

GALOP



ANNUAL REPORT



1996-97



SHOUTLINE





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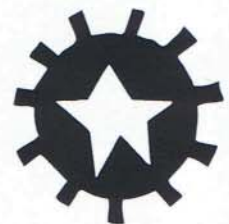
GALOP's Aims and Objectives



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GALOP Staff and Management Committee



Membership





AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



GALOP should provide a relevant and sensitive service to meet the needs of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals faced with homophobic violence.

GALOP's service should be based in meaningful community involvement.

GALOP should adopt a multi agency approach to its work, focusing on community safety, including crime prevention as well as victim support.

GALOP should develop a better use of volunteers.

GALOP should be an active member organisation.

GALOP's work should be service driven, rooted in its work with clients.



Aims and Objectives of GALOP's Advice Service

GALOP should work towards providing a sophisticated and well-defined advice and information service that:

- ★ provides a wide range of advice and information, offering pragmatic responses in terms of a wide range of agencies, support services and possible options for clients.
- ★ provides a sensitive and appropriate service to different members of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities who may bring different experience of violence, homophobia, the legal system, and other institutions based on their gender, race, disability and so on.
- ★ provides a service drawing on the principles of crime prevention, lessening the fear of crime, as well as offering support.
- ★ provides a client service whose aims and parameters are clearly defined, and relate to providing practical advice, resources, information and signposting.





chair's report



As I look back at the end of my second year as chair of GALOP I continue to feel a great sense of pride, as well as slight amazement. Our achievements this past year have built on our successes of the year before, and GALOP is now offering an even better service to the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities in London.

If only one defining characteristic of the voluntary sector can be agreed that must surely be that we are working in an environment of constant change. GALOP this year has been no exception, and I'm glad to say most of this has been positive and quite exciting! Earlier in the year we were delighted to hear that our lottery application for a youth project worker had been successful. The surrounding publicity prompted by the PM's comments turned out to be an unexpected bonus as the Metropolitan Police and most of the press supported us. The Youth Project Worker, Kelly, started towards the end of the year and is doing some very exciting work.

The delay in Kelly starting was due to GALOP having to move offices! Initially this news was greeted with some dismay by us all - however Fen and Phil, our two paid workers, oiled the wheels to perfection and the whole process was as smooth and painless as possible. The new offices are bright, spacious and generally a great improvement. Do come and visit.

The subsequent need to change addresses on publicity e.t.c. was the prompt for the launch of SHOUTLINE and some new and eye-catching leaflets and posters. These, we hope, will reach out further to all communities and encourage even more lesbians, and particularly Black lesbians gay men and bisexuals, to use our service. A service which will be aided and improved by the recent production of a helpline manual - a thoroughly researched and accessible document funded by a LBGU Research Grant.

All these new developments are very exciting and further details about them come later in this report. However it has not been easy. We continue to struggle on a grant which does not cover even our

core costs and we are still trying to reduce a deficit inherited from the 'old GALOP' (donations welcome). (Our paid staff have often worked beyond the call of duty and the volunteer management committee contribute a great deal of time and commitment.)

We therefore rely on membership, donations and the fees we receive for speaking and providing training. A far more focused fundraising effort needs to be launched and we need to build on the work started by the lottery grant. This will be assisted by the reprioritisation of the responsibilities of one of our project worker posts, which now has a specific fundraising brief. However, we will not be able to face the challenges ahead, nor should we, without the support of our members and the wider lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. Any offers of help will be gratefully received - and I can promise you, well utilised!



Finally, GALOP continues to be an exciting and rewarding organisation to chair, and I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee and Fen, Kelly and Phil for all their hard work, and for making it so much fun. Sadly, this year Phil decided to move on and GALOP wishes him well. He helped shape the 'new GALOP' and has provided firm foundations for his successor.



WORKERS REPORT

Introduction

Two years on from the re-launch of GALOP and the Project continues to expand at a furious pace. GALOP has taken up the challenge of developing diverse and innovative services. This report highlights some of the existing and new work that GALOP has undertaken over the last year, although sadly, due to space restriction we can only include a microcosm of what we get up to.

