

C.S.

LEGAL.

Miscellaneous.

1933.

No. 216/33.

Secretary of State.

SUBJECT.

1933.

24th July, 1933.

MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE AND AGE OF CONSENT  
(INSIDE AND OUTSIDE MARRIAGE) IN THE COLONIES,  
PROTECTORATES AND MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1. S. of S. Circular Despatch of the 24th of July, 1933.

*y/lc. Submitted.*

*? The minimum age of marriage and age of consent are not ~~not~~ legally prescribed in this Colony?*

*A. J. J. 18/9/33.*

*Hon. Col. Sec.*

*That is so.*

*hca  
19 9 33*

Subsequent Paper. ②

*Despatch to S of S. no. 132 of 20/9/33.*

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you, signed.

McH

20.9.55

PA  
20/9/55

CIRCULAR.



Downing Street,

24th July, 1933.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of an extract from the House of Commons Official Report dated 12th July, 1933, relative to a request that the House might be furnished with a return showing the minimum age of marriage and age of consent (inside and outside marriage) in the Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories.

2. In order that I may be in a position to furnish the desired return I shall be glad if I may be informed of the minimum age of marriage and age of consent (inside and outside marriage), should these be legally prescribed, in the territory under your administration. Appropriate references to the local legislation prescribing the ages should also be given.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

The Officer Administering  
the Government of

Enclosure in Circular Despatch dated 24th July, 1933.

*Extract from Official Report of 12th July, 1933.*

13. Miss RATHBONE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will obtain and furnish the House with a return showing the minimum age of marriage and age of consent (inside and outside marriage), where these are legally prescribed, in all the Colonies and territories coming under the Colonial Office ?

Sir P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER : I am taking steps to obtain the information for which the hon. Member asks. It will necessarily take some time to collect.

Colonel CLIFTON BROWN : What is meant by the words "inside and outside marriage" in the question ?

Sir P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER : I think my hon. and gallant Friend should address that question to the hon. Lady the Member for the English Universities (Miss Rathbone), who has put the question on the Paper.

Miss RATHBONE : Is it not a well-known fact that the term "age of consent" refers not only to the age of consent of unmarried girls, but also refers sometimes to consummation of marriage in the case of married girls ?

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

20th September, 1933.

COOK ISLANDS.

133.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular despatch of the 24th of July, 1933, and to inform you that the minimum age of marriage and age of consent (inside and outside marriage) are not legally prescribed in the territory under this administration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

M. CRAIGIE-HALKETT.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER,  
G.B.E., P.C., M.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.