

WHAT KIND OF MAN IS DAVID BROWN?



Eriona was six, since her birth she had struggled with life. Born into a Roma family, living in absolute poverty, her chances were never very good.

David came to know the family because he spent time with the Roma people. A European who chose to make their concerns his concerns. Out of his meagre resources he paid for examinations into Erionas condition, out of his resources he paid for ultra-sound and CT scans. Her condition was critical, she had a hole in the heart.

Using any contact he had, he sought for a life saving operation for Eriona outside Albania.

Scans were sent to Britain and America but word was sent back that it was not possible to operate. Distraught, David struggled as to how he would tell the parents. While still struggling word came the next day that Eriona had died.

I spent the next three days at David's side as he visited the shanty town and comforted the parents in a language he could hardly speak and cried over her tiny body laid for mourning in a neighbour's house, since the parents owned nothing but a shack. I was with David as he made arrangements for the funeral, trekking around the city for the necessary paper work, I watched him pay for the coffin and the funeral expenses out of his own resources as I stood by his side as Eriona was lowered into the ground, I saw his tears.

Emiliano was born disabled and would only live for just a few years. His spasms, curved spine and swollen head made it impossible for his desperately poor parents to care for him along with their own children. David took Emiliano into the home as into his heart, caring for a child who had no chance of survival. Emiliano was washed, cleansed and cared for, when the spasms came upon him he was soothed. On occasions he was admitted to hospital while David paid for his care, the nurses put no value on Emilianos life, to David as to the other people who cared for him, he was a precious child. When finally Emiliano died aged two, David and the staff again shed tears as they buried the infant.

Are these the actions of a Paedophile?

Denisi was used as a "begging tool". Abandoned by his parents, he was used by a beggar women to extract sympathy from passers-by. The first time David encountered Denisi he was just a couple of years old. He was lying on a piece of card on the concrete paving in the middle of Tirana. Lying in his own dirt he was baked "African brown" in the sun and the 40 degree heat, close to dehydration and death. The picture David took that day bears witness to his condition. David pleaded with the women to let him take the child and care for him, but she stubbornly refused. Out of compassion for the child David went home got water, food and clothing and returned to the child. David cleaned

him up, clothed him and fed him. He still pleaded with the woman, she still refused to release the child. The thought of the child drove David to pray and fast for him, and each day he would visit the child, clean him, clothe him and spend time with him. Never once did David concern himself about the lice and parasites that infested the child. Eventually after weeks of prayer and fasting and care, the woman finally agreed to release the child into David's care.

That child now regards David as his father, seeks David and is no more content than when he is with 'David'.

The woman grew to respect David and her reports to the Roma community made David welcome and respected among them.

Is this the action of a Paedophile?

Another young boy of about thirteen years old, was dreadfully sexually abused by his father. Eventually he came to live in the home that David ran. I have watched as the child has grown into a loving, caring, smiling young man. In David's home he found security and unconditional love and acceptance. Instead of running from a terrifying father figure I watched him enjoy every moment in the safety of David's home.

David can have no greater advocate than the children who lived in the home. Their love for David was self-evident to any one who visited the home. Every child was made to feel valued, every birthday celebrated, every child made to feel safe and secure.

When David was taken by the police, themselves posted a notice on the gate for the benefit of press and television. It read something like "We love Davidi – give us back our Davidi – He's the best Dad ever".

Hardly a tribute to a paedophile
Hardly a tribute to a man who abused or exploited them, just children speaking from their hearts.

David's only mistake has been in trusting others to care for the children as much as he cared for them.

These things I have seen with my own eyes and know them to be true.