

# GALOP

PRESS RELEASE

Gay  
London  
Policing  
Group

## SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AND GAY MEN.

Since the murder of Michael Boothe (May) increasing publicity has been given to the endemic level of violence directed against gay men. The recent demonstration of OutRage pointed to the inadequacy of the police response, wasting resources instead on the widespread surveillance of public toilets. London Weekend Television also drew attention to the deaths of several gay men following murderous homophobic attacks. The police have again failed to solve these crimes.

In order to persuade the authorities to take the problems of the gay community seriously we need basic statistics on the extent of the violence, abuse and hostility which gay men are faced with on a day-to-day basis. Despite repeated requests from GALOP and others the police themselves refuse to record and collate such statistics. It is time, therefore, we mobilised our own resources.

As the initial phase of the first ever survey in this country GALOP - the Gay London Policing Group - will be circulating questionnaires at this year's Pride. Interviewers will be asking people a series of brief questions such as whether they have been 'queerbashed' themselves, or know of friends who have

been subject to attacks. The results will be used to pressurise Home Office and the Met. to reallocate resources in order to meet the real needs of the gay community and to desist from criminalising gay sexuality.

"We are asking for just a few minutes of peoples' time towards a project which could have a significant impact on how we lead the rest of our lives - free from the fear of violence and persecution. The police force has an obligation to ensure this, and this government, in particular, is fond of rhetoric about freedom, law and order. The survey could be an important part of getting them to do something about these issues on behalf of their population of gay citizens." - said Jeremy Clarke, Research and Information Officer for Galop.

A report of the survey will be published and will be the basis for a larger-scale research project into victimisation of gay men. GALOP will also be calling a public meeting following Pride to discuss the implications of this issue for future campaign work.