

# Lambeth LGBT Forum Meeting

## 21-02-07

### **Present**

Anton Johnson (Lambeth TUC)  
Max  
Daniel Fitzgerald  
Gemma Romain  
Min Rodriguez  
Peter Hegarty  
Amy Donovan (LGBT Anti-hate crime coordinator)  
Graham Aldus (Lambeth Met. Police LGBT Liaison Officer)

### **Apologies**

Kevin Creed  
Carl Mills (UK Coalition)  
Tim Chambers  
Chris D'Souza (Community Safety, Lambeth Council)  
Robert Brown  
Simon Taylor  
Jeff Doorn  
Rose Donovan

Minutes from the last meeting agreed as accurate.

### **Introductions**

Warm welcome to the first time visitors to the forum.

### **Police report**

Very few reports of homophobic crime compared to this time last year.

### Film Festival

Graham highlighted that the Met. Police are one of the main sponsors of this year's LGBT film festival at the National Film Theatre (NFT) on the South Bank. The NFT falls within the borough boundary and presents a great opportunity for the Police and the forum to promote their services.

The forum website will be linked from the film festival website and our fliers via the information stand which will be present and staffed through a considerable amount of the festival.

## **Forum review**

There was quite an extensive discussion about the direction people would like to see the forum move. It was felt that with the change in the LGBT Anti-hate Crime Coordinators role, that it was a good opportunity to look at developing the independence and sustainability of the forum.

It was agreed that having a committee of six people to commit to the forum would be a good place to start. Each of these committee members could then have specific responsibilities such as website, membership, promotion, projects etc.

The forum all agreed that given the committee members would be volunteers, priorities would need to be decided which reflected the capacity of the forum.

Obtaining charity status was discussed. This would allow the Forum to apply for funding and possibly a worker as several other borough's have. This will be explored further.

*Action: AD to find what is required to become a charity.*

Moreover, those present agreed that the LGBT Matters must underpin the strategic direction and work plan of the forum. As a result of this, it was suggested and agreed that at the March forum meeting, the first hour will be spent reviewing the LGBT Matters research and deciding as a group what issues are our priorities are and what are the realistic goals that we could use to work towards our priorities.

It was proposed that for the April meeting that we will invite a representative from an established forum and a forum that has recently gained charity status to provide us with an opportunity to learn from their experiences. Ben Gooch, forum coordinator from Galop will also be invited.

*Action: Amy to email the LGBT Matters link to the forum.*

## **Events and activities**

### IDAHO – International Day Against Homophobia 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007

GA and AD are planning several initiatives to acknowledge IDAHO within Lambeth. Given the murder of Jodi Dubrowski on Clapham Common it was seen as an appropriate location for events.

The first event would be early evening, around 5:30 and involve the Paul Harfleet, the artist behind the Pansy Project, attending and providing the opportunity for people to plant a pansy as close as possible to where homophobic abuse has been experienced. These self-seeding pansies act as a living memorial to this abuse and operate as an antidote to it. For more information please see <http://www.thepansyproject.com/>

*Action: GA and AD to get permission from the Council's environment department.*

*Action: GA and AD to establish the cost of the Pansy Project for IDAHO*

Following this, it is hoped that the film 'Beyond Hate', already part of the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival programme, will be screened at the Clapham Picture House. This would allow opportunities to socialise before and after in the bar/café area.

*Action: GA and AD to meet with the Clapham Picture House to finalise details such as time, cost of tickets etc.*

#### Idaho flyer

AD is developing a flyer to highlight the issue of LGBT hate crime and to promote the IDAHO event. She is experiencing difficulty in highlighting the high levels of homophobic hate crime around the world as many places do not acknowledge homophobia as a motivating factor. These countries are often ones who have state-sanctioned violence against LGBT people. Suggestions included contacting Amnesty International, Black Gay Men's Advisory Group and Black Lesbians UK for verification of the murder victims that we have on the resource.

#### Domestic Violence leaflet

GA and AD are currently working on the development of a LGBT domestic violence leaflet to promote both local and London services for LGBT people. The resource is a collaboration with Broken Rainbow.

At present the content is being finalised amongst partner agencies including the Lambeth Domestic Violence Coordinator, Victim Support, Lambeth Council and Broken Rainbow.

It is planned that this resource will be available at the next forum meeting.

#### Website

The website is being upgraded with an emphasis on quality information and accessibility. AD is currently seeking quotes from the designer to establish how much it would cost to ensure that the site is as accessible as possible for people with visual impairments.

#### Forum letterhead, compliment slips and business cards

AD would like to spend money on ensuring that the forum has branding and is establishing quotes for having a letterhead, compliment slips and business cards printed. Having a Forum post office box was also suggested.

*Action: AD to investigate the cost of letterhead, compliment slips and business cards.*

*Action: AD to investigate the cost of a PO Box for the forum.*

#### **Any other business**

Issues highlighted included:

*Action: AD to send out a formal letter to the councillors inviting them to attend a future forum meeting at their convenience. A copy of the meeting dates will be included.*

*Action: GA to follow up with the Lambeth Council community safety officer to establish which council premises the hate forum flyers will be displayed.*

AD requested ideas for initiatives and responses included developing resources to signpost LGBT refugees and people who don't speak English as a first language to Lambeth services.

Another suggestion was to buy some library books on LGBT young people, trans issues etc. and include a book plate both acknowledging that they were donated by the LGBT Forum but also including the forum's website which promotes local and London services.

*Action: GA to investigate cost of getting DV leaflet translated into other languages.*

*Action: GA to find out the 5 main spoken languages are in the borough other than English.*

It was suggested that Divine David may be interested in contributing to the memorial on Clapham Common as he had previously expressed interest.

*Action: DF to make initial contact with David to gauge interest.*

It was suggested that we could try and get some resources into the libraries – such as the Southwark DVD.

*Action: AD to make contact with Libraries to establish what resources they currently have for LGBT people with the intent that we could contribute ideas.*

**Next meeting**

7-8pm prioritise the key issues from the LGBT Matters research.

8-9pm watch the Southwark Pride not Prejudice DVD on LGB employment rights.