first three principles are more or less the same, or at least based on the same more basic principle: freedom of choice. The second principle, initiative, is doubtful. The fourth principle is also doubtful and has another base."

The concepts initiative and openness were thoroughly discussed, ending is a next draft text. Other themes discussed were our host: Saint Paul's Church, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, with its intensive programs to help people on the fringes of our society. Also our guests and vision. About the latter: a shift in our model or paradigm was made. The former model was 'emancipation'.

"[...] The new underlying theme is living together in spite of differences between people [...], which implies themes like human rights, righteousness, and society. [...] In the living together model, the priority is to clarify and understand the opinions of others, including your opponents. [...]"

Well, speaking now about people with pedophilic feelings, the time has passed for seeing them – or for them to see themselves - as people with a particular belief that other people have to be persuaded to accept. In our pluralistic world, one can better view them as people who ask for a modest place under the sun – and who give their opponents the same right. [...]"

The usual internal matters, an evaluation, a Manifesto, two book reviews and the usual Documentation Service List complete this Newsletter.

E-15, March 2003

Report of a discussion about the Diagnostic Manual DSM, some book reviews, a lecture about Levine's book, and two essays.

About **the 16th Ipce Meeting, Copenhagen, June 2003**, there is no report. The member who had made the minutes, lost the same by leaving them behind in the train, while travelling to hand them to the secretary ...

E-16, May 2004

A Statement, articles, reports (read: problems) from Denmark, Germany and the USA are followed by the first list of Absurdities and a book review.

E-17, August 2004

The opening was a statement, being the next version, after our discussion in Rotterdam, 2002, of our guidelines 'First do no harm'

Here we have the report of **the 17th Ipce meeting, Hamburg, May 2004**.

In the first round, "members speak out" about ...

- I am ... from ..., member or leader or webmaster of ...
- My situation is ...
- I am here because... and for the purpose of ...
- My plan is ...
- My questions are...

Groups in Germany had infiltrators, so we spoke about infiltration ... in the presence of an infiltrator, as later became clear.

Four presentations or proposals, among which 'the use of the media' followed. In the internal section, Ipce again spoke about Ipce:

"Ipce is not an action group, it is only a Forum. As a Forum it undertakes no action, except making a Mission Statement and doing what is said in that statement: making and maintaining a web site, a Newsletter and an archive of texts (texts only, no images), exchanging documents and organizing meetings. [...]"

Ipce keeps to be a Forum only. Action is to be taken by the members and their groups themselves.

Because Ipce is a Forum, there is not 'one and only true Ipce opinion': a forum allows a collection of opinions. ""... As during every meeting, young people asked for more 'Action!'. [...] Other members said they hate to be pressed into any action, or to be labeled with any opinion on what is voted. The way we are working now is a good way: it gives

freedom as well as ideas and inspiration and courage. They said they appreciate feeling this freedom, inspiration and courage. The (young) members asking for Action! agreed with these views on Ipce and its policy."

And ... here you are ... the next discussion about ethics took place.

After our former discussions and texts, at least two organizations had taken over our or guidelines. One added "Openness to the parents is strongly recommended", and "This [the set of guidelines] includes acting in harmony with the development of the child." Also, our earlier texts on ethics have been adopted, for example, by some Dutch psychiatrists.

The new version of the guidelines, the Statement of this Newsletter, was discussed again.

"The crucial point is the openness. Nowadays this is almost impossible. Many parents will forbid the relationship. If one views openness as a *conditio sine qua non*, intimacy is impossible or unethical - and a lot of members and others [...] agree with this view [...]. Others want to protect the relationship against such bans. However, if a relationship is secret but suddenly comes to the light and suddenly ends, this is also a disaster for all people concerned. Thus, taking openness as a condition is also protecting a relationship against this disaster.

Freedom and rights are OK, but with freedom and rights comes also responsibility - I mean for both the adult and the child. See the word "both" in the proposed text. If the young person wants to have secrets, as most teenagers do, this is also his or her right. In heterosexual relationships between teenagers, the same problem comes up."

"In Berlin and Rotterdam, we had long discussions, and this paper is still more or less subjective. [...] Maybe it presents more an ideal than reality. The recommendation is "Take into your consideration ..."

"Without a vote, the Meeting agreed with the placing of the proposed text [...] as a statement in the [this] Newsletter and asking for reactions."

What followed, was a discussion about depression.

