**Decriminalising Homosexuality 1974-1982: The Role of the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association
by Jeffrey Dudgeon & Richard Kennedy**

**PRONI**

**Thursday 29 October 2015 at 1pm**

History of the law from religious to civic crime, 1861 Act 1885, 1967

Unspeakable crime/Wilde/Casement

1950s Montgomery Hyde (interest in Wilde etc), Wolfenden but post-war puritanism – upper classes and arts community were aware.

Tiny community at the time - Royal Avenue, Liberty Lad,

We were young, angry, enraged,

Context of the time - civil rights –

NIGRA - a groups’ group but not liberationist some Leninist democratic centralism, needed

Origins of the Strasbourg case Boyle UK v Ireland, individual cases recently permitted

My political pedigree/training – radical yet restrained

Gay News appeal/discos at QUB/Tom Robinson

Police raids – Kincora link

LCJ, Bratza 15-4, Article 50

What we achieved – European gay first, Cyprus, Ireland, US Supreme court, Africa and Asia.

All the later reforms had to be fought again through the NIO

Guide to others to use the law and politics not violence.

Gay Marriage – test – youth – UUP vote on Monday.