

Galop and Stonewall Housing Oral History Project

Interviewee: Jackie Foley

Interviewer: Rashid Ramin

Place of Interview: Metro Centre, Greenwich

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Key

RR: = Interviewer, Rashid Ramin

GVW:= Jackie Foley

[time e.g. 5:22] = inaudible word at this time

[5:22 1A] = inaudible section at this time

Word 5:22 = best guess at word

RR: So can I ask you to say your name?

JF: It's Jackie Foley.

RR: And the date and place of birth?

J Oh! Date and place of birth! 17th of January 1968, I was born in Oxford.

R And the interviewer is Rashid Ramin and this is for a Gallop and Stonewall Housing Oral History Project. So Jackie, could you start by telling me a little bit about your own personal background and your childhood and where you grew up?

J I grew up in Whitney which is in Oxfordshire, which is a rural Cotswold town, very pretty, virtually in the country really I grew up. Went to normal primary school, secondary school. What else can I say? <Pause> That's about it really for growing up. My mother died when I was eleven, so I actually had to move around a little bit from aunties and uncles and things like that. I think as far as my sexuality is concerned, I pretty much knew that I was gay from very, very early on, but living in the country and living in the middle of Oxfordshire there wasn't really any role models around as such, so secondary school was in the eighties, so Margaret Thatcher had come in, in 1979, as I went to secondary school, and so a new Conservative government that was very family orientated. So my politics were quite ... difficult as a teenager really, because I didn't really remember a Labour government, to be honest, apart from the '70s which were pretty awful for everybody. And my family wasn't very political. To be honest my father wasn't very political, they were very working class family, but not very political. A lot of my cousins and uncles worked for the Rover factory, so were quite shop stewardly, but not particularly political, I don't think. Didn't really get any political sway as a child or a teenager.

When I was sixteen I wanted to leave home, and I couldn't really see a way out, at sixteen, and I didn't really want to go on to do any kind of other education, because I hated school. Well I didn't hate school, I loved school actually, but I didn't really want to be at school *there*. And so I decided to go in the forces, the RAF, at sixteen. And my dad had been in the RAF and a lot of

family had been in the forces, so I wanted to actually be a PE teacher, funnily enough. Same old cliché really, a stereotype, a lesbian being a PE teacher, but ...

I really did not want to stay in Witney and do A levels and things like that, so I thought well, I could do it in the RAF instead. So at sixteen I went for the tests and I was too young, but they gave me some tests and gave me an engineering test, which I did really well at. And so they told me that actually no, I shouldn't be a PE teacher, I should be an engineer. And so I said OK. <Laughs> 'cause I didn't really know much at sixteen about what I wanted to be. I just wanted to get away. So that seemed a perfect thing to do, and they said, 'Well, if you want to be an engineer we can let you in early. We can let you in one-and-a-half years early because of your grades and things like that. But we won't pay you very much.' And I just said, 'Yes, OK, fine.' So at sixteen-and-a-half I went into the RAF.

Which was great. I had a great time, played sport all the time, didn't really work very much, had a lot of friends, travelled a lot, and had ... it was really good for me, actually, 'cause I was a little bit off the rails when I was a teenager so it was actually quite stable.

R Where were you based?

J I was based at RAF Benson. Well first of all I went to Hereford, RAF Hereford, then I went to RAF St Athan which was in South Wales, which was very cold, very miserable, and very large. But it was actually quite a nice base to train on and a lot of young people there, so were thousands of eighteen/nineteen-year-olds, so quite good for social life.

Then I was posted to RAF Benson, I went to the Queen's Flight, which used to be there. And then I was at Benson for quite a while and then I was detached to Germany and I went to Laarbruch and to Gütersloh, and then I came back to Benson and then when I was ... I must have been twenty, I'd been in four years, I think that my sexuality started to just be an issue for me, 'cause I was trying desperately to not be gay, to be honest, for a long time in my teenage years, and at that time ... being ... a lesbian in the RAF was against the law. Against Queens Rules. You were asked before you went in, 'Are you homosexual?' and I said, 'No' and I signed to say that I wasn't. So it meant that they could actually put me in prison.

So ... but as urges happen, when I got to twenty and I was surrounded by all these gorgeous women ... I couldn't really help myself to be honest. And they took over. <Laughs> And I had an affair with a couple of married women, and ... one of them left her husband and ... her husband found out and ... then the RAF found out, really. And I was arrested and ... <pause> yeah, that was fun.

It was a difficult time, it was ... I was put under house arrest until it went to court martial, and in the end I agreed to leave, which I wish I hadn't now. I wish I'd let them go on to court martial, because they wouldn't have won, but I was only twenty-one by that time and <sniffs> ... didn't really ... understand I had rights.

R What year would this have been then?

J Well it didn't go to court martial in the end, it was going to court martial in 1989, 1989 ... it was ... about March 1989 they told me that if I continued with what was happening then it would go to court martial or I could agree to leave, and put my six months in. You put your six months in. But actually ... no that was January sorry, I'd put it in the January 1989. So I agreed to leave, and I wish I hadn't. I wish I'd gone to court martial because they wouldn't have been able to prosecute me as a female, not then. A civilian lawyer would have turned them over, basically, but I didn't know that at the time. It wasn't 'til I left.

So I was interviewed a lot, I was ... interviewed by the police an awful lot actually. And they, the police officers in the RAF are in most forces, I have to say, are actually not very good, because they don't get the practice or the type of cases that you get outside police forces do. They're not trained as well, I don't think. They might be a bit better now, but at the time they weren't very good.

And they didn't really understand gay issues, to be honest, it was pretty horrific what they thought of gay people in the forces then. <Sniffs> They were still actually using electrotherapy on people. I think ... was it called electrotherapy? Where they put electrodes on you, show you pictures, so they asked me if I wanted to go for a psychiatrist's assessment and I said no, they could have made me go but because I said I would leave I didn't have to go. But if I was going to stay then they were going to send me to a psychiatrist and change the way I thought about my sexuality ... which happened to a couple of people that I knew, one guy I knew he committed suicide when he went to prison for nine months, he committed suicide in prison. <Sniffs> That was the end of the eighties. But the RAF was much harsher, well the army, Navy, were much harsher on gay men than they were lesbians, because women actually were disposable anyway, in the forces, so they didn't seem to want to chase you as much, to send you to prison, whereas men they did. That was my impression of it anyway.

So they allowed me to leave, even though I had to stay another six months. You have to do another six months where you're not allowed to do anything that's under the Official Secrets Act, so I wasn't allowed to work in certain areas and things like that. And then I left in July 1989 and I went to work for the army as a civilian. <Laughs> Because the job that I had, it was exactly the same in the army, and the army needed civilians to work that job, and basically they didn't need to train someone else, so they let me just walk into it. But as a civilian I could be whatever sexuality I wanted to be, which was a bit ironic.

R Doesn't really make sense, does it?

J No, not really.

R So presumably you had been outed by this, was that the way you see it?

J Yeah, pretty much, yeah.

