

## Simple rules lead to child runaways

I REFER to Michael Buscombe's letter (April 16) in relation to the PLEASE lobby group.

I ran away from home when I was 14-years-old because I couldn't get my own way on a number of issues, including not being able to do drugs in the house, not being able to arrive home at any hour, shower, have a feed and go again, not being allowed to see my boyfriend who did drugs and was wanted by police, and several other things.

At the time, I thought that my mum was being totally unreasonable by not allowing me to do these things.

I ran away so as I could do just what I wanted to do and not have to abide by someone's rules, not because I needed freedom.

At home I had the freedom to do all the things a 14-year-old would usually do, but I wanted to do more.

At the time, there was nothing anyone could do to make me go back home.

Not because at home I used to get beaten or abused in any way, but simply because I wasn't prepared to abide by what seem now to be simple rules.

There was no other reason apart from that why I ran away. It is this same reason most kids at that age run away.

If a child is being beaten at home and consequently runs away to get away from the situation, then the police will interfere, take the child to a suitable environment and the parents, or whoever is beating the child, will have to suffer the full force of the law.

They will always jump at the chance to help a child.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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But if a child runs away and there has been no abuse at home, then there is nothing the parents can do to get their child back home and the police can't help either. All because of the laws.

If the child decides to go and make up some ridiculous story about how they were supposedly "abused" at home and had no choice but to run away, then the government will give them support.

The child then decides they like this lifestyle and know whenever they want they can go back home to their parents who have been worried sick about them and will greet them with open arms.

Children should not be given the opportunity in the first place to go and make up some ridiculous story.

Mr Buscombe may know what it feels like to lose a child, but does he know what it feels like to want a child to be in a safe environment but know you are unable to help them because of stupid laws.

As I said, most kids I know who have run away were not subjected to abuse at home, so the only abuse they suffered was self-inflicted and cannot be compared to anything.

In most cases, the only abuse in these homes is the abuse kids subject their parents to, as I did to my mother.

It is inevitable parents are going to have disputes with their children.

If the disputes lead to the child running away, the parent has no one to turn to for support because of the laws.

When I ran away, my mum knew I was taking drugs and I was abusing myself.

She didn't want to have to see me doing that to myself, but the only thing she could do was to call the police and list me as a missing person.

I am now 15-years-old and even I believe the laws need changing.

If you love something, give it the freedom it needs to live in life, not the freedom to abuse itself and everyone else who loves and cares for it.

NAME SUPPLIED  
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