



PROSTASIA
FOUNDATION

Sex-positivity and child protection: not a contradiction in terms

Jeremy Malcolm
SexPosCon, February 20, 2022



Outline

- **Definitions**
- **Sex positivity and child protection**
- **A clash of worldviews**
- **Criminalization of attraction: informal survey results**
- **Why the debate matters**
- **Conclusions**



Sex positivity

Every human being has the right to express and enjoy their own sexuality, provided that they do so consensually

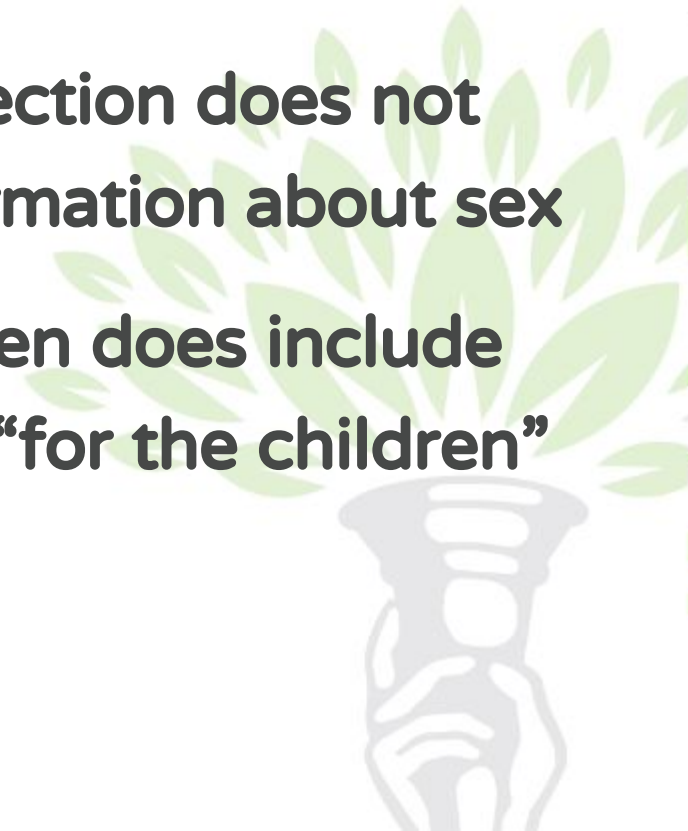
- **This doesn't mean:**
 - That sexual experiences are positive for everyone
 - Promoting any specific sexual expression as positive
- **Contrast sex-negativity, in which moral judgments about sexuality are decoupled from consent or harm**



Child protection

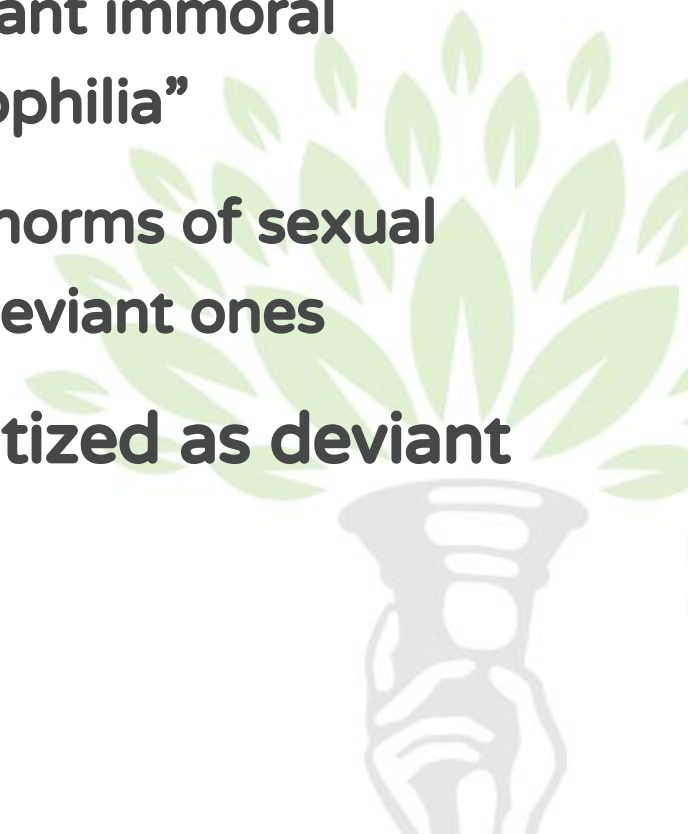
Child protection involves the prevention of and response to violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect of children