R So that wasn't a conscious decision on your part, it was just something that happened?

J Yeah, pretty much I suppose so, yeah. Yeah. <Pause> Yeah, I didn't really talk to my family about it very much, because I lived away. I talked to my friends about it or I told my friends what had happened and things like that, a lot of my friends in the forces obviously found out because I was being investigated, and arrested, so they wanted to know why. I worked in an all male environment, actually, the whole of the MTMS, which is the Mechanical Transport Maintenance Section, there was about 100 men that I worked with, there was no other females, and I never had problems from one of them when they found out.

In fact three of them ... agreed to be ... interviewed to say that they'd slept with me, so that I wouldn't go to prison. <Laughs> And of course I hadn't slept with them, but they were friends.

And I think that everybody just felt that it was a bit silly really in this day, even then, in the eighties, everybody thought it was a bit stupid really. But I think that there'd been a backlash because of HIV and the forces had really hotted up on people being lesbian or gay in the forces, because they just thought all gay people had HIV. They didn't really <laughs> distinguish between the sexes, to be honest.

So yeah, then I went to work for the army as a civilian. I didn't work there very long. I went to live in Germany for a little while, 'cause I had friends over there. I didn't work all that time 'cause I had quite a lot of money after I left the RAF actually, for a twenty-one year old. 'cause they did pay you quite well. And I had a couple of years just having fun really, in Germany and ... yeah it was good.

And then I went to London and then I went to another institution, I went to work for the police as a civilian.

R I'm just going to move this ...

<Part 2 starts>

So we were on to when you moved to London, and you said working in the police, and now presumably as an out gay woman?

J Yeah

R And how was London?

J Yeah, London was mad, really. 1990, end of 1990 something like that. Yeah it was ... just so different from anything I'd seen before, the gay clubs and bars and things like that, and being gay didn't appear to be an issue. Yeah, it was a lot different. I didn't really want to move here, but my girlfriend wanted to move to London, 'cause she could get a better job in the City and so I did, I moved to London and I've been here nineteen years now, which is a bit strange 'cause I never wanted to move here. But ...yeah, she got a job in the city, we got a flat in Wapping and I got a job as a civilian with the Met Police, doing the same job that I did in the forces and with the army.

R So tell me a bit more about what you were doing.

J Basically I was a mechanic. Basically. And I worked for them for about a year, six months, no, about nine months I think, and I decided that actually I wanted to go back to university. I never wanted to be a mechanic really to be honest, it wasn't really chosen ... it was chosen for me by the forces, really. I'd sort of outgrown it a little bit, I wasn't very interested in it anymore. So I decided to go back to school really, because I hadn't tried very hard at my O levels, they were then, and I didn't really have any qualifications, so I decided to go and do some A levels, which were fast-track A levels. I can't remember what they called them now, but you did them in six months, and if you could do them then you had enough points to go to university. But you had to go three days a week. So I gave up work and I went back to college. And it was probably the best move I ever made actually, to be honest.

I did three A levels, well equivalent A levels, they weren't called A levels, I can't remember what they were called now. And then I applied to uni.

R And where were you based?

J I went to Brunel in West London. I was going to apply to be a PE teacher again, but I went <Laughs> to a couple of interviews and when I saw these eighteen-year-olds, I must have been ... twenty-four? God, actually I was really young but it seemed like I was really old. When I saw all these eighteen-year-olds there, I actually thought no, this isn't for me. I'm a bit too old now. God, even though I was only twenty-four, twenty-five, that seems silly now. And so the only other thing that had ever interested me was film, and so I did a film degree, with history, 'cause you couldn't do a pure film degree then. If you wanted a proper honours degree you had to do it with something sensible, that's what they thought. So I did film with history.

And yeah, that was great, I had a really good time doing that. And I think that actually that made me grow up quite a bit, and the relationship that I'd been in that time, it made me realise that it was the wrong relationship for me. I'd been in a relationship for about seven years, and first real relationship, and so that ended actually in the middle of my degree, which probably ... showed just how much I changed by going back to school really.

Yeah, it was good. I really enjoyed it. And it made me more politically aware as well. It's the first time that I'd studied psychology or studied any kind of politics at all.

I think that that's where I started to actually think a bit broader about my political views, and also whether I was an activist or not. I never really saw myself as an activist but in fact I think that's where it started, where I started to think about what kind of jobs I wanted to work in really.

And then that came to an end and I had a couple of just jobs, I can't remember what, I think I drove a bus for a little while, London bus. That was just to get me through uni really, but also at the end of it it was easy to carry on with. And then ... then I went to work for the BBC for a little while, which I didn't like. I found it quite shallow, and that was quite good for actually because I thought I wanted to work in television, but in fact I didn't at all. So that was good.

And then I went to work for the Prince's Trust, the charity, and that was where my charity work, or working in the third sector started really. I went to work for

them, when would that have been, 1998 possibly? Yep. And I became a trainer with them, working with young people between 16 and 25, people that had, young people that had quite a lot of issues, and I really enjoyed it. It took a lot out of you though. Couldn't do it for very long. I did it for about a year, and then I think I was exhausted really. They had a lot of complex issues which ... meant that you had to give quite a lot, and didn't have much time off.

And then I decided actually I wanted to be a teacher, from that. And I went back to uni again for a year. And I went to the Institute of Education and got a PGCE and then I worked as a teacher for a little while, and I worked in colleges mainly, because I worked with post sixteen, and what else? I went to work in Hackney as well, in a few schools in Hackney, mainly with excluded children or young people. But it was mainly exclusion units or post-sixteen that needed to get into work or that kind of thing. Hard to reach, as we call them now, or NEETS as we call them now.

R And what were you teaching?

J I taught media studies, film studies, and then I taught a bit of English and Maths, which was just to level 1 to some of the NEETS, and then I did a lot around things like building self-esteem, those type of things .I did a lot of classes with young people who were pretty-much lost in the college-work gap, trying to help them really either go into education or go into work. But I also worked in exclusion units, and that mainly was just working with young people that had ... basic to severe mental health issues, and helping them to try and stay in school really, or trying to get them back into school, if they were out of school.

And then I had enough of that really, 'cause again quite difficult work, and it does tire you out. And I saw a job at the Metro Centre that was a project worker, and I wanted to work back in Greenwich, 'cause this is where I'd now moved with a new girlfriend, and so I applied for the job and I got it, and I started working as a project worker for the Metro Centre. That would have been 2002 I think, yeah.

R And just backtracking a little bit, obviously you had a number of quite different roles but quite a lot of experience leading up to the work that you now do, so how would you describe life for yourself as a gay woman in London around that period leading up to when you started work in 10:27?

