

# LIBERTY

## AGE OF CONSENT

### SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE POLICY DISCUSSIONS AT I.LIBERTY COUNCIL MEETING

#### MARCH 2019

Asking Council to reconsider policy put forth in the 1968 AGM motion that relating to sexual offences should be “based on the principle that the State has no cause to interfere with or punish sexual behaviour or expression which does not involve ... interference with children below the age of puberty”

Seeking the Policy Council's views on whether Liberty should have an age of consent policy to replace it, specifically considering:

- Whether, and if so at what age, the criminal law should set an age limit below which a child cannot be deemed capable to consent in law to sexual activity; and
- Assuming the criminal law has a role to play in regulating sexual activity between children, what is the appropriate model for doing so?

#### POSITION REACHED

Council unanimously concluded that no replacement policy was currently required, and that Liberty policy should straightforwardly align with the age of consent under UK law.

Council unequivocally condemned the position set forth in the 1968 AGM motion and disavowed past policy to lower the age of consent.