

Pedophiles resisting expulsion from gay umbrella organization

By Joyce Price
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A group of pedophiles is fighting expulsion from the International Lesbian and Gay Association — a move ILGA deems necessary to retain its new status as a consultant to the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

Bill Andriette, spokesman for the 1,000-member North American Man-Boy Love Association, said NAMBLA is disturbed by the action to remove it from the group taken earlier this month by four of six members of ILGA's secretariat, or executive board.

The ILGA secretariat members said they would ask NAMBLA to resign and would seek NAMBLA's expulsion by the general membership this summer if it failed to comply.

Interviewed yesterday, Mr. Andriette called the secretariat's action "an attempt to distort ILGA's record for obvious political reasons ... since it sees gaining U.N. consultative status as an important achievement for ILGA."

As for the possibility of resigning from ILGA, he said, "We reserve our option to withdraw at some point, ... [but] we don't think that would be the proper thing to do at this time."

Mr. Andriette predicted ILGA members will "look askance" at the efforts by the secretariat to expel NAMBLA when that issue comes up for consideration at the annual ILGA conference in June. He points out that ILGA, in the past, has called for abolition of "age-of-consent laws" where there is "adequate protection" from sexual abuse of youth.

He calls the ILGA secretariat's recent condemnation of pedophilia a "craven and dishonest attempt to satisfy demands by the U.S. Mission to the U.N."

According to the Washington Blade, ILGA, a worldwide federation of 300 homosexual and AIDS groups, is the first homosexual organization to "gain a voice at the U.N." It noted that the U.N. Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), a body that promotes human rights, voted to give ILGA this voice on July 30, "despite strong opposition from some

Islamic nations."

Lambda Reports, a publication that examines the homosexual movement in a more critical light, was the first to reveal that NAMBLA, Gay Male S&M Activists and a Dutch pedophile group called VerenigingMartijn, are all members of ILGA and questioned the umbrella organization recognition at the United Nations.

In its first report in September, Lambda Reports noted that the United States was one of the 22 nations that voted to give ILGA consultative status with Ecosoc.

On Oct. 19, John Blaney, U.S. special adviser to the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly and deputy U.S. representative to Ecosoc, issued a statement in which he said pedophilia is a "form of child abuse opposed by all members of the international community."

Had the "U.S. delegation known at the time of the vote that NAMBLA was a member of ILGA, we would not have been able to support the committee's recommendation to grant official status to ILGA," he

PEDOPHILE POLITICS

The North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) accused the executive board of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) of hypocrisy in seeking NAMBLA's resignation, noting that:

■ In 1985, ILGA adopted a position on "Age of consent/Paedophilia/Children's rights" that urged members to "lobby their governments to abolish the age of consent law" so long as there is "adequate protection for youth from being sexually abused without the age of consent law."

■ In 1986, ILGA adopted a position saying the group "supports the right of young people to sexual and social self-determination."

■ In 1988, ILGA said, "This conference recognizes that existing same-sex age-of-consent laws often operate to oppress and not to protect; that in many countries, existing laws on sexual coercion and rules of evidence also operate to oppress and not to protect; and that, therefore, member organizations are urged to consider how best children, adolescents, and people of all ages can be empowered and supported against both sexual coercion and sexual oppression and to work toward that end."

■ In 1990, ILGA passed a resolution calling "on all members to treat all sexual minorities with respect and to engage in constructive dialogue with them." The resolution appeared under the heading "Man/boy, woman/girl love."

■ In 1990, ILGA adopted a position saying it "supports the right of every individual, regardless of age, to explore and develop her or his sexuality."

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said.

Mr. Blaney called NAMBLA's goals "reprehensible" and said the United States would "change its vote" on ILGA at the "next resumed or regular session of the Ecosoc" unless it gets a "satisfactory clarification" from ILGA that "there is no intention of presenting or defending these goals in the process of consulting with the Ecosoc."

NAMBLA denies its members abuse children.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations said yesterday that representatives of that office met with the ILGA executive board earlier this month and had a "good discussion." She said Mr. Blaney's October statement remains the delegation's official position.