J I went out a lot. I had a lot of friends, I did a lot of socialising. Obviously it was a lot easier, gay clubs, had a lot of male gay friends, and like I say I think my ... political outlook started to grow, I started to think a bit more politically. I started to go to Prides. I think the first Pride I went to was 1991 in London. It was in Camberwell Park I think, Camberwell Green I think it was. Did a few marches, that kind of thing. And Section 28 as well happened, which again for me thinking about becoming a teacher was something I really had to think about as well. I think that a lot of us were actually quite frightened of that and wondered how it would impact on us as teachers really. It had calmed down a bit by the time I became a teacher, but I still felt it, I still felt that I couldn't be out possibly at work, even though because I worked mainly in post-sixteen or in exclusion it was a lot easier to be out, because post-sixteen a lot easier, nobody really cared that we were doing anything wrong 'cause everybody was over sixteen, and then in exclusion units we had all sorts of people, mental health workers and psychiatrists and educational psychologists, who

were a little bit more politically aware. And also in London I met some great heads that worked in Hackney, and who really didn't care, to be honest, and really ignored Section 28, they weren't really bothered, even though they had to keep to a lot of rules, they didn't really ... I don't know, I don't think it ever restricted anybody really in the places that I worked.

I think had I have worked outside London I think it would have been very difficult really to be a teacher. So I think it would have been very difficult, but I did think about it. It did cross my mind, should I become a teacher, because I can't really be out, and that wasn't an option for me anymore. I was definitely not going back in the closet, I'd had enough of that really, I just wanted to be who I was really and I didn't really mind if other people didn't like me really, for being gay.

But a lot of my friends... I suppose I lost a few friends to HIV in the early nineties as well. That was another thing, I suppose, that had an impact on my political awareness, and the campaigns that you saw on the telly and around and about London, and the way London was really, it was quite ... some of the places were quite seedy, some of the clubs were seedy and in places that nobody else really wanted to go to and that kind of thing. But uni was good. Uni was good because I could be out and not worry about it really.

R Where were your favourite haunts during the nineties?

J Where were my favourite haunts? Used to go to Brixton a lot, used to go to The Fridge in Brixton, Venus Rising used to be a girls' club on a Wednesday, used to go to the Vauxhall Tavern a lot, there was a girl's club on a Friday night there. If I was with my gay boyfriends then I'd be going to G-A-Y on a Saturday, which I can't believe now, but I did do that throughout the nineties. Saw quite a lot of people there as well. There was always ... I don't know, I think I saw Take That about five times, I think I was sick of it, because they were on their way down at that time, not their way up like they are now. And Boy George, who always did G-A-Y, and Kylie was always there because she wasn't really very popular in the mid nineties either. So yeah. I think we went clubbing every weekend then, throughout the nineties, went somewhere. Two Brewers, I used to go, in Clapham, when I lived round that area. Used to like The Two Brewers. And then The Gloucester, that was in Greenwich, used to love The Gloucester. Shame it's ... not still there really. It was a classic place, because also it was in the film *Beautiful Thing*, so a lot of people used to know it because it was in the film.

Yeah, used to go to one-off girls' nights in different places. Used to go to Turnmills, yeah, went to some classic places in the nineties actually.

R And so we come to the Metro Centre, which takes up to 2002?

J Yeah, I think it was 2002 I came to work here, I think so.

R And you were always a project worker?

J Yep

R And working with young people here?

J No! Actually I was working with older people, they ... decided to run a project, they'd done a needs assessment and found that the only people that were not accessing their services were black and ethnic minorities, and people over fifty. And so they asked me to set up a project to try and encourage more people over fifty to use any of the services really. And I found it very difficult, I have to say, at the beginning, so I decided to start my own project, and the funders were good enough to allow me to, and I actually started Metro 50+, which is still going today.

R Tell me a little bit about the [17:13 IA] and the Metro Centre's remit.

J OK. When I first came to work here, 'cause it's actually changed now, but when I first came to work here 2002, the Metro Centre was a very local charity, southeast London charity that worked with lesbian, gay and bisexual people only. Everybody that worked at the Metro Centre was lesbian, gay or bisexual, and all of their clients or services were directed at lesbian, gay and bisexual people. And we were in a horrible shack just round the corner from here. <Laughs> That wasn't a very nice building, but I do have some fond memories of it. And we had youth groups that were very popular, and counselling services, which we still have today, but the main source of funding that we got was HIV prevention. From local PCTs, local PCT, Greenwich PCT, NHS, was our local funding.

R So going back to your 50s recruitment, can you tell me more about how you went about it – so that was from scratch, was it?

J Yeah, it was, it was actually very difficult at the time because we didn't really know if that's the way that we were going to be able to get people to access services, but thought we'd give it a go and I think we had I think we had ten people turn up to the first meeting, people over fifty who self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Then as the project, I started to do support really, and that would be around housing, benefits, all sorts of things, anything really, but mainly it was around sexuality and people coming to terms with their sexuality in later life. And I did a lot of phone counselling, I suppose you could call it, even though I'm not a counsellor, to people who usually were in ... straight marriages who had decided in later life that they were actually ... fancying people of the same sex, and these thoughts obviously had been quite challenging and worrying for them. And so I did a lot of work with people over the phone, and sometimes managed to get people to come in, but the group continued once a month and continues today, and it's the most popular group we have, that access services here. We have about 120 members of mixed gender. Also I opened it up to the trans community as well because I felt that there wasn't anywhere for older trans people to access either, in consultation with the group, they were comfortable with everybody attending. So it then became an LGBT group for over fifties. And like I say we have about 120, 130 members and we probably get about 30 people attend a month, and we have speakers and we have people come in or we have quizzes and things like that. And really it's a social group. It's not a support group anymore because I don't actually ... we don't have any funding for it anymore, because my job has changed at the Metro.

We ran out of funding in 2005, but luckily I've managed to keep the work going. I'm actually now a sexual health advisor. <Laughs> But that was an accident as well. I go from one job to another, honestly. I don't know how it happens. But in 2005 my funding ran out and at the time we needed to do

more sexual health outreach for gay men, gay and bisexual men. Actually men who have sex with men. So I was the first worker that was female. They hadn't had a female worker before, they'd always specified that you had to be a gay or bisexual man to work in the field. But then I started working here, again, in sexual health. And so ... but I asked the Metro if we could continue with the 50+ group just once a month and we managed to find a small amount of funding under sexual health for the group as well. So I've managed to continue it on a small budget, but we don't do support anymore, it's just a social group. If people need support then we refer them to other services. So yeah, so that changed in 2005 and I became a sexual health worker. And ... <pause> that also changed last year, because even though I'm still a sexual health worker, I now work ... I have lots of other things attached to my job as well, which are too many probably to mention. But I'm still part time. I still only work here 0.5 a week.

So it was back in 2005 it must have been, that I then applied for the job at Galop.

R Whoa, stop there.

<Part 3 starts>

R Moving on to your role at Galop, when did you become aware of Galop as an organisation? Did you know about it before you saw the vacancy?

J I did, yes, because firstly the Metro Centre had commissioned some work to Galop, to do a needs assessment on hate crime in Greenwich and Bexley, and at the time I knew about that and I think I'd done a bit of work for them or something, or I'd helped get the needs assessment out into the community through my outreach work, so I did know who Galop were.

R And the role at Galop, was that specifically for Greenwich and Bexley, or was that ... so you were a case worker for those ...