Staff Team

The year began with a team of two workers, Fen Coles (Project Worker Policy) and Phil Waterson (Project Worker Services). They were joined in December by the Youth Project Worker, Kelly Alexander. Sadly, at the end of January, Phil left GALOP for a career in fund raising and will be missed. We are currently recruiting for a new worker to take over from Phil. This new post will be different in that it focuses more on finance and fundraising.

Campaigning

Sex Offenders Bill: In June this year GALOP united with a number of lesbian, gay and bisexual groups in meeting with Liberty to organise action against some of the proposals in this Bill.

Police Bill: GALOP responded to the recent Police Bill by lobbying members of the House of Lords and Jack Straw. The Bill's amendments that related to Cautioning and Enhanced Job Checks had specific implications for the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. GALOP's focus was to gain support from the Lords to oppose these infringements of civil liberties.

Media

In addition to the media stampede over GALOP's National Lottery success we have had a constant stream of media interest throughout the year. Here is a synopsis of some of them.....

Statistics

Non - Helpline Requests For Assistance: March 1996 - March 1997

Request Type	Number
Requests for GALOP leaflets e.t.c	61
Researcher / Student Requests for Information	30
Membership Requests	9
General Requests for Assistance (*lesbian, gay, bisexual organisations & individuals: 122. *other organisations and individuals: 36)	158
Confidential Letters seeking advice	7
Media Requests for quotes/interviews/information (*lesbian/gay media: 32 *Other media: 85)	117
Police Requests for Assistance	39
Requests for GALOP to Chair/Give Talks/Workshops	22
Hate Mail / Abusive Calls	24
TOTAL	467

Channel Four London News Room Interview

Phil was involved in a television interview when a gay officer came out in Birmingham.

Radio 5 Out This Week

Fen dispelled the myth, on air, that 'perpetrators of homophobic abuse are black, straight men'.

Carlton TV

The script writer for The Bill contacted Fen and Phil for help and information in writing a lesbian/gay storyline for the TV soap.

BBC TV

GALOP contributed to the research for the recent 'HUMAN RIGHTS.. HUMAN WRONGS' series.

Cable TV

Phil participated in a live studio discussion on Talk TV on the decision of South Yorkshire Police to advertise for recruits in The Gay Press.

News Direct

Fen and Kelly were interviewed by this 24 hour news radio station about GALOP, specifically the Youth Project for a programme about the National Lottery.

Police Liason

London Lesbian and Gay Policing Initiative (LLGPI)

GALOP has continued to have a leading role in this group. One of the major achievements this year is the commitment from the LLGPI to address lesbian issues and, the introduction of a series of talks to begin to highlight what these issues are.

Metropolitan Police

The Met have begun, finally, to monitor homophobic incidents London wide and have appointed Lesbian & Gay Contact Officers in most divisions to complement this scheme. GALOP undertook a survey of these Contact Officers which has become a vital resource for our helpline. We are continually monitoring the success of this scheme. GALOP were also involved in training officers for the Whitechapel Division and have since been approached by Limehouse and Islington Police.

GALOP's Divisional Work

As a result of concerns raised via the helpline, GALOP has liaised at a divisional level with stations such as Tottenham, Holborn, Streatham and The Parks Police.

Local Liaison Groups

GALOP has been approached by a number of Local Groups seeking our presentations of our work and representation on their group. We have so far had input into; The Metro Community Safety Forum, The Hackney Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Police Action

Group, The Tower Hamlets Lesbian and Gay Police Liaison Group and The Gay Pubwatch Initiative.