"More and more, many people tell us they are depressive – and even, 'horribly depressive'. A lot of people tell me they don't read any newspaper, nor see any TV programme because they cannot cope with all the negative news. Thus:

- What exactly is a depression?
- How to prevent it?
- How to cope with it?
- How can you help depressive people? People planning suicide?
- Literature? Theories?

Here is the report of this discussion.

Two articles, reports from the Netherlands and Belgium, a book review and the list of documents ended this Newsletter.

E-18, February 2005

Articles: six articles about myths and taboos; again two articles about ethics; four articles about research; four articles about current events (Michael Jackson, developments in the Netherlands, and Mary Kay Letourneau); documents list.

E-19, July 2005

Here is the report if the Finish undercover journalist, in a TV documentary, the text written down and translated by one of our Finish members.

Then we see the report of **the 18th Ipce Meeting, Mykonos (Greek isle), May 2005.**

Reports from several countries, among which extended reports from Denmark and the Netherlands.

Followed a long discussion about 'Strategy', especially for now, in the post-modern era, with post-modern children and post-modern adults and culture, about trends and about working with arts. One of our guests showed a script for a film. About Ipce itself was said:

"The subject ought to be: relationships, not 'paedophilia'. Intergenerational relationships are inherently neither good nor bad. They always depend on the quality and the consensus. It is a complex subject; there is never one truth nor one good answer or vision. Thus, give room for more answers and visions, and thus for further discussion. This is what Ipce does.

Accept diversity in the several organizations; do not combat this, but accept and help each other."

Followed a discussion about spirituality.

Seven articles and the documents list completed this Newsletter.

E-20, June 2006

Two statements, a letter and answer, followed by four articles, among which the next list of Absurdities, and the documents list.

E-21, July 2006

Report of **the 19th Ipce Meeting in Haarlem, the Netherlands, July 2006.**

After the presentation of the members, we discussed a report from Denmark.

Followed a discussion about 'Court room communications', lead by a communication consultant. Discussions there use to follow strict lines, described in the communication theory. Aim (of the prosecutor) is not to know the truth and the facts, but to tell the narrative about a monster.

"In this context, if the prosecutor gets under your skin and you respond angrily, you're dead. Do that even only once, and you will walk out in handcuffs. [...]

[Is it] a matter of fact[?]. It is not. It's a matter of narrative, that is, the prosecution's attempt to tell the pedophile-monster story. The defendant who responds with a firm, proud, and unequivocal denial to that question, followed by a positive statement and anecdote will walk away a free man."

Followed two short presentations of two essays on sex offenders, presented in Prague in June 2006 at the Congress of the European Federation of Sexologists, by Frans E.J. Gieles, PhD:

- There must be a scapegoat; Pitfalls, traps and mistakes in forensic personality investigation;
- 'But sir, you are an offender!' - Narrative coercion as method of behavior modification.

The internal section of the meeting started with a long letter from one of the members who, just like some of the younger members, called for 'action' and gave several proposals to do so. The discussion and the decisions of the Meeting moderated this enthusiasm:

"The members [...] moderate one another by saying that we do not need over-enthusiastic or over-active people who start a lot of action in the name of Ipce. [...]

One of the members wants to invite more new members and to install a Membership Committee to do that. He has submitted a long list of candidates. But other members

moderate his enthusiasm. Most of the persons named are already active and have their own organizations. They must know us, maybe appreciate us, but have not asked for membership. If we invite them, they will say they are already active in their own way and have no more time.

The model 'all heroes in one group' does not work. They don't want this, and if you keep trying it, the group will disperse or explode. The model 'Ipce as an umbrella organization' has been tried in the past, but did not work and has been rejected. [...]

Too large a group cannot work. [...]

It is important to be reachable and to make contacts possible. That is enough. People will choose their own ways of action."

"Does Ipce have a board, officers and a constitution? No. Does Ipce need a board, officers and a constitution? No. We do not need documents, we need people to discuss and to work. We have a mission statement and a simple model: The annual meeting decides."

The Meeting decided to install a New Members Committee, that should work very carefully, even slowly. The Meeting formulated criteria for membership, derived from the Mission Statement.

The next day, about ten Dutch groups presented themselves.

Seven articles and the documents list completed this Newsletter.

E-22, June 2007

There are 24 articles in this Newsletter. One of the sections was "Fear of a myths isolate children".

E-23, September 2007

Fifteen articles about several subject. To prepare the next Meeting, three articles about research are added, as well as the internal annual Ipce reports.

E-24, March 2008

Here you are: the report of **the 20th Ipce Meeting, Athens, October 2007**.