J Yes, what had happened was, from that needs assessment, Galop then applied for some money from the needs assessment results basically, to have a case worker specifically for Greenwich and Bexley, and so when I saw it I just thought actually I was quite interested in the work that they were doing, from the needs assessment, and I'd already done a little bit of work here with the police locally. We had a few incidents and I think I was available so somebody asked me to go to a few meetings with the police, and I found it quite interesting, and so I thought actually I think I'll apply for it, because I was on about fourteen hours a week here. I was doing some teaching work elsewhere and I think that was coming to an end, I think I was still teaching in Hackney a little bit and that was coming to an end, so I decided to apply for the job at Galop.

R And so your experience with the police was specifically related to sexuality obviously, and your own experience with that all those years before, what was your working ... before we get to the Metro Centre, what was your experience of the police and how they responded to LGBT?

J I'd had some positive and some negative I suppose incidences, so I'd met already an LGBT liaison officer that worked in Southwark, think he was the first one and I've forgotten his name, it slips my mind. Anyway, ... he had

been very good and I thought well, if he can actually work in the Met as a police officer and do this work, then maybe there is a wind of change on the way. And then I did have a couple of instances where it wasn't so positive, where I think I'd seen, from the pole tax riots and things like that, in London, not just about LGBT issues but other issues I think that ... I suppose my thoughts towards the police were that they were an institution that was intrinsically racist and homophobic. But I thought that possibly there was a chance that this could change, I suppose.

R So tell me about starting with Galop and what that work involved.

J Yes, so I got the job at Galop, which I was quite happy about, and luckily, I suppose it was just pure coincidence that I still worked for the Metro part time, the then director who was ... my god, I can't believe I forgot her name, the then director ... it's gone. Anyway, ... the then director of Galop had had a meeting with the director here at the Metro Centre and because the post was in Greenwich they came to an agreement that I could do some of the work here, that I could still have an office base here as well as in Leroy House. So that was really good, because I think that the reason why my post worked, one of the reasons anyway, was because I could actually spend a lot of time in Greenwich, and I actually was based here and I could really work quite closely in the borough. I think if I'd have stayed in Leroy House, or had to work in Leroy House for the whole time of the project, it wouldn't have been so successful. My physicality almost made it slightly easier to work in the surroundings I think. But yeah, so the post started so I'd have one day in Leroy House and one day down here in Greenwich. And we tried very hard to get some space for me to work in Bexley, and at first they were quite ... we were quite optimistic that we would find somewhere to work, and that we would be able to work with Bexley, but we tried for about a year, and they were very focussed on domestic violence, very focussed, and not very focussed on hate crime. They saw hate crime as domestic violence, they didn't really see anything else. I even remember going into one meeting with Bexley Councillors where they said, 'Well, I don't actually think we have any gay people that live in Bexley.' And I said, 'Oh, really? Is that right? I think you might have ...' Also as far as having any trans people in Bexley, I think that they thought that was impossible. So it was quite difficult to work with Bexley to start with. So we tried very hard to make some inroads. The police were quite good to start with, they wanted to meet with me, they wanted to do some work, but again they were so pushed towards domestic violence because they didn't have a CSU. What they had was a People Protection Unit, and under their People Protection Unit came the normal CSU stuff, so domestic violence, hate crime, anything else, but also vulnerable adults came under that, child protection, those kind of things.

R CSU stands for what?

J Community Safety Unit, sorry. Most, actually all boroughs of London apart from Bexley, there is a Community Safety Unit, CSU, which deals solely with domestic violence, hate crime, that's it really actually, and vulnerable people. So any racist, homophobic, transphobic, disability crime, anything like that, the Community Safety Unit deals with it. Sorry, I'll say CSU from now on.

However, like I say, Bexley did not have a CSU, it had a people protection unit, which was much broader than your average CSU, so their focus, as far as they were concerned, hate crime was extremely small to them, in

comparison to domestic violence, which all boroughs actually have got that issue. Their domestic violence figures are huge compared to the hate crime figures. So they didn't feel that it was necessary to have this person who was working part time solely on homophobic and transphobic crime. They felt that I would be much better off working in domestic violence, so they tried to steer the project towards domestic violence, and we had to keep saying 'Actually no, all I deal with is homophobic and transphobic crime, I don't deal with domestic violence, unless it's a same-sex partner domestic violence, then I will help you with it or advise you on it.' But they didn't get it really, to be honest, and so we tried very hard in Bexley but it just didn't work. It just didn't work. They had one LGBT Liaison Officer who actually wasn't out herself in the borough and didn't feel that she could be, so it made it very difficult because she was quite loath really to try and do any work, even though I think that she would have wanted to, I think that it was quite difficult for her to work with us. So if there ever was an incident, I was informed, but quite often I wasn't informed on things that actually maybe they missed, and that they didn't tick as homophobic, they maybe ticked as grievous bodily harm or other things. They weren't very aware of asking the right questions about whether something may well have been to do with people's sexuality.

So that was Bexley. Greenwich was great. When I first started working in Greenwich, Greenwich Police were very open to anything to help really, which is unusual for an institution quite often. They don't like outsiders. An institution like the police is very difficult to work with or infiltrate when you're a civilian, 'cause they're very wary of you to start with, and I think that's why projects work if you work with them and consistently keep working with them, and eventually they'll let you in. And that's what I did in Greenwich. We didn't have any LGBT Liaison Officers when I first started the project, and when I finished the project we had six, who were meeting once a month, and it had grown and also I think that people were much more aware, the whole of Greenwich Met are much more aware of who I am or who we were as Galop. And were much ... felt much easier in asking for our help or advice, as well. Which has showed on a few of the cases that we've worked on. We've had a couple of high-profile cases in Greenwich ...

R Can you tell me about those?

J Yeah, I think I probably can to a certain extent. One of them is still ongoing. <Pause> Actually ... I don't know what I'm allowed to say, because I'd have to say that we've had two murders in Greenwich and maybe this is the way to say it, and whoever transcribes this legally will have to decide whether I'm allowed to say this, we've had two murders in Greenwich that I felt were homophobic murders. However, both of them the CPS dropped the homophobic part of the murders. And so ... I still see them as homophobic murders that we worked on, or cases that we worked on. The first one ... was a guy ... who was a well-known person in the ... and I've forgotten his name now, well known person in the community, he actually worked, did some work for the police as a civilian, and he was murdered in Charlton Park a couple of years ago, supposedly a one punch to the head, so it actually went to manslaughter. It wasn't ... they didn't see it as a homophobic murder because they couldn't prove that the language used was homophobic, even though his partner and his family see it as homophobic.

That was quite a good case to work on, because it was the first time that we'd had meetings where the police had come to the Metro with the community in

meetings; the family also came, because there had been a lot of stuff in the press about it being a homophobic murder, even though they couldn't press charges of it being so. It was seen as manslaughter, with no homophobic slant to it. Because nobody could witness any language that was homophobic. But I think a lot of the community felt that it had been And that was quite a good case for us. We worked very closely with them and it was the first time that I'd worked closely in Greenwich with the murder squad, and I came to know them quite well.