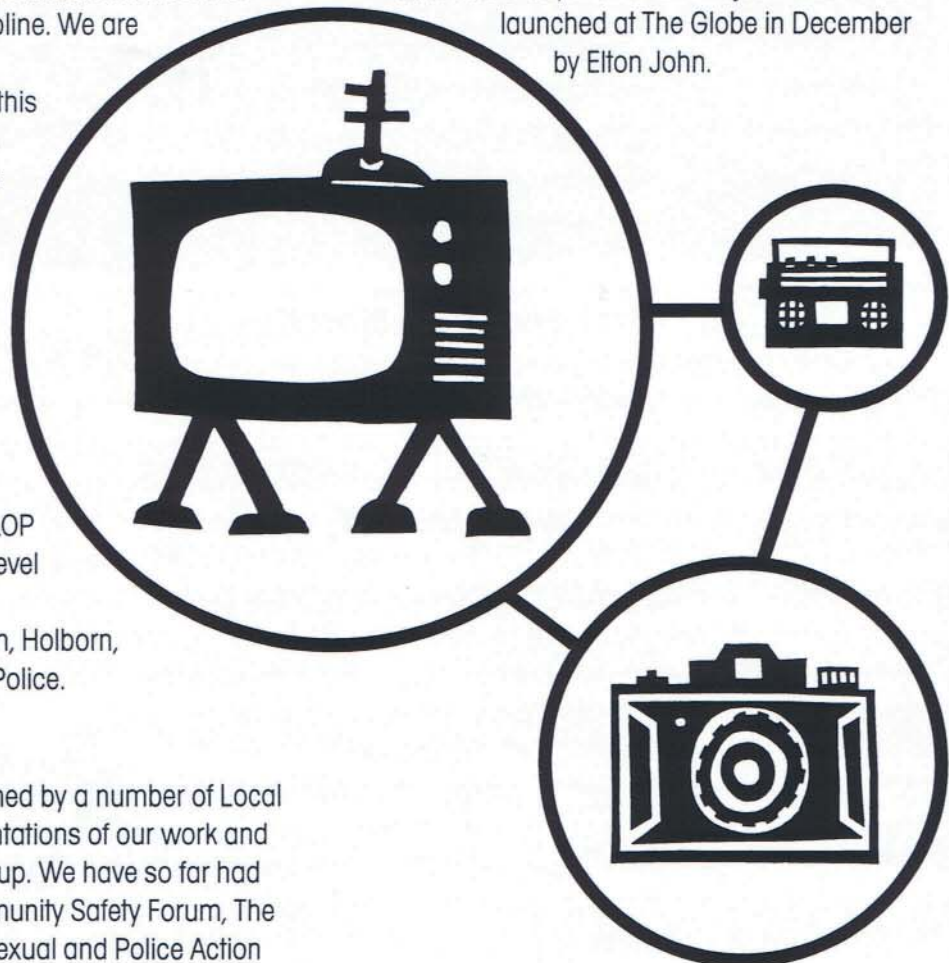
Other exciting things

Tackling Violence and Oppression Against Lesbians and Gay Men Conference

In May 1996, GALOP, the Associated London Government and the LLGPI collaborated on organising this policing conference. GALOP were the driving force behind the lesbian focus of this event. This was the first policing conference to take on the issues of the lesbian and black lesbian and gay communities in a fundamental way. Out of this came a planned joint publication for local authorities by the ALG and GALOP.

The House Party

GALOP produced three advice cards for this innovative Gay Men's HIV Project which was launched at The Globe in December by Elton John.





SHOUTLINE



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Shoutline History

In September of last year, discussions began on naming our helpline as a project based at GALOP. The idea behind this was that a new title would give a better sense of the kinds of calls we receive; a combination of violence and policing issues. We are of course a policing project: we monitor the Metropolitan Police, keep a database of some of the more approachable officers, research current police practices and operations. And yet we also get a substantial number of calls from lesbians, gay men and bisexuals who have suffered homophobic or lesbian hating violence, and, who wish to make us aware of these incidents rather than making a police report. Our response to these calls is not to coerce callers to make police reports, but, to offer them emotional support. If they do wish to take action, we suggest a police report as only one of many other options. Because of this, much of our work is the monitoring of homophobic violence which may or not bring policing issues with it. We came up with the name **Shoutline!**, arranged for a new logo and have since produced some glossy service leaflets and posters.

