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North American Man/Boy Love Association
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To the representatives of Radiotelevisione svizzera di lingua italiana,

We appreciate your consideration in asking for our participation in your documentary on paedophilia. We regret that we will be unable to provide an on-air spokesperson, but our past experiences with such endeavors have caused us to be cautious for a number of reasons. That said, we are happy to answer your three questions in written form (which we will post to our web site to share with all). We hope this will prove useful in presenting a fair picture of a complicated subject. If you need further clarification, please email us.

What does the association promote?

We promote an understanding and acceptance of human relationships in which physical and emotional manifestations are positive and beneficial. We acknowledge the reality that human sexuality embraces a much wider range of expression than society is currently willing to accept and that these expressions are not inherently dangerous or evil.

What exactly is man/boy love?

As with any love, man/boy love includes expressions of emotional and physical intimacy as well as feelings of nurturance and protection.

In its essence, it provides for the sharing of passion – for life, for learning, and for joy as well as the transfer of knowledge and wisdom to a boy. At the same time, it allows the adult to see the universe afresh in all its wonder through the eyes of a boy.

Boy-love is also about helping boys become caring and competent individuals while providing them the physical affection, acceptance and sexual expression which is their birthright.

Boy-love acknowledges that boys, just as with all other members of society, need intensely close, physical contact with others and that their sexual and affectional isolation in the world is a grotesque departure from anthropological and biological realities.

Boy-love is about all of these things and much more, just like any other form of love.

What is our position regarding paedophilia?

“Paedophilia” is a term invented by Krafft-Ebing in the late Nineteenth Century (a neologism, from two Greek roots which meant simply “love of children”) to provide a quasi-scientific, quasi-medical basis to support the laws of the time. It was created as a means to categorize, as well as criminalize, a perceived disorder and thus marginalize a disparate range of individuals who, it was claimed, possessed such a “disorder”. It was a made-up illness – just like scientists have often made up things to fit the prejudices of their age. (See, for example, “drapetomania” - the supposed mental illness that caused black slaves to flee captivity.)

Because there is absolutely no scientific basis for a diagnosis of paedophilia, we do not use the term. Our position on man/boy relationships (supported by quite a few scientific studies which can be seen on our website: nambla.org) is the same as our position on every other expression of love – if it is joyful and mutual and respectful of both the participants – then we support it. If it is self-serving and objectifying, then we are against it.

Each relationship is different. The specifics must be appropriate to the physical and emotional levels and desires of the individuals as they see them. We insist that any relationship with a boy be mutually desired and free of coercion. A young person possesses both the capacity and authority to participate, or not to participate, intimately with another human being.

Finally, we affirm our belief that love is not abuse. Instead, we assert that harm that comes to young people from a mutually loving relationship comes not from the relationship itself but from disapproving social attitudes and hysterical overreactions to child or adolescent sexuality as well as from the denial of their right to reject unwanted interference in their lives.