The second one is still ongoing, so I don't think I can talk about it. Oh no, hold on. No it isn't. No, that came out two weeks ago, sorry. A guy was killed again a punch to the head, again in Charlton, and there had been some homophobic language that had been used before the murder by the guy. However, because there had been a break in circumstances, so he had shouted some homophobic language at him, then the guy had walked away and then when he'd come back up the road, that's when the incident happened, so they couldn't prove that it was homophobic because the language hadn't happened straight before the incident. And yeah, he went to trial and I think that finished a couple of weeks ago actually. I can't tell you exactly what the outcome was, I think it was about eighteen months or something like that. Again that was manslaughter. Got taken down to manslaughter.

- R It sounds like your role has lots of different strands to it. [16:10 IA] that link is relationships that you have to build [16:15 IA]. How do you see your role within Galop as an organisation, in terms of their broader aims and what do you see Galop's impact as an organisation, at the time that you worked with them and more broadly?
- J I suppose when I came to work there we'd just really established a good working relationship with the Met and they'd just started to trust us as an organisation, and felt that we were a professional organisation as well. I think a lot of times charities are seen as amateurs, and I think just as I went to work for Galop we were being seen as a professional organisation that could work with them, and help them and advise them. I suppose even though my role wasn't outreach worker or project worker, I did lots of things. I did a broad range of things because there was only, at one point there was only three or four of us in the office, in the whole charity basically, and so you had to do a bit of everything really. So talking to the police, talking to the community, dealing with clients, dealing with the press, which was always a difficult one, which actually I think I learnt more working with Galop, working with the press, than I had worked with any organisation. I had a couple of quite ... prominent dealings with the press during my time with Galop, which we can come to at some point.

I suppose they're there for the community, Galop is there to work for the LGBT community. However it's also there as a ... as a ... what's the word, a mediator, quite often, between the community and the police. And we can help the community to talk to the police as well as helping the police to talk to the community, and whether that's just by changing the language or changing the way that things are said, I don't know, but we have always been a mediator... a mediator ... I can't say it, that sort of in between part really. Which was sometimes very difficult, actually, some of the work that I did with Galop was very difficult, being that person. Because you have to be able to relay what the community wants or feels in a way that you *think* the police might

understand. So I think that because I'd worked for the police at some point and I'd worked in an institution myself, and because now I had this community that I felt was my own and I had political awareness and beliefs around that community, I think that I knew both sides, and so it made it a lot easier for me to know how the other was going to react really.

- R You've spoken about the difference between the attitudes in Bexley and Greenwich, and I know they were your specific areas that you worked in, but do you have any sense of across London if there was a disparity in understanding of those issues at that time, compared to maybe ten years previously?
- J Definitely. Definitely. It really does depend on the local council and what their politics are and what kind of issues that local council has had to face, and I think that to a certain extent, because of the Stephen Lawrence case in this borough, in Greenwich, it had made Greenwich look at itself and it had made Greenwich have to analyse what kind of hate crime was going on in this borough, in the same way that I think Hackney had to in the eighties, and maybe other boroughs had to as well, Islington maybe or Westminster, even though it's very conservative now in Westminster I think. But I think that if there had been incidents in certain boroughs then they had had to deal with these things before, whether they were racist incidents or whatever, it made them have to look at themselves and judge whether they were dealing with incidents properly. So to a certain extent I think because I was working in the borough where Steven Lawrence was killed, because that had been a hate crime that had been dealt with quite poorly by the police, the police had had to look at themselves, the council had had to look at themselves as well, and assess whether they were doing the right things, and had had to change their attitudes towards certain minority groups I think, to be honest.
- R You spoke a bit before about dealing with the media, in relation to hate crime. Can you tell me about that?
- J Yeah, I don't know how it got to me to do it but I think at the time Tor was very good, Tor, previous director to Debbie, was very good at dealing with the media and I think I learnt a little bit off her to be honest, she was very good. She was also very trusting in my abilities as well, so she allowed me to develop some work with the media, and I started dealing with little things and then when Jody Debrowski was killed on Clapham Common, that was over the weekend, and on the Monday morning Galop was flooded with press enquiries, and she couldn't deal with them on her own so I came in to work early that morning and I remember it quite specifically because I think I was frightened, to be honest <laughs> dealing with live enquiries from the press. And BBC London Today wanted us to do a live interview at lunchtime, on the Monday, and Tor asked me if I would do it, and I said yes, so I went to ... no, it was ITV, sorry ... is it London Today, ITV? I think it is. So ITV studios in Marylebone or somewhere, I can't remember, and did a live interview for them for London Today at lunchtime, and that was very difficult and I was actually quite worried that I was going to say something wrong live on air and I knew that obviously the case had gone national on television and because it was such a brutal killing there was a lot of interest as to why this had happened, and also why he was on Clapham Common and what gay men do on Clapham Common, so I was very aware that I was going to get some very difficult questions that I was going to have to answer, and I had to get them right really.

And I was sat in the Green Room and there was an actress in there that was there talking about her play. I can't remember what her name is, she's quite well known apparently, I can't remember her now, and she said, 'Are you OK?' I said, 'No actually, I'm really scared about going on live telly, I haven't done it before.' And she asked me why I was there and we were talking about what had happened and she said, 'You do know that they might ask you some ... you know what the press are like...' And I said, 'Well yeah' and she said, 'Just think of what you want to say, and just keep repeating it even though she asks you a question that you may not want to answer, just answer it with what you want to say.' And so luckily I got that into my head, and I just kept repeating the same thing, which was that we wanted people to come forward with more information for the police, because we did need more witnesses, or the police needed more witnesses. And so when she asked me any questions of difficulty I just kept saying, 'Well we just need more people to come forward'. <Laughs> 'And we need them to ring the number that you're going to show at the end of the programme.'

But the press were very interested in why gay men cottage, or why gay men cruise, late at night, and the same questions they kept asking the same questions, 'Why do gay men put themselves in these dangerous situations? Don't you think he was putting himself in a dangerous situation by cruising there?' And it was almost like they were wanting people to think that he had brought this on himself, and so it was ... a good test of my ability to field off those questions about whether cruising is right or wrong, which I just didn't answer really. I took a few tips from Peter Tatchell, he tends to not answer questions he doesn't want to, and just give an answer that you want people to know, which was that we needed more information, and that the police were not going to worry about why men were there or why they were cruising themselves, they just want people to come forward if they saw anything or if they'd seen Jody that day.

And then after I did the London Today I got a call from Sky News, and Sky News wanted to do a live broadcast from Clapham Common. And so I rang up Tor at Galop and I said, 'Shall we do it?' and she said, 'If you want to, yeah, go and do it.' So I got a taxi over to Clapham Common and we did a live interview on Clapham Common, and basically it was just Galop's number on the bottom of the screen, with me saying 'We need more people to come forward to give more information about what has happened to Jody.' And it was actually quite emotional as well really, to be honest. And Sky News were actually very good. They didn't really want to ask the questions that ITV did. I'd said to them beforehand, 'If you ask me anything about why gay men cruise here, I'm not going to answer you.' And he said, 'Fine, that's OK. I won't say that. What do you want me to ask you?' And I said, 'Well, I just want you to say what can people do, and what do the police need?' And so that's what he asked me. He didn't ask me anything surprising, which was good.

