

The Alliance For Change

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Family Rights candidate's report: UK General Election - Leeds Central constituency

In the 1999 election, to the same constituency, I delivered an emotional impromptu speech at the declaration, which received the loudest applause accorded to any candidate. In this election, I delivered a strong speech, calculated to shock: I wasn't looking for applause. A solitary involuntary clap escaped into the stunned silence at the end.

This is the text of the speech, which was delivered in slow, measured tones:

My thanks to the election officer for being fair and considerate throughout this campaign.

In this election you are voting for a *candidate* to represent your *constituency*.

Not a party to govern.

But big parties and the Big Broadcast Corporation have **stitched you up**.

No voter in Leeds Central has had any real chance to judge the quality of the candidates on offer.

And you have just voted in the Minister for Concentration Camps in North Africa for a new term in office.

I stand for **family rights**.

We have fourteen million children in this country.

Four million of them either don't see their father, or barely do.

I represent the most marginalised and alienated constituency of them all.

And as a consequence, I address the issues which **really** matter in this election.

But apart from this one opportunity to speak, I and the parents of this one third of the British population have had no opportunity to speak in this election.

Yet we, in all probability, represent the New Politics, just as the International Socialist and the Suffragettes did a century ago.

I hope you will take note of this line in the sand.

I was the only candidate standing in a sleeveless shirt in a line of slavishly besuited obsequious men glad-handing each other, in an even larger crowd of squirming political oiks out for the Count. It was a pleasure to face them all down. You can ask the BBC or regional media for film of the event.

I gained 125 votes, which in political speak is 150% more than the last time.

The most amusing aspect of the experience was watching the chief counter wallah looking through the spoil papers. I noted that several simply had question marks after my name - they simply didn't know what I stood for, because they had been given no real chance to learn. Other ballot papers had large crosses through, rude words, crosses in three or four candidate boxes, etc.

And I had the pleasure of asking one candidate who approached me before my speech whether he remembered me. He started to say that he thought it was in the last election but in fact it wasn't. I

informed him that he had been one of the mediators who had been partially responsible for causing me to fight for ten years to see my daughter. Enough said.

After my speech, it was as though an invisible envelope of silence surrounded me, quite different from the ritual booing indulged in with the BNP candidate. I had crossed the line of pleasantness which cocoons those complicit in child abuse from their acts, and I hope to do so many times again. Only by so doing can we change the system for real, for all the people affected.

The turnout was 29,497 out of about 65,000 which I was told by someone equated to 49%. Hilary Benn got about 16-17,000 votes, the Libdems beat the Conservatives into third place and the BNP got about 1,200 votes.

[Julian Fitzgerald](#)

Alliance For Change:- Family : Environment : Society

Candidate standing in Leeds Central for the UK General Election on 5th May 2005

My Election Communication -

http://81.96.84.79/webpub/fr/ge/julian_fitzgerald_election_communication.doc

tel: 0113 229 8949

email: fried@aesops.force9.co.uk

<http://www.amnesty-4-families.org/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/euro-dads/>

<http://www.allianceforchange.co.uk>