- Prostasia's main focus is on CSA prevention
- A sex-positive approach to child protection does not include protecting children from information about sex
- However a sex-negative approach often does include blanket censorship of sexual content “for the children”



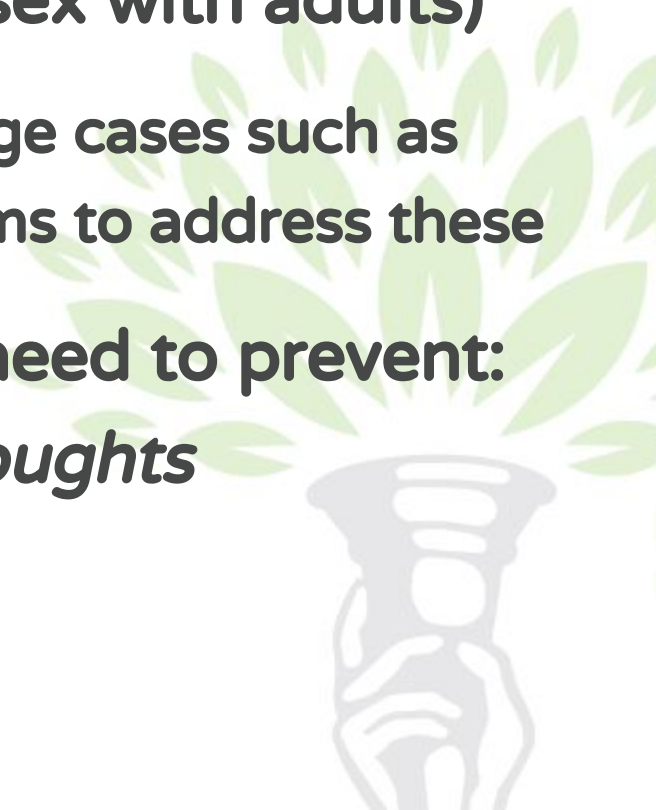
Sex-negativity + child protection

- **Why does the sex-negative approach dominate?**
 - Moral panic around child sexual abuse eclipses all the positive expressions of childhood sexuality
 - The root of CSA is seen as being in deviant immoral thoughts, simplistically framed as “pedophilia”
 - Shame and stigma are used to enforce norms of sexual morality that are held in opposition to deviant ones
- **Queer sexualities are the most stigmatized as deviant**



Sex-positivity + child protection

- A sex-positive approach treats child sexual abuse as wrong not for being *immoral* but for being *harmful*
- It is harmful because it is *non-consensual*, per legal definition (children cannot consent to sex with adults)
 - Yes, this leaves room for some unjust edge cases such as teen sexting, and we also promote reforms to address these
- This approach focuses us on what we need to prevent: *abusive actions* rather than *deviant thoughts*



How sex-positivity informs our approach

- In practice, this means that we prioritize interventions that address harm prevention and reduction:
 - Comprehensive sex education that includes consent
 - Stigma-free support for people who are concerned about their thoughts towards children
 - Research into how fantasy and fiction relate to offending
- Unlike sex-negative approaches, we do not support stigmatizing or shaming over thoughts or fantasies





"THINK OF THE KIDDIE LOVE"



"For ages 13+"