The Shoutline! Concept

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helpline for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals.
campaign against hatred. Have your say! Tell Us!
we aim to make it safe to be out.
our helpline respects your confidentiality.
we outline recommendations to the police and other agencies for your safety.

Shoutline Statistics

Our case work divides up into six main areas; General Enquiries, Witness, Police Complaints, Arrests, Violence and Housing Harassment. Our General Enquiries calls are typically questions about the law, such as, the age of consent, declarations on employment applications, immigration, police surveillance e.t.c. Witness refers to callers who have been witness to either violence or police unprofessionalism. Police Complaints speak for themselves. However, the statistics for this category are not, in themselves, representative since many of the other kinds of calls include police complaints (we have highlighted this in the violence calls). Arrests typically concern public sex related offences, although other examples include; drunk and disorderly, trespass, fraud and deception e.t.c. In terms of violence calls we hear about all kinds of abuse including; verbal abuse, queerbashings, muggings, violence by casual pick ups, hate mail e.t.c. We have a separate category for Housing Harassment because of both the prevalence of this kind of abuse and the different procedures involved in assisting victims. The following statistics will provide a clearer picture of the type and extent of the calls GALOP deals with:



★ ★ ★ **statistics report** ★ ★ ★

Total Number of Calls: 558 First Time Callers: 173 Follow Up Calls: 385

The following information is based on 173 first time callers

Sex	Gay	Lesbian	Bi. Male	Bi.Female	Het. M	Het. F	?	Total
Men	116		8		2		11	137
Women		31		1		4		36

Race / Ethnicity	Numbers	Age	Numbers
Jewish	3	under 18	2
Black	14	18 - 25	31
Asian	6	26 - 30	37
White European	112	31 - 40	43
Mixed Race	5	41 - 50	15
Irish	9	51 - 60 +	8
Unstated	24	Unstated	37

Disability 21	No Disability 92	Learning Difficulty 1	Unstated 59
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Breakdown of Geographical Area

Barking & Dagenham	Barnet	Bexley	Brent
0	0	1	4
Bromley	Camden	City of London	Croydon
3	10	0	4
Ealing	Enfield	Greenwich	Hackney
2	1	4	4
Ham. & Fulham	Haringey	Harrow	Havering
3	5	0	0
Hillingdon	Hounslow	Islington	Ken. & Chelsea
2	3	8	3
King. upon Thames	Lambeth	Lewisham	Merton
1	10	4	2
Newham	Redbridge	Rich. upon Thames	Southwark
6	4	0	11
Sutton	Tower Hamlets	Waltham Forrest	Wandsworth
0	2	3	4
City of Westminster	Neighbour Counties	Outside London	Unstated
12	9	34	14

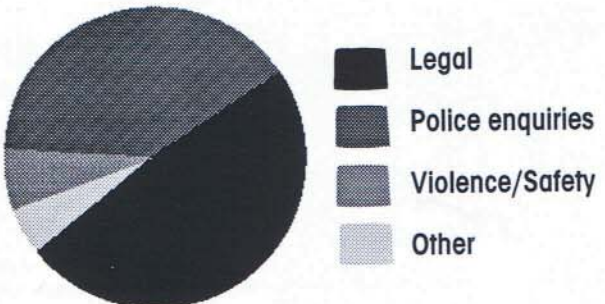


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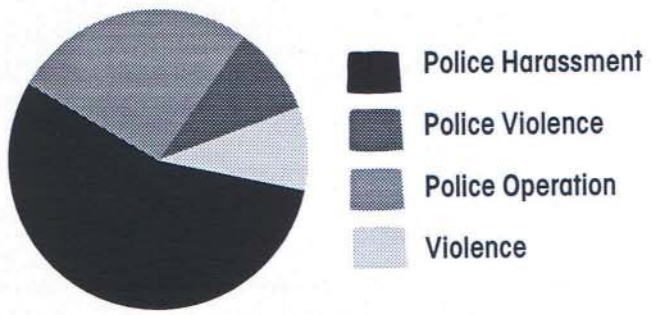
How Callers Heard About GALOP	Numbers
Community	50
Organisations	38
Media	33
Professionals	5
Other	12
Unstated	35

