



Naturist
Action
Group

Submission to the
Law Commission consultation 250 on

Hate crime laws

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UK Government had given the Law Commission a brief to review the existing Hate Crime Laws in England and Wales. A series of pre-consultation events had been held by the Law Commission from March 2019. These influenced the publication of a 544-page paper, identifying the issues and 62 Questions which the Law Commission wanted people and interested parties to respond to. On 20 September 2020 the Law Commission started an open consultation period on the above topic, with Submissions welcomed by 24 December 2020.

NAG became aware of this Consultation on 28 September 2020. A 5-person Hate Crime project team was set up by NAG management collective, led by John Wood, with Duncan Heenan, Chris Lamb, Nick Mayhew-Smith and John Paine. John Wood sought contributions from UK naturists: many responded. In just 11 weeks the Project Team put together a detailed Submission, which went through many drafts. The final draft 19-page NAG Submission was then 'signed off' by the NAG management collective on 17 December. On 21 December 2020 this substantive Submission was given to the Law Commission.

Information in our NAG Submission is provided under the following headings:

- **Section 1. Who we are** - a description of naturist beliefs and the range of campaigning work, which NAG has undertaken since 2010, to promote a better understanding and acceptance of naturism
- **Section 2. Our comments relating to the Law Commission consultation paper**
 - under five sub-sections, in total over 7 pages, we expanded on
 - a. Demonstration of hostility,
 - b. Why naturism should be a protected characteristic,
 - c. Philosophical belief,
 - d. Lack of understanding of naturism, and
 - e. Hate actions against naturists.
- **Section 3. Comments on the Consultation Questions**, in which we responded, over two pages, to 8 of the 62 questions posed by the Law Commission.

We focussed only on those specific questions which we felt were relevant to naturism.
- **Appendix 1. The philosophy of naturism** a 3-page well-researched academic paper.

This paper was specially written for this Submission and commented on the history of naturism style activities from 400BC to the present
- **Appendix 2. Examples of 'hate' action against naturists** over 3 pages we gave twenty illustrative examples, chosen from the 43 incidents which had been sent to us in the 11 weeks by naturists throughout England.

Our seven carefully chosen sub-headings were Verbal abuse, Threats of harm,
Physical actions and missiles thrown, Publication of untrue or harmful information,
Poor policing, Stirring up hatred, Secondary harm

We approached BN in early October 2020 to explore how we could work together on developing two Submissions, which would then complement each other. Initial responses seemed very promising. In November, we sent BN a constantly evolving draft of the NAG Submission so that they would be aware of what we were covering. They did not reciprocate nor respond any further. We therefore have no knowledge of what their Submission might say.

I would like to say to everyone who has contributed to this significant document A BIG THANK YOU!
The NAG Submission can be found under the Hate Crime topic at www.naturistactiongroup.co.uk

John Paine, Chair of NAG 21 December 2020