

General Election 2010

British Naturism Questions to the Candidates

According to an NOP poll, about one and half million people describe themselves as being a naturist. About 15 million have partaken in mixed nude sunbathing or skinny dipping and so are naturists to at least some extent. There is widespread discrimination against naturists and there is little effective protection. When a naturist gets dressed the disguise is perfect so few people realise how many there are of us.

1. What will you do to protect naturists from prejudice so that they can "come out" without fear of discrimination?

Almost all censorship is hidden and few people realise how widespread it is and how irrational it can be. The lack of transparency is a serious problem. There is an enormous number of censors, many without any statutory authority, but there are no official bodies, not one, with responsibility to prevent harmful censorship.

2. What will you do to prevent harmful censorship?

East Anglia, Scotland and Wales have only one designated naturist beach each. The nearest designated beaches to the north of England are in East Anglia, the far side of Wales and on a Scottish island. None are less than four hours drive each way.

3. It has been stated in Parliament that reasonable Naturism must be allowed to continue. What will you do to ensure that that is put into practice?

A Statement of Naturist Beliefs is available from the British Naturism web site. We have numerous examples of threatened or actual disciplinary action by employers. We also have numerous examples of police officers exceeding their powers and of prosecutions which are a travesty. The protection against wrongful or malicious prosecution is inadequate.

4. For many people Naturism is an important part of their beliefs. How will you ensure that they are able to advocate and practice Naturism without detriment to their career and without fear of harassment or prosecution?

That a few people find a choice of clothing offensive is not, in a free society, sufficient reason to make it illegal. Some football fans find an opposing team's colours offensive, many people find the burka offensive, many people find bikinis offensive, or shorts, or men without a shirt.

5. Do you think it is right for the State to dictate an individual's choice of clothing?

Many of the problems faced by Naturists arise from the unintended consequences of legislation. We have found it extremely difficult to get officials and MPs to take these problems seriously. A favourite excuse is "*It is not our intention that*" but intentions count for nothing. It is the words in the Act and how they can be twisted or applied in unforeseen ways which causes the problems, and which frequently bring both the law and Parliament into disrepute.

6. Are you prepared to argue the case for Naturists and Naturism in Parliament?

In some European countries nudity is a right nearly everywhere. Indeed in Spain a police officer was prosecuted for overstepping his authority by telling a nude naturist to get dressed. It is not just the better weather that causes Naturists to holiday abroad.

7. How will you ensure that the UK can benefit from the buff pound instead of

exporting it to countries where Naturists are made welcome?

A naturist was given a penalty notice for disorder which he contested. Fortunately he was able to claim most of the £10,000 it cost to defend himself from the public purse but even so he was about £1,000 out of pocket. That is not justice. Another naturist had to mortgage his house to pay for his defence despite the trial being stopped and the case thrown out with the judge delivering some unkind words to both police and CPS. That is not justice.

8. Will you support a constituent who is harassed or prosecuted due to their belief in or practice of Naturism?

List of Questions

1. What will you do to protect naturists from prejudice so that they can "come out" without fear of discrimination?
2. What will you do to prevent harmful censorship?
3. It has been stated in Parliament that reasonable Naturism must be allowed to continue. What will you do to ensure that that is put into practice?
4. For many people Naturism is an important part of their beliefs. How will you ensure that they are able to advocate and practice Naturism without detriment to their career and without fear of harassment or prosecution?
5. Do you think it is right for the State to dictate an individual's choice of clothing?
6. Are you prepared to argue the case for Naturists and Naturism in Parliament?
7. How will you ensure that the UK can benefit from the buff pound instead of exporting it to countries where Naturists are made welcome?
8. Will you support a constituent who is harassed or prosecuted due to their belief in or practice of Naturism?

British Naturism

March 2010