Types of Calls		
General Enquiry	Witness	Police Complaint
43	12	17
Arrested	Violence	Housing Harassment
19	58	24

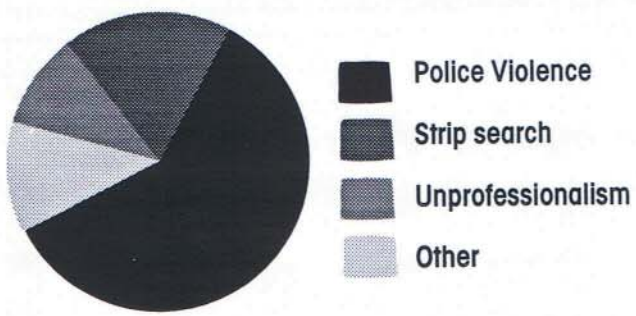
General enquiries



Witness



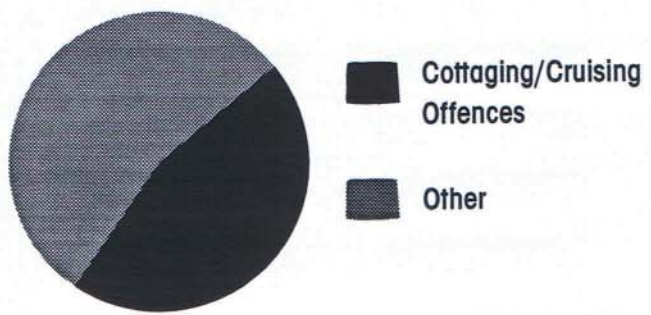
Police Complaint



Violence and Housing Harassment



Arrests





YOUTH PROJECT

Something positive did come out of headlines like 'Major's clamp on loony left lottery grants' or 'Bonanza for the Bizarre' when GALOP won its lottery grant last year. A huge amount of free publicity. GALOP got coverage in all the major newspapers and on radio stations that we could never dream of affording to advertise with. So I suppose our grant from the lottery totalled considerably more than £26,000 when you put it in a different perspective.

The 'ill founded and ill judged' money has been used by GALOP to fund my post, Youth Project Worker, for one year. GALOP recognise that adolescence is a time when young people are struggling to define their identity and express their individuality, and that for a young person trying to come to terms with a stigmatised sexuality the difficulties are compounded. Vulnerable young lesbians, gay men and bisexuals cannot often get support from the sources usually available to teenagers; family, friends, or teachers. Add violence or harassment to this equation and teenagers can be left feeling vulnerable and isolated. The main aim of my post is to identify the



needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people with regard to homophobic or lesbian hating violence and policing issues.

Having only started with GALOP in December '96 I am still in the first phase of the project, which is, the needs assessment. Since January of this year I have been travelling London in search of young people. My main

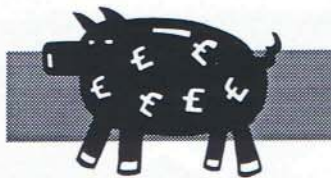


port of call has been the many lesbian, gay and bisexual youth groups that exist across London. I have also made contact with youth counselling and advice services, housing projects for young people, lesbian and gay organisations who may be accessed by young people and other relevant organisations who provide services that young lesbians, gay men or bisexuals may use. As well as this direct contact with organisations I have sent Press Releases to many of the lesbian and gay publications and written an article for Thud Magazine, who acknowledged the importance of the issues around young people in our communities.