- R And with that case, were you involved in liaison with the police? And did you find that there was that similar kind of ... attitude, when you have a case like that that's obviously a place to cruise, do you often sense with the police that they ...
- J Yeah. I think that in general a lot of the police will say, 'Well why were they there? Why were they putting themselves at risk?' And I've done some work with the police on putting some posters up in toilets and places that just say, 'Please be careful because you're putting yourself at risk of being mugged or

beaten up in these places, which is a current issue at the moment in Croydon.,' where the local press publicised that there was an issue about people cruising, which then led to some vigilantes going up there and beating some gay men over the head with baseball bats. Now the press don't feel that they have a responsibility for that happening, but actually if they hadn't started the story about why are these men cruising in this area, then the vigilantes wouldn't have gone up there with baseball bats. So I think sometimes we have to really work hard with the police, and with the press, to say sometimes you can cause a reaction, and you have to be careful what you say.

And I think that there was, because the family were obviously devastated and were on television when Jody Debrowski died, I think that there was a national feeling of sympathy and mourning. Other men who are beaten up and killed in cruising areas, which we know happens, don't necessarily get the same national coverage of press or sympathy, and I think that those are the difficult cases that we have to deal with, because then people wonder why people would put themselves at risk, or would be in certain areas at two or three in the morning, when they know that this could be possibly be dangerous.

So yeah, I think it's very hard for us then to work with the police on those issues.

R In your time of Galop, the incidents that you worked on and the clients that you had with regards to hate crime, what was largely the nature of those incidents and have they changed since, or changed from what they were before?

J Without a doubt neighbourhood disputes are the biggest ones. Probably took up 80% of what I did, the cases that I worked on. I think that you will get something happen with neighbours who work or usually live quite closely together, usually in flats or things like that, an incident will happen that will be totally unrelated to people's sexuality but then that will be brought into question or that will be used against them. So it can be somebody's dog who's barking and annoying a neighbour, and then the language that is used is usually homophobic or transphobic against that person. If there's any threatening behaviour it will involve homophobic or transphobic language, so those were by and large the biggest amount of cases that I had. Neighbourhood disputes. Which can actually start quite small and *really* get out of control very quickly, to the point of people being quite badly hurt.

I've seen or worked on some cases, because I often covered for the whole of London, not just Greenwich and Bexley, when our caseworker was away or when I was up there, 'cause like I say, there was only a couple of us in the office, and I've seen and worked on a couple where people were real grievous bodily harm or injured so badly, sight loss, all sorts of things, due to a neighbourhood incident that has risen and grown due to somebody's hate for their sexuality ... which is just inconceivable for a lot of people. I think a lot of straight people can't understand that. They think, 'Well you must have done something else wrong.' And sometimes you'll get that from the police, 'Well what else happened. There must have been something else that happened for you to annoy this person so much that they've now kicked your door in and hit you over the head with a baseball bat.' But quite often, I'd say 50% of cases, there wasn't anything else. Some there was, it would be the dog or their music too loud or something else, but sometimes it really wasn't, which I

think a lot of people, I was surprised at when I started working in it, and I think a lot of police officers can't get their head round that, really. Why would they just hate you because you're gay? Why would they do that? That's bigger and deeper issues for somebody else to look at, really.

R And would most of these incidents coming through the police to you, or would you get enquiries to Galop?

J No, it would be direct to Galop. I worked on the Shout line usually every Wednesday, so usually on a Wednesday afternoon it would be me on the Shout line. And on a Friday lunchtime as well I used to do the Shout line, quite often. So no, they would be cases that were directly from ... I don't like to use the word, but the victim. Or perceived victim. So yeah. Sometimes the police would come to us, but sometimes that person has reported it to the police and the police haven't taken them seriously, or this is the seventh or eighth time that they've reported it to the police, and the police don't seem to be doing anything about it, so they've rung up Galop to ask if we can help them really.

R How has the time you worked in Galop changed you personally? You said that going on London Today you got quite emotional, very high profile case. Did you feel that you were learning about a section of the world that you didn't before?

J I thought, because I'd done this television and film degree and I'd worked at the BBC, I understood what the press could be like. But I think that that shocked me a little bit. I couldn't believe that the only thing they wanted to focus on with Jody's murder was why was he there? They weren't really focussing on how brutal it was and how devastated his family was, they were focussing on why was he there, what is this cottaging thing, how can we sensationalise this? And I think I was very shocked by that. And ... I suppose it made me a little bit more pessimistic about the world really. <Chuckles> But I don't think anything shocks me anymore actually, and I've worked on ... because I worked with the murder squad they've now asked me, now and again they ring me up and ask me just if they can come and chat about something, and it will usually be about an issue around somebody's sexuality in a case. There was one specific case where a child had gone missing, not a child, a teenager had gone missing, and the child's sexuality came into question and the parents were absolutely positive that their child was straight, and so they'd come to talk to me about why ... what would ... they didn't know whether this was right or wrong, so I suppose in a way ... I now ... work a lot more closely with them, and I suppose I understand what the police do a lot more. And I understand their limitations, and I think that to a certain extent I am now a lot more aware of how difficult it is for the police, quite often. And I'm a lot more aware of how you cannot rely on this country's legal system, and I think that before I worked for Galop I would have had a lot more faith in it. <Laughs> Which sounds a little bit sad really, but it's not actually, because ... I think that ... now that I know these things, I ... I would live my life a little bit differently actually. Take responsibility for my own life and actions because there is a judicial system out there that is supposed to protect us, but it's got limitations.

R Do you think you'd be more cautious?

J Maybe. Maybe. Or ... no, not really actually. Because I went off to Brazil and didn't really care last year. But ... no I just think I'm more aware of how ... how the police work and what their limitations are and for example people say, 'Well why is it that the police can't bring people to justice in rapes? Why is the ...' what do they call it, the detection rate, 'why is the detection rate so low in rape cases?' And I realise now, I understand now why it is, having worked with them so closely, and I don't think I understood that. I just thought they were lazy, or they didn't know what they were doing, but actually they have a lot of limitations in what they can do, say, everybody's protected, so it's not just victims that are protected, your perpetrators are protected as well. Which sometimes limits the police's powers to arrest people and those kind of things. Which is good if somebody's not guilty ... but not so good if they are, quite often.

So I think I'm just ... I'm actually just more legally aware maybe, I suppose. Maybe.

R I said it's not [42:10 IA] You're saying that there is an increased willingness and openness within the police to acknowledge certain crimes as being hate crimes, but the nature of these crimes and collecting evidence and those limitations means that there is a ceiling on what can be achieved in terms of convictions?

