

Hey, I'm a Canadian actor and I thought I'd chime in.

I recently did a show in which I played a pedophile, and did a significant amount of research (clinical studies mind you, not the "method" stuff) on the disorder and how it's perceived in the media. In the end the role completely changed the way I look at pedophilia and has made me much more sympathetic to anyone who is born with those urges.

From a biological standpoint it's no different than being gay - a small mutation in the genome that defines our sexual preferences. Depending on what area of the world you were born and what time, it also may have been a perfectly acceptable thing to act on those urges. Now, we all know that taking advantage of minors is wrong. Disgusting and vile, even. But with the exception of Germany we are going about it completely COMPLETELY the wrong way. It's like we having learned anything by studying homosexuality - we're talking about exploring the same "cures" to pedophilia as we were about homosexuality 20 years ago, a la conversion therapy and whatnot.

As a part of my research I discovered that these people have literally nowhere to turn, even non-offending pedophiles. They cannot seek treatment in most parts of the world because the therapist or psychiatrist would ~~be legally required~~ to report any

Hey - done a fair amount of research for a role that I did (I'm an actor. No, not Kevin Bacon haha) and I wanted to provide any assistance if I can.

What we currently know about the disorder is this - like homosexuality, it exists on a spectrum. For example, we all know that the whole "barely legal" subgenre of adult entertainment is HUGE. Anybody who jerks off to pictures of an 18 y/o and turns around and says all pedophiles ought to be killed is a f█████ hypocrite IMO. But I digress; from what you've typed here it seems that you have a mild preference and you are able to be satisfied with adults. Some people with the disorder find themselves ONLY attracted to children, and that could be potentially problematic especially in a society where there is ABSOLUTELY NO WAY TO GET HELP.

Please continue to talk/write using throwaways and please avoid child pornography - it may seem innocent but even watching it is propogating the entire industry which I'm sure you agree is disgusting. Plus the consequences you face if caught are life-changing; worse than death if you ask me.

You have a good head on your shoulders - I wish you the best and I know you will not make any decisions you will regret.

TL;DR: Actor played a pedophile for a TV show, did research, discovered being a pedophile not so different from being gay. Everyone deserves sympathy. Not black-and-white.

EDIT: So my first gold was a sympathetic post towards pedophiles, AMAZING! Thank you for the gold. Honestly, it goes to show that Reddit is capable of tremendous compassion. To everyone who came forward in the thread, I admire your courage and I wish you the best. I'm in no position to provide any guidance or advice of any sort, but I encourage you to read this article I stumbled upon while doing research for my role.

<https://medium.com/matter/youre-16-youre-a-pedophile-you-dont-want-to-hurt-anyone-what-do-you-do-now-e11ce4b88bdb??c=upworthy>

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