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### **The Human Rights Act 1998 and under-age sex**

I would go further than Mr Stephen Thomas (letter, 2 October 2000), who suggested that the expelled Lancing College pupils might be protected by Article 8 of the Human Rights Convention.

The protection by Article 8 for a person's private life might also be held to extend to the sexually mature 14-year old boys who willingly had sex with a 35-year old woman who was jailed last month.

This would mean that the age of consent law which rendered their acts criminal would under the Human Rights Act be held incompatible with the Convention, and so should be abrogated.

If that happens, what becomes of the conviction of, and prison sentence on, the 35-year old woman?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Times*, 11 October 2000. (The Lancing pupils were a 17-year old girl and boy expelled for sex play short of intercourse in a school bedroom.)