

LGBT ADVISORY GROUP CALLS FOR LAWS TO TACKLE HATE CRIME

24 September 2003

Concerns surrounding Thursday's Music Of Black Origin (MOBO) awards have prompted the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Group (LGBT AG) to issue the following comments regarding the lack of legislation to tackle hate crime.

"The MOBO Awards have highlighted the Criminal Justice System's inability to deal with the promotion of hate crime."

"We acknowledge that two bands nominated are no longer producing songs inciting homophobic violence, but condemn unreservedly bands of all styles which make profits out of promoting hate crime."

"The songs appeal predominantly to the youth market and we are deeply concerned that the Department for Education and Skills has not taken practical steps to tackle homophobic prejudice in schools."

"The recent decision of the Attorney General reiterates the institutional lack of will to tackle ALL hate crime."

"The LGBT AG calls upon the Home Office to give the police and the courts the resources and legislation required to effectively tackle hate crime and incitement to hate crime."

Notes

- The Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Group is an independent Advisory Group to the Metropolitan Police Service.
- The Attorney General has announced that perpetrators of hate crimes will receive extended sentences in a bid to cut attacks. However, the longer sentences will not apply to people who commit homophobic crimes (17/9/03).
- Further information on the LGBT AG can be found at www.lgbtag.org

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