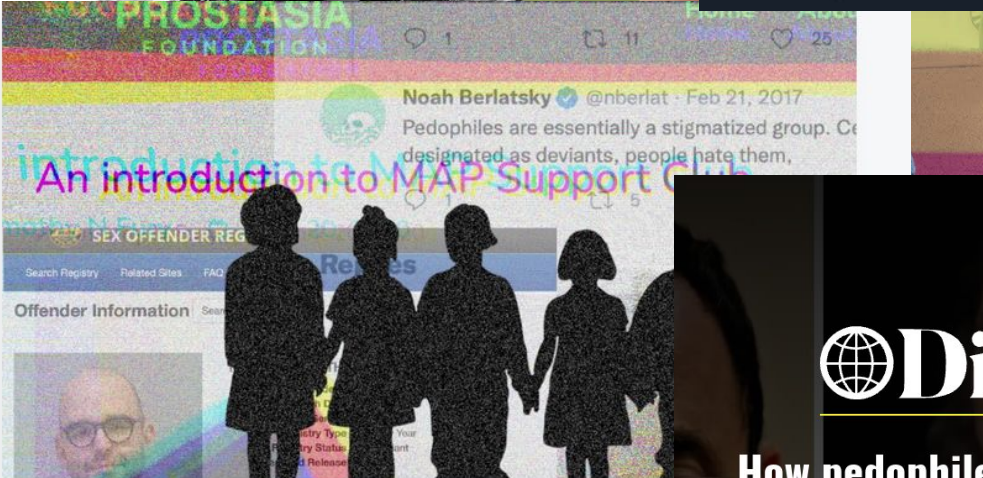
WTF



Pro P*do?



DISGUSTING!



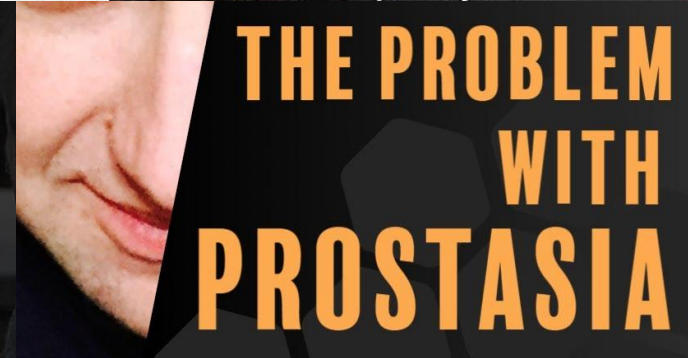
Discourse

How pedophiles are being normalized

Pedophilia as a recognized sexual orientation has gained relevance with a rising number of organizations and academics within the last decade alone.