I have been collecting information, via questionnaires and focus groups, about young people's experience of violence and the police as well as what services they would have liked to be available to them. At the end of May, when I begin to collate this information, I am hoping I will be able to produce a report that is evidence of the experience of young lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, but also make recommendations about how GALOP can enhance its existing service to ensure that it is meeting the needs of these young people.

By the time you read next year's annual report I am hoping GALOP will have an up and running youth project as part of its wider service, that is meeting the needs of this specific client group and is continuing to include them in the development of that service.





TREASURERS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



In 1996 GALOP became a Company Limited by Guarantee. As a result of this there are two sets of audited accounts for the financial year from April 1995 to March 1996 for the period leading up to our change in status and then for the period after until the end of the financial year. The information relating to these accounts is presented below.

GALOP continues to be supported by our core funder, the London Borough Grants Unit, who have, in addition, awarded us two non-recurrent grants for the purposes of meeting removal and research cost. I would like to thank the LBGU for their sustained support. I would also like to give a special thanks to Sasan Abtahi, our current LBGU Grants Officer.

GALOP was successful in its funding application to the National Lottery Charities Board and received a grant of 26,000 to fund the Youth Project for one year.

GALOP is also about to appoint a new worker who will have a remit that involves finance and fund-raising. We look forward to seeing the results



Detailed Profit and Loss Accounts for the Period Ended 31st March 1996

	1/10/95 - 31/3/96	19/9/94 - 30/9/95
Grants Receivable	20,756	20,756
Donations and Fundraising Receipts	<u>165</u>	<u>312</u>
	20,921	21,068
Expenditure		
Salaries and Related Costs	16,175	15,608
Rent and Service Charge	1,725	1,725
Other	3,471	5,066
Liabilities of GALOP carried forward	-	3,074
	<u>(21,375)</u>	<u>(25,473)</u>
Loss for the Period	<u>(450)</u>	<u>(4,405)</u>

n.b the current treasurer will give a verbal report at the Annual General Meeting on 29th April 1997.





STAFF and Management COMMITTEE



GALOP was staffed in 1996/1997 by

Fen Coles (Project Worker for Policy & Company Secretary)

Phil Waterson (Project Worker for Services)

Kelly Alexander (Youth Project Worker & Locum Finance/Administration Worker)

The Current GALOP Management Committee is

Chair
Lorraine Roberts

vice chair
Jamie Lake

TREASURER
Debbi Murtagh

Raechal Ferguson

Pete Gittings

Theresa Thomas

Raj Chandarana

Julia Cooper



n.b at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 29th April 1997 the current Management Committee will stand down and seek re-election.



MEMBERSHIP

GALOP's membership will ensure informed service development, including accessible service provision, and, identify issues for policy exploration and action. GALOP has a structure which offers three membership options. There is a membership fee for each option that is payable on an annual basis. The three options are;

Group Membership, Individual Membership and Affiliate Membership.

Group Membership applies to

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community Groups and organisations operating in the London Area.
National Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Groups which are based or operate in the London Area.
Voluntary Organisations which are based or operate in the London Area.

n.b. Those fulfilling Group Membership criteria will have voting rights at general meetings of GALOP. All groups will be asked to ensure that nominated representatives are lesbian, gay and/or bisexual.

Membership Fee: £10.00

Individual Membership applies to

Individuals wishing to participate and represent their own perspective who are resident in the London Area.

n.b. those fulfilling individual membership will have full voting rights at general meetings of GALOP.

Membership Fee: £5.00 waged £2.50 unwaged.

Affiliate Membership applies to

Those groups or organisations with an active interest in the policing issues for lesbian, gay men and bisexual communities in London but which are not identified as 'lesbian, gay or bisexual groups or organisations' or 'other voluntary organisations' (item 3 under Group Membership).

n.b. affiliated members will not hold voting rights.

Membership Fee: £25.00

It will be a criterion for all membership options that groups and individuals support the aims and objectives of GALOP Ltd.

Should you wish to become a member of GALOP please complete and return the form enclosed with this report or telephone GALOP on 0171 704 6767. GALOP encourages members from all sections of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities.