

"Last half term I went to the first ever QCollege, which was held in London. I just want to thank all the organisers, sponsors and volunteers who made the weekend such a fantastic event. I had a great time trying out new activities and meeting new friends and I can't wait until the next QCollege. Thanks again to everyone".

Letter in Diva magazine (Feb 2002)

**Shoutline**      020 7704 2040

**Minicom**      020 7704 3111

**Office**      020 7704 6767

**Fax**      020 7704 6707

**Address**      PO Box 32810  
London  
N1 3ZD

**Email**      [galop@onetel.net.uk](mailto:galop@onetel.net.uk)

**Website**      [www.galop.org.uk](http://www.galop.org.uk)

Galop is a Registered Charity No 1077384

Galop is a Company Limited by Guarantee No 2969307

Galop is registered as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Anti-Violence and Policing Group.



**GALOP**

**Annual Review**  
**April 2001 - March 2002**

**London's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual  
Anti-Violence and  
Police Monitoring Charity.**

**“I have always looked at the police as the enemy but when I was badly beaten-up while out with my partner, Galop help to put me in touch with my local LGBT Liaison Officer and he was very helpful and efficient”.**

**Galop is London’s lesbian, gay and bisexual anti-violence and police monitoring charity which aims to provide a relevant and sensitive service to meet the needs of all lesbians, gay men and bisexual people faced with hate crime or any policing issue.**

**Galop will achieve this by**

- ▼ providing a free, confidential and non-judgemental service
- ▼ providing an appropriate service to members of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities who may bring different experiences of abuse based on their gender, race, ethnicity, disability and age.
- ▼ ensuring that all its work is directly informed by its work with clients.

**Galop’s service is enshrined in the following values**

- ▼ confidentiality
- ▼ belief
- ▼ offering a free service
- ▼ honesty
- ▼ integrity
- ▼ client empowerment through maximisation of choice.

# Jamie called the Shoutline in October 2000.

*Over the past four months I had been receiving numerous anonymous phone calls and letters from one of my neighbours in which I was told 'I'm going to slit your throat you dirty queer' and 'I'm watching you'. The most frightening incident occurred once when I had just switched the bedroom light out, my mobile went and I had a text message, which read 'Switch the light back on so I can see you'.*

*In the end I had my landline disconnected and got a new mobile phone. Every thing went quiet for about two weeks but one morning I went down to my garage and noticed that the passenger window of my car had been badly damaged with a screwdriver and a used condom had been put on the window. I didn't report this because I didn't think the police would do anything but six days later I went to get my car and the bonnet had been damaged in the same way. That's when I went to the police and told them everything.*

*I told the police that I was worried that this damaged was a follow on from the telephone calls and that considering that our garage is very secure, only myself and my neighbours have keys, it was obvious that it must be one of my neighbours that had done it. I was genuinely afraid of what would happen next. The police took the information from me, and then called me back and said basically that there was nothing they could do.*

*I felt that I had been given no help whatsoever, and that I was so afraid of being in my garage or arriving home after dark that I changed my working hours so that I could be indoors before dark, I try not to park my car in the garage and won't venture into the garden at all in the evening.*

*I got a letter from the police that said 'your crime has been investigated and no arrests have been made'. They enclosed a car crime leaflet. How could they have said it had been investigated when they never sent an officer to even look at the garage situation?*

Galop got involved straight away and explained the law that applied in his case. We provided information on the police complaints procedure so Jamie could decide whether to lodge a formal complaint. Galop worked with the police officer who had initially handled the case and also made contact with Jamie's local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Liaison Officer to discuss how best to tackle the homophobic harassment. The LGBT Liaison Officer promised to personally interview the neighbour that Jamie suspected was involved.

Galop also helped Jamie to approach his Housing Association for support, writing a letter of support backing Jamie's request for the neighbour to be evicted. The neighbour was eventually moved and Jamie was able to get on with his life.

This year has been another busy one for Galop. We have achieved many of our goals and taken forward key pieces of work.

## **Shoutline**

Galop's unique helpline service, The Shoutline, continued to provide advice, support and casework for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people experiencing hate crime or having problems with the police. We are delighted that the number of calls to the helpline increased by 24% on the previous year (198 to 246) meaning that even more of the people who needed our service were able to access it.

Over the next three years, Galop is aiming to more than double the number of calls to the Shoutline and continue to improve its use by black and minority ethnic people and those in Outer London boroughs. Galop is hoping to be awarded the Community Legal Service Quality Mark in 2002/2003 in recognition of the high quality advice service we offer.

## **The Lowdown**

One of the year's highlights was the publication of The Lowdown, the needs assessment for the black lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. This pioneering piece of research is the first in the UK to focus on black lesbians, gay men and bisexual people's experiences of hate crime, policing and community safety.

The Lowdown's findings will not only inform Galop's work but will be used to influence policy and service delivery across the voluntary sector. The report highlights the experiences of the black LGB communities in relation to coming out, being lesbian, gay or bisexual, service provision, policing, reporting crime, homophobia and racism.

Asfa Malik, the Black Service Development Officer, left the project in December 2001 and Galop will be recruiting a new member of staff in the coming year who will take the project forward.

The Lowdown Report is available from Galop. Its publication was made possible by the generous support of The Community Fund.

## **Strategic Plan**

Funding from the Charities Aid Foundation enabled us to conduct a strategic review of Galop involving key stakeholders such as service users, staff, funders, partner organisations and the Management Committee. The findings have given Galop the framework to develop our services and ensure that we are able to respond to the needs of our service users, work effectively with the police and inform policy makers about the needs and experiences of the LGB communities. Key changes to the internal structure of the organisation (including the appointment of a Chief Executive) will begin early next year.

## **Youth Project**

Galop's Youth Project finally came to an end in 2001 although the lessons learnt continue to inform our work. The project arose out of our 1998 needs assessment "*Telling it like it is*" and has had a measurable impact on the services Galop provides to young people.

“QCollege made me think differently about the way we categorise people and their sexualities”.

17-year-old QCollege participant.

The Youth Project’s final event was QCollege run in partnership with Birkbeck College, PACE, the Metro Centre and the North London Line. It was a pioneering 4-day college for young lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people encompassing workshops, lectures, films, readings and discussions. The event was extremely successful with over 70 young people attending the “*thought provoking*” event and over 100 representatives of organisations attending its launch.

Galop is delighted to have secured funding from Help a London Child towards running QCollege again in 2002.

### **Lesbian leaflet**

In response to a lower number of female callers to the Shoutline, Galop produced and launched a leaflet aimed at lesbian and bisexual women which was distributed widely through support groups, clubs, bars and other organisations in London.

### **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Group**

Galop remained an active member of the LGBT Advisory Group to the Metropolitan Police. The Advisory Group and its subgroups meet regularly to make recommendations to the police about their policies and practices that affect the LGBT communities. Its influence has led to many improvements in the service the Metropolitan Police gives to the LGBT communities.

### **Borough Liaison**

Galop continued its work in several London boroughs particularly work around non-police reporting of crimes with Westminster, Hackney and Kensington and Chelsea boroughs.

### **The Future**

Galop is entering a very exciting period in its development. The next year will be influenced by the increasing demand for our services, our developing understanding of the needs of our service users and our strategic review. We will build on our strengths as a grass roots organisation and continue our work as the only London-wide LGBT charity focusing on hate crime and policing.

Finally I would like to thank Galop’s funders, partner agencies and supporters without whom our work would not be possible. I would also like to thank the staff and the Management Committee for their commitment and hard work over the last year.

**Les Moran**

**Chair of the Management Committee.**

# Treasurer's Report

Galop would like to thank all the funders whose support has made our work possible this year for their commitment to the safety of lesbians, gay men and bisexual people and to Galop as an organisation. We would particularly like to thank the following...

The Association of London Government (formerly London Borough Grants) has generously funded Galop's work again this year enabling the organisation to run the Shoutline, offer casework, work with other agencies and develop specialised services.

The Community Fund has funded the Black Services Development Project as well as contributing to the organisation as a whole.

The Charities Aid Foundation grant made the Strategic Review possible, the impact of which will be felt for many years to come.

The Bridge House Estates Trust and Comic Relief funded the Youth Project, which made a real and ongoing impact on the lives of young lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

The Lloyds TSB Foundation contributed to the running costs of the Shoutline enabling us to answer the many calls we receive from lesbians, gay men and bisexual people experiencing hate crime or having problems with the police.

Galop is pleased that the accounts for the year again show .....

Copies of the 2001 to 2002 audited accounts are available on request.

"I have always looked at the police as the enemy but when I was badly beaten-up while out with my partner, Galop help to put me in touch with my local LGBT Liaison Officer and he was very helpful and efficient".

"I suffered homophobic abuse from a neighbour and the helpful and sympathetic guidance I received from Galop helped me face up to the challenge of doing something about it"

" Galop has helped me find a gay-friendly solicitor, which I didn't know existed, to take on my case."

"Thank you for putting me in touch with the Metro Centre, their drop-ins have really helped me come to terms with the problems I have been experiencing"

**This year Galop was staffed by:**

- ▼ Asfa Malik                      Black Services Development Officer and Caseworker
- ▼ Rob Downey                      Financial Administrator and Caseworker
- ▼ Tracy Hind                      Youth Officer and Caseworker

**The Management Committee from April 2001 to March 2002 was as follows:**

- ▼ Lorraine Roberts              Chair until 4-2-02
- ▼ Dara de Burca                  Treasurer until 6-12-02              Resigned 6-12-01
- ▼ Suzanne Elwick                  Member                                      Resigned 6-12-01
- ▼ Tony Murphy                      Member                                      Resigned 26-9-01
- ▼ Andrew Truby                      Member                                      Resigned 25-4-01
- ▼ Les Moran                          Chair from 4-2-02
- ▼ Rachel Holmes                      Treasurer from 28-3-01
- ▼ John Graham                      Member
- ▼ Catherine Crabtree              Member
- ▼ Nicholas Taylor                  Member
- ▼ Susan Paterson                      Member

The Company Secretary was Rob Downey.