

T092

More on criminalising underage sex

Mr Alan Challoner (letter, 23 May 2001) says I believe sexual activity at the age of 13 should be permitted. All I did was question whether it is right to deal with such activity by making criminals of the youngsters concerned. Consensual sexual activity will take place between young teenagers whether adults like it or not. Often it will fall short of full intercourse.

Surely what is needed, instead of the criminal law, is sympathetic handling by parents and other adults, together with adequate sex education.¹

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¹ *The Times*, 28 May 2001. See further on this topic Letters 88 and 91 above, [3.6.3.](#) and [3.6.4.11.](#)