J I suppose so, yeah. For example, that one I was telling you about, because the homophobic language wasn't directly before the punch to the face, there was a ten-minute period, then it wasn't classed as homophobic. Now that sounds ridiculous but that's the ... that's the CPS for you. So I suppose that I'm a little bit more aware why things don't happen and why people don't get prosecuted and ... but I'm also, on a good note I suppose I'm also more aware that actually ... there is a lot of homophobic crime, but there's less than I think some people think there is. There's less murders than people think there is. People think that the streets are horrible and unsafe. Actually they're not really, to be honest. High profile cases are brought into the press for a reason, mainly politically controlling people I think, at certain times, but ... and the whole terrorist threat, that I learnt more about working with the police as well, I think. So today's current climate I understand a bit more as well, about what they can do and what they can't do.

R Can you expand on that a little bit?

J I don't know how to really explain it apart from ... apart from that the press ... I'll give you a perfect example. When 7/7 happened, which for the benefit of the tape was July 7th ... was it 2005?

R I think it was.

J Which were the bombs in the underground stations and on the buses in London, which happened early in the morning, and I'd gone to work that day and I'd gone up to Galop's office in Islington, and we'd had a few emails from the police and ... no, I think we got an email in the afternoon, because everything had gone down basically. There was no real communications going on. And so I came back to the Metro Centre and the next day I came into work and I got a call from a young Muslim guy that worked in Greenwich, on his mobile phone. Luckily I was in the office. Saying that somebody was going to kill him. An I said, 'What do you mean? Where are you phoning

from?' And he was phoning from a ... he worked in a big workshop down near Charlton, by Woolwich, a big factory down by Woolwich, and he said because of yesterday he'd had some notes put through into his locker at work saying that he was a terrorist, and when he came out of work tonight they were going to kill him. And I said 'Who do you think this is?' And he said, 'Well I pretty much know that it's a few guys at work that haven't liked me anyway, and they're all racist, and they think I'm a terrorist and they're going to get me after work.' And he was very scared, I could tell on the phone that he was very scared, and I said, 'How did you get my number?' And he said, 'Oh, well actually what I didn't tell you is I'm gay as well, and I picked up one of your cards in the pub a couple of weeks ago and I put it in my wallet.' And I said, 'Oh right, OK.' He said, 'But it's nothing to do with me being gay I don't think. They just think I'm a terrorist 'cause I'm a Muslim.' And I said, 'OK. Why don't you ring the police?' I said to him. And he said, 'No, no, no, they won't believe me. Police hate Muslims anyway.' And I said, 'Well no they don't.' And he said, 'That's my impression.' So I said, 'OK, stay at work, you're going to be at work?' And he said yeah and I said, 'Can you answer your phone?' and he said yeah. So I rang the CSU and I told a police officer in the CSU what was happening and she said, 'Oh, do you think it's serious?' and I said, 'Well yeah, I do. In his voice it sounded serious. He was frightened.' And she said, 'OK, get him to give us a call.' I said, 'He just won't call' and she said, 'Well tell him that it's me' and it was Terri who I get on with very well, a female officer. So I rang him and I said, 'look, what I can do is I can get Terri to come down and see you now, or she can come and see you at home tonight or whatever,' and he said, 'OK, she can come and see me at home' and he gave me his address. He only lived up in Woolwich. And she went round to see him that night, took a statement, he was only nineteen, very frightened, didn't have any family round that area, and she was really good with him, and completely understood why he was terrified, 'cause there was these guys at work that were going to kick the shit out of him basically. And she went to the workplace and talked to his boss and his boss took these guys in and said, 'Look ... ' you know, 'this guy's nothing to do with anything that's going on at the moment. You've got to leave him alone and if you don't then I'll sack you.' And it all worked out really well and actually I think it was a very strange things to have happened, and we wouldn't have necessarily had any contact with this guy if it hadn't have been that he picked up a card or that there'd been the bombings the day before. And it just showed really that there was this ... well of hate that had happened the day after and I'd gone ...

Another thing I'd done is gone to do an interview again with somebody, and I got into a cab with a Sikh driver, and we were chatting about what I did for work and he found it quite interesting. And he said, 'Oh that's funny, because ...' we were talking in general about hate crime, not just about LGBT crime, and he said, 'After the bombings I got my windows smashed on my cab, and a couple of other things shouted at me. Actually I'm Sikh. I'm not a Muslim, I'm a Sikh.' <Laughs> 'And people can't tell the difference,' and we were laughing about it at the time, but again it made me more aware of hate crime in general. And I think that ... the political climate as it was then or still is now, I became more aware of what the police had to deal with as far as hate crime was concerned, and how the terrorist threat as far as the police was concerned was very different, even though it was quite large, it was very different to the perceived threat from the press. So I learnt that as well really, and I learnt how ... how your general public are reading the Daily Mail and ... you know, the Daily Mail or a lot of the tabloids, not picking on just one to be honest, make the political climate for the police quite difficult quite often.

Sometimes they back them, sometimes they don't, they make it quite difficult for the police to work really. Because then the police would get hundreds of phone-calls about somebody's next-door neighbour that's actually fixing his motorbike in the garage, not making a petrol bomb, or an incendiary device. Just because he's got light brown dark skin and has lots of relatives that come round every week. It's those kind of issues that the police have to deal with that I hadn't really thought about before.

R OK. [52:09]

<End of recording>

J Sorry I went on a bit then.

R No, it's fine.

A strand of Galop's work is obviously policy and research and I was Googling you last night and I saw you had taken some of Galop's work into secondary schools? Is that right?

J Had I?

R Or you'd gone into ...

J Oh yeah, no, we've worked with secondary schools, yeah.

R Tell me a bit about that.

J That started three years ago. That would have been... I think maybe 2006 I started that, LGBT History Month, wanted to do something different really, and being a teacher I suppose I had my teacher head on and I thought well, how can we do some work with schools about LGBT History Month? And so I decided I wanted to do something with local schools and I approached the council, who were very wary of doing anything with schools on LGBT History Month at the time. Didn't really get anything back from them, they didn't really want to. So I approached the police and asked the police if they'd like to do some work with me, or Galop, working in local schools in Greenwich, and they said yes, and that they would pay for it. So we managed to get a very small amount of funding from them, it was about £1,000, and we had a couple of meetings and thought what we could do that was different really. We wanted to do something where it wasn't just a talk about police or anything, we wanted to do something a bit different.

So about a year before I'd seen the Laramie Project, and had a real effect on me, which I think it does a lot of people really.

R Can you explain what that is?

J It's a film. Well actually it's a play. The Laramie Project was a play that came out of the death of Matthew ... I've forgotten his name! God, I'm terrible with names. All the way through this I've been saying, 'I've forgotten his name.' Out of a student, Matthew can't-remember-his-name, you can look it up,¹ who was killed in Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, in America, I think it was 2001 or

¹ I did, it's Matthew Shepard.

