

LAGLA

LESBIAN AND GAY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

NEWLETTER

September 2003

The **Family Working Group** has finalised LAGLA's Response to the Government Consultation paper on Civil Partnerships. You can find that on our new website www.lagla.org.uk. It's still fairly basic, so have a look and email us with suggestions of what else can be included.

Please support the Government's Proposals and write to the Government before the deadline on 30 September 2003.

Every response the Government gets counts. All you need to do is send them an e-mail (civil.partnerships@dti.gsi.gov.uk). They want to hear how discrimination affects you and your partner at the moment.

Important points: Although the proposals go a long way towards equality, there are some issues that are still up in the air. Amongst these are whether **survivor's pension** (widow's pensions) will be the same as for heterosexuals or whether only the years of contributions after the new law comes in count. Gay men, lesbians and other unmarried people have for years subsidised widow's pensions. Please urge the Government not to create more unfairness.

Other sticking points may be **parental rights** for children conceived by IVF and **international elements**. If you have children or you are with a partner of a different nationality please comment on these issues. You will find them set out in our reply.

The Sixth **Stonwall Lecture** will be delivered by LORD LESTER OF HERNE HILL, QC who will address us on

"NEW LABOUR'S EQUALITY LAWS: SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS"

on Wednesday, 22 October 2003 at 6:30pm in the Common Room, Law Society Hall, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL

RSVP The Equal Opportunities Officers equalopps2@barcouncil.org.uk (020 7282 0082)

If you have not received this newsletter by e-mail, mail Andrea at the address below. Please also let us know if your address has changed.

You have not yet paid your membership for this year, please send us a cheque or complete the standing order form now.

Many thanks to Anthony Gold for mailing out this newsletter.

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