

Councillor Bernie Grant,
Leader,
London Borough Of Haringey,
Members' Room,
Civic Centre,
Wood Green,
LONDON N22.

Dear Councillor Grant,

We the undersigned are concerned with the recent developments surrounding the Haringey Council's 'Positive Images' policy.

Every day for the last few weeks this policy has been attacked in the Tory media. The attacks have been pretty appalling. They are aimed at the Council's policy but at the same time seek to denigrate gay and lesbian communities.

There has also been pressure from local organisations to abolish the Positive Images policy. The two main organisations spearheading this attack are namely the Parents Rights Group and the Haringey Black Pressure Group on Education.

The Parents Rights Group is nothing more than a front for the local Tory Party bigots who wish to drag us backward to the Victorian values continuously expounded by Thatcher and the Tories.

It seems that the Tories cannot abide any gays or lesbians unless they happen to be high up in the Tory hierarchy. But then the Tory double standards and bigotry is nothing new. The worrying factor however is that this group seems to be involving some of the most reactionary elements in the Borough and if allowed to continue in this manner will soon lead to physical attacks on the gay and lesbian residents in Haringey.

The other group actively campaigning against the Positive Images policy is the Haringey Black Pressure Group on education. The group is made up of a black membership as the name implies. As black people they suffer racial oppression in society therefore one would tend to expect a more progressive attitude from them towards other groups who also suffer oppression such as gays and lesbians. The attacks from this group upon the gay and lesbian community have also been very vicious, similar to those of the Tories. Furthermore, according to this group any black lesbians who may exist have been corrupted and led astray by the white women's liberation movement. They completely deny the existence of black gays. This is all contained in a leaflet they distributed and is enclosed with this letter. The leaflet is signed by Paul Boyd, who is understood to be taking up a post with Haringey as Race Equality Officer. According to him any sexuality other than heterosexuality is alien to black families. He goes further to state that Bernie Grant also shares this view but cannot publicly declare it because of pressure exerted by the Labour Party.

We fully support the Council's 'Positive Images' for Gay and Lesbian' policy. The policy is very basic in that it gives a recognition that gays and lesbians exist and that we should be able to discuss the issue openly and not to discriminate against an individual because of their sexual preferences.

However we condemn the Councillors for not giving full support to their new policy. The Councillors have failed in two ways - Firstly, whilst the vicious attacks are perpetrated on the Gay and Lesbian community and the Council's own policy through the media and local pressure groups, the Councillors seemed to have kept silent. Their failure to counter these attacks have helped the tories to win support against our gay brothers and sisters.

The Black Pressure Group led by Paul Boyd has not only attacked gays and lesbians but also managed to split the black community. Paul Boyd upon taking up his post in January 1987 is supposed to put into effect the Council's equal opportunities policy for the benefit of all without discrimination. We do not believe that he is capable of achieving this. As far as he is concerned only black people suffer oppression and no one else. He has already demonstrated by attacking gays and lesbians (describing them as unnatural, ungodly and immoral) that he will discriminate against them.

We believe that Paul Boyd's views are incompatible with his intended post and demand that he should not be allowed to take up employment with Haringey, otherwise it makes a complete mockery of Haringey's equal opportunities policy.

We also demand that the Councillors end their silence over the Positive Images and instead should vigorously publicise and implement their own policies.

NAME	WORKPLACE	NAME	WORKPLACE
Linda Moss	HAC	Ogi Hasan	HAC
Paul Ahmed	HAC	Rachel Hawley	W9-private sector team
Anita Bradford	HAC	Anne James	HAC
Ruth Claxton	HAC	Balwinder Hans	HEG
Francis Lee	HAC	Pat Henry Jones	Housing (HAC)
M. J. J.	HAC	Michael Turner	H.A.C.
Sheeran	HAC	Anoway	HAC
Phillimore	HAC	Kate Winter	Mid-Tottenham Housing office
Jackie Fraser	HAC		
J. Lobbett	HAC		
Dev Stone	HAC		
Steve Nut	HAC		
Sue Azim	HAC		
Sue Bates	HAC		
Martin C. Eady	HAC		
Clara H. H. H.	HAC		
Steve Hampson	HAC		
Tracey Man	HAC		

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NAME	WORKPLACE	NAME	WORKPLACE
G. Bridgial	Housing Dept		
D. Saunders	" "		
S de Banya A	" " "		
A Edwards	" " "		
D. Duberry	" " "		
K. GILLEN	" "		
C. Westreen	" "		
G. Spive	" "		
G. Harro	" "		
D. Boon	" "		