

GALOP

**Gay London Police Monitoring Group
38 Mount Pleasant WC1X 0AP 278 6215**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

TORY GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AND NATIONAL FORCE GALOP
TO CUT RANGE OF SERVICES OFFERED TO THE GAY COMMUNITY

March 31st 1986 is the date when the Tory's plans for abolishing the Greater London Council come to fruition. When the GLC disappears GALOP's main source of funding is going to disappear. It is possible that GALOP may be able to secure sufficient funding to enable the group to continue it's work for a further twelve months.

However, even if the group can finance its activities for another year it will not be able to offer the range of services to the Gay Community that it has in the past. The Secretary of State for the Department ^{of the Environment} has given himself the power to decide what GALOP and other community based groups can and cannot do. Tory controlled Westminster City Council have, through various injunctions in the Courts, managed to stop some of the activities of GALOP and similar community based groups.

In the past GALOP has been able to offer advice, practical help and support to gay men who have come into contact with the police. That casework involving individuals and their experiences now has to stop. In the past GALOP has been part of the wide campaign demanding that London's Police be made accountable to the people of London through democratically elected local representatives,

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rather than at present where the Police are answerable to no-one but themselves and the Home Secretary. Campaigning for a democratically accountable police force is undeniably political, GALOP has always been aware of this, so have the Tories. GALOP has always recognised that demanding a police force serving the people and answerable to the people is directly opposed to ^{the} interests of the ruling class and their party - the Tory Party ^{has} ~~been~~ ~~recognised~~ this as well. GALOP has been told it can no longer involve itself in campaigning and work of a political nature. GALOP believes this to be an attempt by the Tories to silence any opposition to their morally and politically bankrupt policies.

In the future, GALOP will concentrate on collecting information about current police practices and their effects on the gay male population. It will use the information collected to inform and educate the gay population and others interested in ending the oppression of gay people. GALOP will produce literature that will inform and educate people of their rights and other issues that will be of benefit to Londoners. GALOP will also be able to give advice and help to groups campaigning on policing issues and the law.