



The Campaign to Legalise Cannabis

A Campaign to Change the Law and
Attitudes

LEGALIZE IT



Background to this campaign

- VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS ARE ENGAGED IN A LONG RUNNING CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE THE LAWS AND ATTITUDES SURROUNDING THE USE OF CANNABIS.
- FOR EXAMPLE CLEAR; VOLTFACE AND NOML UK ARE ALL CAMPAIGN ORGANISATIONS WHICH SEEK TO DECRIMINALISE/LEGALISE CANNABIS USE IN THE UK.

What Were The Aims of The Campaign?

- CAMPAIGNERS WERE WORKING TO CHANGE TO THINGS :
 - 1) THE LAW
 - 2) PUBLIC OPINION AND ATTITUDES
- CAMPAIGNERS SORT CAMPAIGNED FOR THE LEGALISATION OF CANNABIS IN THE UK, WHICH WILL MEAN IT CAN BE BOUGHT AND SOLD FROM LICENSED VENDORS IN A SIMILAR WAY TO DRUGS SUCH AS TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL.
- CAMPAIGNERS ALSO SEEK TO CHANGE THE PERCEPTION OF CANNABIS AS A DANGEROUS DRUG, TO SOMETHING FAR MORE POSITIVE BY EMPHASISING ITS SAFETY AND POTENTIAL MEDICAL USES.

What Did They Achieve (1)?

THE LAW

- SO FAR ORGANISATIONS THAT CAMPAIGN FOR THE LEGALISATION OF CANNABIS HAVE BEEN LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL. CANNABIS HAS BEEN DOWNGRADED FROM A CLASS B NARCOTIC IN CLASS C DRUG IN 2004 AND BACK AGAIN TO CLASS B IN 2008. FROM NOVEMBER, 2018 CANNABIS WAS LICENSED FOR MEDICAL USE, DOCTORS CAN PRESCRIBE IT BUT THERE ARE STILL TIGHT RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON ITS MEDICAL USE.
- PRODUCTS CONTAINING CANNABIS OIL (CBD) CAN BE LEGALLY BOUGHT AND SOLD IN THE UK BUT THEY MUST CONTAIN NO MORE THAN 0.2% THC, WHICH IS THE PSYCHOACTIVE COMPOUND IN CANNABIS.

What Did They Achieve (2)?

PUBLIC OPINION

- WHERE THE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL IS IN INFLUENCING PUBLIC OPINION. A YouGov opinion poll in 2018, showed that 51% of those surveyed supported liberalising laws, with 40% opposed to any relaxation. This was the first time a YouGov poll has shown a majority of the British public supportive of a change in the law.
- Support for medicinal cannabis was even stronger, with 75 per cent of respondents saying it should be permitted, 9% were opposed to this. A similar proportion said they would consider using cannabis-based treatments if there was strong evidence it would benefit them.

How Did They Publicise Their Cause?

- THE CAMPAIGNS HAVE GOT THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS EXPERTS TO CHANGE PUBLIC OPINION. THESE MIGHT INCLUDE POLICE OFFICERS, POLITICIANS, DOCTORS AND PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS, WHO ALL ARGUE A POSITIVE CASE FOR LEGALISATION.
- ONE IMPORTANT TECHNIQUE IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE PLIGHT OF SICK CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO ARE BEING CRIMINALISED BY LAWS WHICH PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING A DRUG THAT COULD HELP TREAT THEM.
- A PETITION TO HAVE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE ISSUE ATTRACTED 236,995 SIGNATORIES. THE CAMPAIGN HAS ATTRACTED THE SUPPORT OF HIGH PROFILE CELEBRITIES INCLUDING RUSSELL BRAND, SIR RICHARD BRANSON AND STING AND PALOMA FAITH.