First, an outline of the centre of Athens in 2007, crowded as it was of people from many countries, many of them asylum seekers. "Posters and other texts in Arabic, Farsi, Pashtu, Urdu and Dari languages refer to the cultures they came from". Reports and stories from several countries followed.

The section Internal matters mentions: "The infiltration in Hamburg 2004, and earlier in Berlin 2001, presses us to review the membership rules." A more severe procedure and more strict criteria was decided.

About Ipce itself, it should have a broad interest, be balanced in the views it presents, and keep the scholarly level.

"It is the interest of critical humans, critical on society, critical on the way societies handle with youth in abroad sense".

Texts may be long, with schemes, tables, notes and references - thus not easy to read. Thus, not meant for 'the great public', and not for the ped-hunters who, so we suppose, do not read such texts. Ipce does not seek much publicity. It is not an action group, only a forum.

The main theme was: Research. Problems of researchers are mentioned. Four research projects in German language are presented and summarized in English (by me, Frans), as well as one project in English.

One of the members spoke about Indigo children, children who are clairvoyant. They are very sensitive and intelligent and they have some powers. They might be our future leaders. Characteristic for these children is their authenticity. They maintain their feelings and opinions intact and it is not possible to manipulate them. This might change society.

Two articles about research, two other articles, and the documents list completed this Newsletter.

E-25, July 2008

First, a Statement & a Question. We concluded earlier that research and science is guided by ideologies. Thus, the question is: "How to combat [false] ideology?" This was a preparation for the next Meeting, as well as the annual internal reports published here.

Followed several articles, especially about the themes 'photography, arts, fear photo's and nudity. Reports from Australia, summarized and overviewed, illustrate this problem.

E-26, November 2008

Here is the report of **the 21th Ipce Meeting, Haarlem, the Netherlands.**

The Statement is about "false ideologies", one of the themes of that Meeting.

The country reports came from several countries, among which the traditional long report from Denmark. Three guests from the UK presented themselves: young people, who started as guests and left the Meeting as members. The internal matters section was short. Procedure and criteria for new members were again discussed and decided. We decided to use Skype as a new way of communication between our members.

A first theme were the decisions of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 July 2007. The convention obligates the states to intervene in cases of offenders and of potential offenders. In these papers, "Child" is defined as any person under the age of 18 years. Under b., no definition is given, but some rules.

There are also many statements without an argumentation. The main texts are given in the report on this theme. Suggestions for an amendment were given.

"Many influential people had a conference in Stockholm, mentioned in the Convention.

In such a conference, relatively small groups can have much influence. Maybe also scientists and human rights organizations might have influence. They might be able to ask attention for explicit mistakes of justice, for tunnel visions, for ideology."

The next main theme was Research and Ideology. The research of Richard Yuill was presented and discussed. Followed a lecture: "Research, models and ideology - For example: eleven authors, and ten recommendations." by Frans E.J. Gieles, PhD. He (I) gave an overview of models of research, and models of interpretation and vision, divided in three main models.

Quotes from the discussion:

- "What I see, nowadays, is mixing cultures and globalization - and change. Typical for our era is a great world-wide stream of information. Changing means changing the course and content of that stream of information. Thus, be part of it, share that stream. Send your messages."

- "OK. Publish the absurdities of this society. For example, the idea that children should be asexual beings, and that an a-sexual or anti-sexual way of raising them should make them good partners. Why, then, are very young children already registered as sex offenders? There are ambiguities in society's attitude to children. The absurdities do show this."
 - [See the next article and 'Absurdities' in Ipce's Newsletter E 20.]
- "Children will find their own ways. If they are raised a-sexually, they still will search for their own experiences. In the US sex education limits itself to "Don't do that!" - but they do".

The last day of the Meeting, again, the Dutch groups presented themselves, now eight of them were present. The evaluation of our guests and members was, as usually, quite positive. Two articles and the usual list completed this Newsletter.

E-27, July 2009

First: a Statement about ethics. Then a section with six articles, partly an "In Memoriam" about late Michael Jackson.

Then: the report of **the 22th Ipce meeting, Hamburg, May 2009.**

"Regrettably, shortly before the meeting, three of the members went ill. Our chair broke his ankle, our secretary and webmaster had an emergency surgery on his eye, and our man from Denmark had problems with his nerves and more. Some others, members and guests, usually present at the meeting, were also absent. Thus, only a few members were together in Germany. During the meeting, a skype session was planned and successfully hold, so more contact was possible. And after the meeting, two members have visited the secretary. On the first day, several topics are discussed. Decisions were taken on the second day, when more people were present, and after the skype discussion had taken place."

