
WORKSHOP ON CENSORSHIP – INF CONGRESS 2014

Group 1

1st English group – speaker: Gregory Serow (ANF)

Types of censorship being applied to naturist activities and promotion

FACEBOOK

Whilst Facebook allows the display of sexually provocative clothing and swimwear, they will censor and remove almost any nudity, including nudity where no actual breasts or genital detail is seen.

Solution: Don't play their game, don't post images that will attract their attention. Concentrate on the message you wish to deliver in the text. Other sites like Daily Motion, Twitter, Nudebook, or Tumblr, can display nude images. Or use cartoon images to explain the message. One workshop member stated that a link to an image, instead of the actual image, will not be censored.

GENERAL PUBLIC NUDITY ISSUES.

Toplessness is disappearing on the beaches rapidly. Without this simple freedom this will certainly lead to less nudity in public places. It seems that the prevention of breast feeding in shopping malls is causing many women to wrongly believe that it is illegal to be topless. This is not true in most countries. Television shows and news shows are currently applying blurring to female breasts and nipples, further creating the impression that these parts are ugly, offensive or illegal to be seen.

Solution

We need to contact women's groups and ask why they are tolerating attempts by shops and media to stop categorizing women's bodies in a negative way. We should contact shopping malls and notify them that the human body is sacred and never offensive. The federations should encourage topless attendance of normal beaches to attempt to restore that freedom.

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MAGAZINES

Most countries seem to be more liberal with displays of nudity inside magazines. Some countries require limited nudity on the cover. Australia places no limitation due to Naturism being a recognized life style.

Solution

Contact the office of the government censor and explain the status of naturism with a view to being exempt of classification, like Australia is.

EMAIL AND URL BLOCKING

In hotels and libraries, connecting to naturist resorts on their computers is often disallowed. The institution has used a word search and decided to limit access so as to be politically correct. Checking your web mail can also be impossible if your URL has a prohibited word in it.

Solution

Change your URL to another made up by a word that cannot be detected, e. e.

www.ausnatural.org.au

BROCHURES

Whilst all businesses have a brochure and pamphlet to promote their venues, Nudist facilities are often refused to display their advertising in tourist shops due to the photographs shown.

Solution

Use cartoon drawings to display nakedness in a humorous way.

CONCLUSION

The INF and all federations should unite in some way to establish "Naturism" as legitimate lifestyle.

Group 2

2nd English group – speaker: Wendy Lowe (NZNF)

What are the problems and what is the cause?

The group started by sharing experiences in each country:

In Britain Wifi and Internet providers are now using parental guidance filters that do not allow access to naturist sites. This makes it difficult for people to access sites for legitimate purposes.

Ireland used to have strict censorship but this appears to be easing. A case in point is the newspapers published today, carrying articles about the Congress and showing a frontal picture of a man and a woman sitting having a cup of tea.

Norway and New Zealand do not have many issues with censorship.

Facebook is seen to be a major threat to naturism. It censors nudity and naturism regularly but is not consistent in its approach; provocative photos of partially or skimpily clothed women are not banned, and not all naked images are removed. It is felt by the group that it is only when someone reports a photo that Facebook takes any action.

Internet searches for naturism and / or nudity quickly bring back pornography sites, as they all use the same search words. The public are not educated regarding the difference between naturism and nudity and still tend to assume that nakedness = sex.

Another problem is that people have different views of what is acceptable and what is not – where do we draw the line?

What are solutions?

The group wondered whether INF could contact the ISP's and Wifi companies to re-classify naturism as acceptable.

If there were a 'trademark' word or phrase (e.g. nude recreation) that could be registered it would make it easier to police anyone abusing certain words or phrases.

The INF Legal Council could contact and work with Facebook to find a solution that works for both parties – one suggestion was that INF could vet all photos/articles prior to publication but that would be too slow and time-consuming. It would be better to educate Facebook management about naturism and how to distinguish what is acceptable.

The group then decided to view censorship as an opportunity rather than a threat.

All naturist groups need to raise awareness and acceptance of naturism, through the use of

positive publicity. Tourism Boards in each country would be useful in helping market naturism to tourists both domestic and foreign.

It was suggested that positive articles featuring naturism should be shared as quickly as possible through Facebook, as it would be difficult for them to remove all copies.

The Danish delegate suggested INF to create its own social media site, in competition with Facebook.

Group 3

German group - speaker: Kurt Fischer (DFK)

In the German speaking countries there is actually no censorship. These countries have got the principle of “respect for dissenters in the public”, but:

1. It's always in **summertime** (the famous „summer slump“) that there is an intense media interest for any kind of nakedness. The information given in the media is one-sided only: “Naturism” - as being represented by us – is not interesting for them. Instead: provocative statements: exhibitionism and voyeurism, all presented with lurid headlines, texts and photos.

2. In Germany the subject of „**prevention of sexual violence against children and youth**“ is most popular for all kinds of organization (church, social institutions, sports) and is being discussed in politics and in the media.

Naturism has to watch out to take the right positions, with education, observation and a good assistance. We have to prevent possible problems which may arise. A notification at the police directly leads to court, which means a great burden for the young people concerned.

3. When publishing photos everybody should see to the **code of ethics for photos**, especially for photos of children to be shown in written magazines or on the Internet. Photos can only be published with the written consent of the person in question resp. of his/her legal representatives (parents).

4. Self-censorship

- Self-commitment of the federations, their associations and clubs for the publication of photos, names and locations.

- Explanations for the terms of “Freikörperkultur”, naturism, nudism and nudity

- Investigating the causes with the wider public

nakedness = sexuality (image in public)

nakedness – the ideal of beauty – problems due to old age

5. With the ideas of naturism man has found his **picture of life** (people are the way they are) and it is now our task to tackle potential conflict areas with the dissenters in a positive and open way... over and over again...

Group 4

French group – speaker: Louis Cotard (FFN)

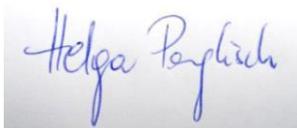
What are the problems and what is the cause?

The working group has representatives from five different countries: Canada, Italy, France, Belgium and Luxembourg.

- Seen from a global point of view there is only very few censorship, except the use of photos with naked children (especially in Canada and Belgium)
- Problems during interviews and our way of replying to it. We can all control ourselves in our own answers, but this also requires respect for those not being naturists.
- Nudity in social networks
- Prudery comes back vigorously.

Solutions

- We should all show NATURISM (and not NUDITY) much more in the media and talk about it.
- We should focus much more on the term and value of NATURISM.
- We should refuse questions from journalists concerning subjects we do not know (for example: libertinage)
- We have to explain the philosophy of NATURISM in order to defeat censorship.



Helga Panglisch Minutes



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