

Timing	Actions	Handouts/Slides
0.00	<p>Have first slide showing when people sit down.</p> <p>Change to slide 2 and give brief overview of session</p>	<p>Slide 1</p> <p>Slide 2</p>
	<p>How Section 28 came to be</p> <p>Lots of factors contributed...</p>	<p>Slide 3</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ After the 1950s and with decriminalisation, UK society was in transition. Homosexuality went from being 'illegal and not discussed in polite society' to being 'illegal but discussed' and then to being 'legal but not always approved of'. People were unsure of how to deal with it. ☆ With the rise of the UK gay rights movement, awareness of homosexuals changed from 'a bunch of camp but unthreatening comedians and entertainers' to a small group of dangerous political types. ☆ In the late 1970s and into the 1980s the media were starting to scrutinise the policies of the 'Loony Left', especially where they thought that councils might be giving money to inappropriate groups (eg, lesbian & gay switchboards or support groups) - forgetting that we are tax payers too. ☆ With the coming of HIV/AIDS (originally GRID), fear of homosexuals and their 'practices' began to spread. ☆ There was increased opposition to some school policies whose proponents felt were simply inclusive of sexual minorities but whose opponents believed were 'promoting the homosexual lifestyle'. ☆ Then in 1983 Jenny Lives with Eric & Martin was published. The Daily Mail reported it at the time to no great outcry, but it was not until 1986 that major controversy arose and widespread protest demonstrations made a major contribution towards the subsequent passing of Section 28. <p>In addition, Jill Knight MP, later Baroness Knight, thought that the gays wanted to destroy the family - based on the GLF's manifesto of 1971 & 1979 (which does talk about the need to abolish the family as it was to end the patriarchy that was/is so damaging to women and to LGBT people).</p>	<p>Slide 4</p>
	<p>You can imagine that gay activists were unhappy about the proposition.</p> <p>The Lesbian Avengers abseiled into the Commons.</p>	<p>Slide 5</p>
	<p>They invaded the BBC news studio at 6pm - Sue Lawley & Nicolas Witchell. (Available on YouTube.) Lawley carried on calmly; Witchell sat on one of the protesters.</p>	<p>Slide 6</p>

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	What the section said.	Slide 7
	Ask the group to spend a few minutes reflecting on the possible consequences for LGBT people.	Slide 8
	Lead a discussion of their thoughts. Then show slide 9. It doesn't matter if they didn't come up with the same ideas - these are MY thoughts.	Slide 9
	There were consequences for other people too - use slide to talk about this. Can either give the group a chance to think about this too, or just talk about it - depending on time constraints.	Slide 10
	The signal to homophobes: Images of green lights Homophobic people saw this legislation as supportive of their views.	Slide 11
	REPEAL The process started in 2000, but was thwarted in the Lords by a campaign led by Tory Baroness Young, sponsor of the right-wing and Christian-aligned pressure group, Family and Youth Concern. First repealed in Scotland (21 June 2000), despite millionaire businessman Brian Souter's privately funded <i>Keep the Clause</i> campaign, which included a postal ballot which returned an apparent 86% support for keeping the clause, from a response from slightly less than one third of the 3.9 million registered Scottish voters.	Slide 12
	Image: In 2000, the London Lesbian Avengers (revived for this action) non-violently stopped a no 15 bus in London's Piccadilly Circus, and painted it pink. This was to demand the repeal of homophobic Section 28, and to protest the involvement of homophobic millionaire Brian Souter in a Scottish campaign against the repeal. Souter was also the owner of privatised bus company Stagecoach, operating route 15. 7 women were arrested on that action; 5 were sentenced to community service (painting schools...) and ordered to pay £2000 pounds in compensation for criminal damage.	Slide 13
	It was another three years before repeal in England & Wales. And even then... Conservative Kent County Council decided to create their own version of Section 28 to keep the effect of the repealed law in their schools. It was replaced with provisions stating that heterosexual marriage and family relationships are the only firm foundations for society on 16 December 2004.	Slide 14

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Note:

Some prominent MPs who supported the bill when it was first introduced have since either

- expressed regret over their support,
- changed their stance due to different circumstances which have evolved over time, or
- have argued that the legislation is no longer necessary.

In an interview with *Attitude* magazine during the 2005 election, **Michael Howard**, then leader of the Conservative Party, commented:

[Section 28] was brought in to deal with what was seen to be a specific problem at the time. The problem was the kind of literature that was being used in some schools and distributed to very young children that was seen to promote homosexuality..... I thought, rightly or wrongly, that there was a problem in those days. That problem simply doesn't exist now. Nobody's fussed about those issues any more. It's not a problem, so the law shouldn't be hanging around on the statute book.

In February 2006, Conservative Party Chairman **Francis Maude** told *Pinknews.co.uk* that the policy, which he had voted for, was wrong and a mistake.

David Cameron:

- In 2000, (as an unelected Tory party member) repeatedly attacked the Labour government's plans to abolish Section 28, calling Tony Blair "anti-family" and accusing him of wanting the "promotion of homosexuality in schools".
- In 2003, Cameron, by now MP for Witney, continued to support Section 28. As the Labour government were determined to repeal Section 28, Cameron voted in favour of a Conservative amendment that retained certain aspects of the clause, which gay rights campaigners described as "Section 28 by the back door". This was unsuccessful, and Section 28 was repealed by the Labour government without concession (Cameron was absent for the vote on its eventual repeal).
- However, in June 2009, Cameron—then leader of the Conservative Party whilst campaigning to be the next Prime Minister—formally apologised for his party introducing the law, stating that it was a mistake and had been offensive to gay people.

He restated this belief in January 2010 and proposed to alter the policy of the Conservative Party to reflect his belief that equality should be taught in British schools though he has yet to further this proposal since he became Prime Minister in May 2010.

	<p>Legacy</p> <p>Information largely from <i>The School Report</i>.</p> <p>Title appears first - rest only on click!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT pupils are more likely to leave education early than their heterosexual peers. • LGBT young people are likely to enter the workplace believing that being mistreated due to your sexual orientation is to be expected. • Heterosexual young people are likely to enter the workplace believing that mistreating people due to their sexual orientation is the norm. 	<p>Slide 15</p>
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	Introduce recent developments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="325 309 1110 383">• Is anyone aware of the recent anti-gay legislation in Russia?<li data-bbox="325 405 1066 544">• Has anyone heard of the recent discovery of the language of s. 28 being replicated in the Sex & Relationships Education Policies of up to 44 free schools?	Slide 16
	Images from the policies of three schools.	Slide 17
	NOTE: There was a meeting of the Anti-Academies Alliance on 21 September: "Are we seeing the return of section 28?"	
	How can you make a difference?	Slide 18
	Resources for download	Slide 19