Erin Holmes
The Post Millennial

Sep 26, 2021 9:00 AM

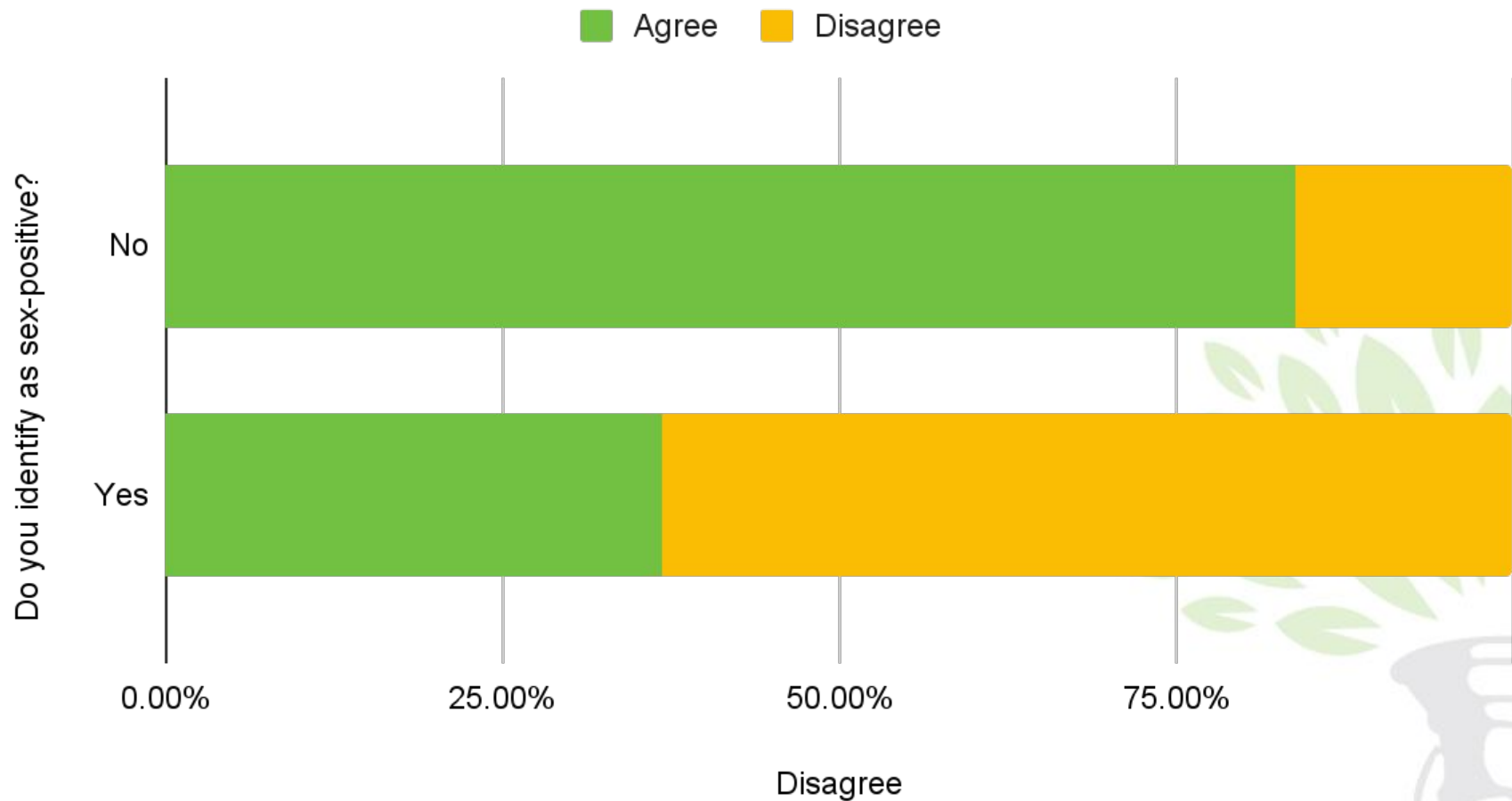


THE PROBLEM WITH PROSTASIA

29 Aug 2021
Prostasia's Goal is to Normalize Pedophilia

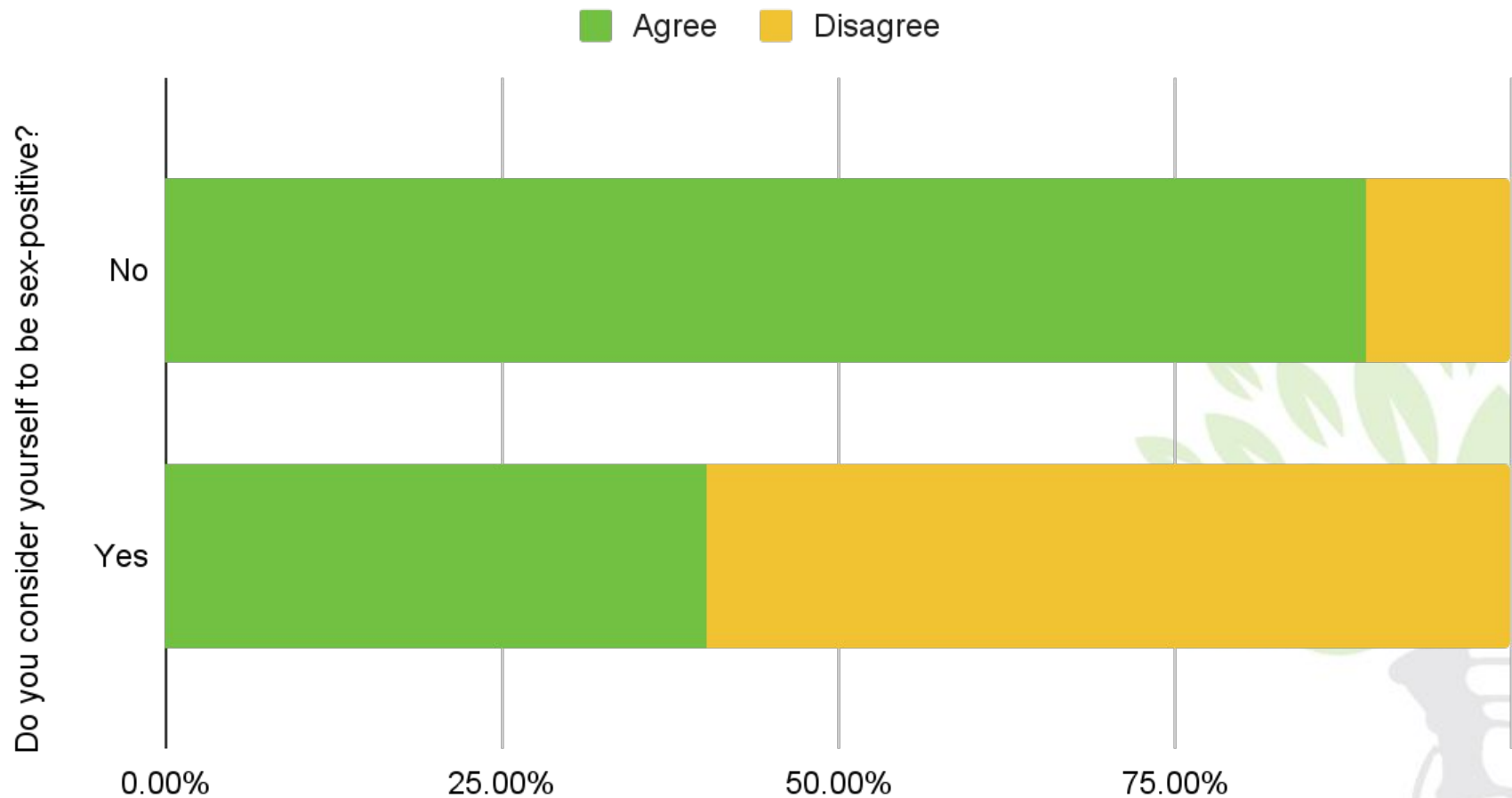
Sex positivity and thoughtcrime

Pedophilia should be directly criminalized



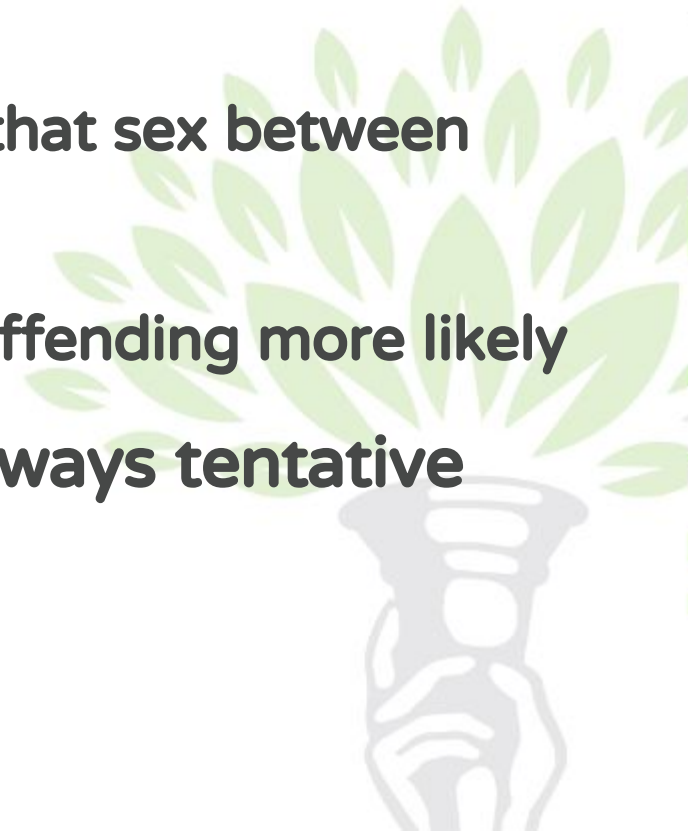
Sex positivity and sex doll ownership

It should be illegal to own a sex doll that looks underage



What prevention experts say

- **Current research points towards these being true:**
 - Sex doll ownership is not linked with risk of sexual offending
 - Underage sex fantasies are not related to offending, *even among MAPs*
 - Such fantasies do not predict attitudes that sex between adults and real children is acceptable
 - Stigma elevates risk factors that make offending more likely
- **References on request... science is always tentative**



Why the debate matters

- **A sex-positive approach is difficult because we live in a sex-negative society**
- **Yet, there are many reasons why it's the right approach**
 - **It avoids subjective moral considerations driving policy**
 - **Sex-negativity is driven not by hatred of child abuse, but by hatred of sexual deviance**
 - **It makes prevention harder and harms queer communities**



Conclusions

- **Our society must choose where its priority lies:**
 - Harm reduction and prevention?
 - Controlling human sexuality?
- **Our choice makes a difference in policy and practice**
 - Support sex doll bans?
 - Support research into how MAPs stay non-offending?
- **Failing to confront stigma will see it perpetuated**



How you can help

- Follow us on Twitter @ProstasiaInc
- Like us on Facebook
<https://fb.com/ProstasiaInc>
- Visit <https://prostasia.org> to:
 - Subscribe to our newsletter
 - Have your organization become a sponsor
- Volunteer!





PROSTASIA
FOUNDATION