The theme was again a lecture, written (but not presented) by me: Go Dutch - A Practice Sample; Youth and Sexuality in the Netherlands; Frans E J Gieles, PhD, the Netherlands. Paper (to be) presented at the 19th World Congress for Sexual Health, World Association of Sexology, Göteborg, Sweden, June 2009.

Other topics were:

- Legal developments in the European Union;
- Circumcision of boys;
- Self criticism & organisational matters; and
- The American group Reform Sex Offender Laws.

The Meeting decided to start an 'Ipce 2' website with more modern lay-out and a wiki-like system. If this succeeds, 'Ipce 1' can be changed into the same lay-out and system. The meeting has set up a committee with for the new website. Guidelines are formulated for the articles on the (renewed) Ipce web site, among which:

"The 'tone' and 'atmosphere' of Ipce's web site is describing facts and giving room to correct reasoning. There is no division between "we" and "they", there is no 'war against our enemies'. Ipce should not divide but connect people. Ipce should not create or maintain gaps, but build bridges. Ipce only informs the visitor and reader, it does not start political or other action."

Ten articles and the list completed this Newsletters. A section of the articles is again about the fear of pictures and nudity, recently shown in Australia.

E-28, June 2010

This Newsletter prepares the next Ipce Meeting by giving the usual annual reports just after the usual Statement. Then follows a compilation of articles about "Fear of images", five articles about "Panic and Hysteria" and six Mixed Articles. The usual list of the Documentation Service is stopped, because nowadays it is easy to gather documents by the Internet, as the proposal for the meeting says.

E-29, January 2011

After the Statement and again three *In Memoriam*'s concerning Michael Jackson, this Newsletter presents the report of **the 23th Ipce Meeting, West of The Netherlands, June 2010**. Also here is spoken about late Michael Jackson.

Because Secretary Frans is growing older and weaker, the Meeting decides to install a Steering Committee to gradually take over his functions and the steering of Ipce. The Meeting also installs an Editorial Team for the Website. The new website is tested and may start to be public. There is also a New Members Committee and a Conflict & Emergency Team. A new owner and new moderators for the internal IMO (Ipce Meets Online) forum are appointed. The Meeting decides also to stop Ipce's Newsletter after # 30, and to immediately stop the Documentation Service by now.

What followed was a discussion about Aims & Strategy. In the introduction to this team, Frans (I) said, among other things about 'Groups that (not) survived':

"[Some] groups have suffered or failed due to internal discord, usually between 'the radicals' and 'the moderates'.

Groups that survived do have moderators, a 'core of wise men/women', not just youngest members. They practiced leadership; they were bridges. [...]

Groups which have survived have not provoked the public; they give counterbalance, but in a balanced way. [...]

Ipce has chosen to inform the public on a scholarly level with balanced texts only."

The report of the discussion says:

"Survival was also possible thanks to meetings in person, just as we have now. [...] The great forums give many complaints but few inspiration; small groups give more inspiration. It is just the way Ipce works. [...]

Real influence does not come from the public, but from the philosophers, scientists - and some journalists who are able to 'translate'. [...] However, the public media] often ignore research with findings which contradict the hysteria about pedophilia. That leaves the public with a quite one-sided view.

Possible means to reach the public include films songs, paintings, arts, videos, TV shows, playwrights. [...]

We have also observed that sites as YouTube and the Amazone Forum refuse pro-pedophilia contributions. Thus, one should not choose this angle and should not use the 'p' word. Better angles are the civil rights of parents and children, freedom to express oneself, combating hysterical fear for friendly adults. Use arguments, not slogans."

Looking back on the meeting, attendants were content with the meeting. The location, a small town just on the Dutch coast, and the accommodation was nice, be it a bit too small for us. Members expressed a desire to invite more guests, to broaden the meeting and the themes. Internal matters can be discussed on the internal forum. An extra day will be fruitful for the meeting.

E-30, September 2011

This is this issue, being the last Newsletter. The new Ipce website will give enough information in an easy way to read.

To complete the list of Ipce Meetings, here may be said that **there was no Ipce Meeting in July 2011**, because of the many cancelling. Only the Dutch members of the Steering Committee were gathered. They have only made internal proposals for (first) the Steering Committee and (then) the members. The teams and committees are continued or partly renewed. There will be a new secretary, a new treasurer and a team of web-owner/-master and editors for the website.

The newsletter stops, Ipce goes on.