The Campaign For Assisted Dying

Sarah Payne Campaign to Change the Rules Surrounding
Disclosure of Information on Convicted Paedophiles

**CAMPAIGN FOR
DIGNITY
IN DYING.**

Background to this campaign

- HELPING SOMEONE TO DIE IS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE SUICIDE ACT, 1961. THIS MEANS THAT PEOPLE CANNOT ACTIVELY ASSIST IN THE SUICIDE OF ANOTHER PERSON, FOR EXAMPLE BY ADMINISTERING A LETHAL DOSE OF MEDICATION – THEY CANNOT ACTIVELY HELP THEM TO DIE.
- THE LAW ALLOWS FOR JAIL TERMS OF UP TO 14 YEARS FOR OFFENCES COMMITTED UNDER THIS ACT. MANY PEOPLE DISAGREE WITH THIS LAW AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE IT.

Background (2)

- THE CAMPAIGN PRODUCE A NUMBER OF HIGH PROFILE FIGURES. DIANE PRETTY, TONY NICKOLSON AND DEBBIE PURDY, ALL SUFFERED FROM TERMINAL ILLNESS AND APPLIED TO THE HIGH COURT TO DIE AT, A TIME OF THEIR CHOOSING AND, USING, A METHOD DECIDED BY THEMSELVES. IMPORTANTLY, AS THEIR CONDITION DETERIORATED IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY HAVE NEEDED HELP IN EXECUTING THEIR PLAN.
- THEY THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT ANYBODY WHO HELPED THEM WOULD BE LIABLE TO BE CHARGED WITH ASSISTING A SUICIDE UNDER THE 1961 ACT.
- AS A CONSEQUENCE THEY WERE SEEKING CHANGES TO THE THIS LAW AND CLARIFICATION OF WHEN SOMEBODY WOULD BE CHARGED WITH ASSISTING A SUICIDE.

The Aims

- THEY THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT ANYBODY WHO HELPED THEM WOULD BE LIABLE TO BE CHARGED WITH ASSISTING A SUICIDE UNDER THE 1961 ACT.
- THEY WANTED THIS LAW REPEALED AND REPLACED WITH CLEAR GUIDANCE FOR RELATIVES, AND OTHERS (THE POLICE, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS) OVER THE LIMITS OF ASSISTANCE THAT COULD BE OFFERED TO A DYING RELATIVE

Was it a success

- THE CAMPAIGN TO REPLACE THE 1961 ACT (THE ASSISTED DYING BILL, 2015) FAILED TO PASS AND DID NOT BECOME LAW.
- HOWEVER, THE CAMPAIGN WAS A SUCCESS IN OTHER WAYS. DEBBIE PURDY GOT CLARIFICATION SURROUNDING HER CASE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS THAT PEOPLE WHO ASSISTED HER WOULD NOT BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.
- THE CAMPAIGN REMAINS A PARTIAL SUCCESS BUT IN THE LONGER-TERM ONLY A CHANGE IN THE LAW WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO SUPPORTERS OF ASSISTED DYING.

How Did They Publicise Their Cause?

- THE MAIN TOOL USED BY THIS CAMPAIGN WAS THE CASES TAKEN TO THE HIGH COURT. THESE CREATED A LOT OF PRESS INTEREST AND PROVOKED MUCH SYMPATHY IN THE PUBLIC, SURVEYS OF PUBLIC OPINION SHOW THAT ATTITUDES BECAME MORE SUPPORTIVE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF ASSISTED DYING; IT NOW STANDS OUT OVER 90% UP FROM 82% IN 2015.
- A CAMPAIGN GROUP WAS FORMED (DIGNITY IN DYING) AND HAD THE SUPPORT OF MANY HIGH PROFILE CELEBRITIES, NOTABLE, AMONG THEM WAS TERRY PRATCHETT WHO WAS DIAGNOSED AS SUFFERING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, AN INCURABLE DEGENERATIVE ILLNESS. OTHER SUPPORTERS INCLUDED CHRIS BROAD (ENGLAND CRICKET CAPTAIN) AND PATRICK STEWART (ACTOR).
- THE USE OF CELEBRITIES WHO HAD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE ISSUE SURROUNDING TERMINAL ILLNESS WAS A POWERFUL TOOL IN HELPING TO SHAPE PUBLIC OPINION. .