2002, and he was killed due to his sexuality, beaten to death. And the play is basically transcripts of the local people around Laramie on why they think this could happen in their town, and what happened, and it was put on as a play by some students from New York I think, who went to, like you're doing with tape recorders, went and did basically interviews with local people in Laramie and the transcripts turned into a play, and it virtually is just the transcripts that they use. And then the play was turned into a film.

And I'd seen the play and I'd seen the film, and actually the film had a little bit more impact on me, I have to say, I think because of the way that it was shot, and I thought that maybe this was a way in to talk to teenagers about hate crime in general. Not just LGBT hate crime, but hate crime in general and why would somebody hate something so much that they would kill somebody for it or because of it?

The police agreed that it was a good idea, as well, so we approached all of the secondary schools in Greenwich. We also approached Greenwich Picturehouse, the cinema, and they were very happy to do it with us as well, they were very generous, they allowed us five screenings for a very minimum cost and opened up the cinema early so that we could do it in the mornings.

And yeah, it was a collaborative process really between the police, us and Greenwich Picturehouse, and we put on in February for LGBT History Month. We approached all the secondary schools in Greenwich and only four got back to us, which was very disappointing, and mainly because I think a few of them felt that they didn't really know whether they could tackle this or not, whether it was something that they'd really want to do. Also because of the logistics, apparently, of taking young people out of school. I have to say yes, it takes a little bit of time, but it's not a huge big deal, especially when they're fifteen, because the only problem that we had was that the film is actually a 15 certificate so we could only show it to fifteen and sixteen-year-olds, which is a little bit difficult because when they're in year 9 or 10 they might be fifteen or they might be fourteen, so that's a bit difficult, but we managed to work round it.

And the only reason that it's a fifteen, there's no gratuitous sex or violence in it, because you don't actually see the murder, it's just because there is a gay issue in it, apparently the British Film Institute or whatever they're called classification put a 15 on everything that's got a gay issue in it, whether it's sex, violence, doesn't matter, whatever it is, so there's no sex or violence in it.

Anyway, so yeah, we showed that and actually we had in the end three showings instead of the five, we had to cancel two because the schools, like I say, didn't cooperate the first year. But we had 150 students, we had some different classes every day come in, and if you think how many students there are in this borough then 150 is quite small, but it was a good start, and we did a survey with them, we did like a questionnaire with them about the film after they watched it, what they thought of hate crime and whether they thought that it would happen in their area, if it's a possibility, and if they'd ever seen any sort of homophobic or transphobic hate crime themselves, and then we put all those statistics together for the police mainly, who used that themselves. But yeah, we did that for two years, and it was very good, it was successful really for the amount of money that we had and working with schools it was quite good, but it's a very difficult film for fifteen and sixteen-year-olds to watch, because it's quite intense and there's no fast car chases

or anybody getting shot, 'cause you don't see the murder of Matthew. You just see what people's reactions are to it.

R And what was the response of the young people to the broader issue?

J It was actually quite surprising, they were all very shocked that this would happen. Yet, in being shocked that this would happen, they could quite see it happening in their place that they lived, so most of them lived in Eltham or Charlton or Woolwich, and they all felt that yes this could happen, but they didn't quite understand why it would happen. We had some funny comments as well, generally about the film. But I think they all found it quite sad and were all quite moved by it. And generally it was quite successful even though it's quite slow. All of them put 'it's very slow film.' Well not all of them but quite a lot of them, because it is. It's quite a grown-up film to watch. But overall it was very successful.

R Two final questions.

<Part 5 starts>

I'll tell you them both. The biggest challenge for Galop as an organisation, and also for you working within the organisation in the time that you were there, which was 2005-2008?

J Yeah

R And the second question would be the most rewarding time for you in your role at Galop. Rewarding you can interpret however you like.

J I don't know, rewarding? It's not very rewarding really! <Pause>

R Well perhaps, Galop, the organisation's greatest achievement during that time?

J Oh actually I do know. I do know what it is. Right, so the first one was ...

R The biggest challenge faced by the organisation and yourself.

J The biggest challenge, OK. The biggest challenge I suppose was when we lost funding, and when Tor left, I think. When Tor left as a director she had been a very stable, continuous thing in Galop and a lot of people knew her, the police all knew her, there was a personal relationship there, and I think that that could have been quite disruptive if we hadn't got somebody in that could have matched her or that was able to develop the relationship again with the police. Luckily when Debbie came in that worked, but for a good chunk, I think there was six months where we didn't have a director, we were wobbly. I think. And we lost a few funding posts. We lost the case worker funding post as well, just after that. And an organisation that basically works on helping people needs a case worker, which was hard, because we all had to share the work really. So I think that their biggest challenge, and still will be today, is funding, and trying to keep that going, because it's alright having a project for two years, but you've got to try and make some work sustainable, and it's very difficult to do when you're basically fire fighting all the time, so as a caseworker you're pretty much firefighting constantly, and you don't have that time to put in any sustainable strategy work. And I found that really, to be

honest. I managed to do some, here, in Greenwich, which was good, but most of the time my work was casework, and so you don't really have the chance to make anything sustainable. And I think that that was the problem when I was there, and still probably is. And for most small charities that's a problem. You go from one funding stream to the next, really.

R So where was the funding coming from?

J I don't remember. Might have been **City Parochial**, but I can't remember. It was Phil's funding. And then obviously my funding went as well. And ... who else? <Pause> I can't remember. Oh and Ben's funding finished as well. So really the projects last about two years and then everybody has to look for funding again, which can take up a lot of time, but can also disrupt everybody's work really, because then you've got to cover or you're always looking to try and find new things to do instead of just helping people, which is really what we're there to do. And I know we're there for policy and I know we're there to help the police and to make strategic work, but when it comes down to it, I think our most important work quite often was just helping that person that didn't really know where to turn or who to go to.

R And Galop's biggest achievement, in your opinion, during the period that you were there?

J Galop's biggest achievement?

R And your own.

J Oh and my own. Galop's I suppose was ... really keeping its foot in the police's door, and keeping homophobic and transphobic hate crime and issue as far as the police were concerned, because like I say, when the terrorist threat became the priority for the police in London in 2007/06, whenever it was, it became a priority and everything else had to take a back burner, and whatever work that we'd done to try and get some training or try and put some diversity work in place, that was all pretty much cancelled due to money being transferred into training for terrorist threat, basically. And so to keep homophobic and transphobic crime as an issue for the police was very difficult and I think we've succeed, I think we're still succeeding there. And I know that the police have to do it anyway, but I still think that we were still putting constant pressure on the police to make sure that that was happening. And keeping it in the public awareness as well is very difficult for a small charity and I think we did, I think we do.

Personally? I don't really know. I did obviously work on some high profile cases, when there was a good outcome, was good. It felt good, felt like you'd done something right. I went to... I actually made some inroads in the British Transport Police, which we hadn't tried to do before. I forgot about that. We hadn't looked at them before, because they're a national organisation, and not a London organisation, it's not really something that we would do, but because of the things happening with the British Transport Police, the way that they were going to change as far as work on the tubes and busses, because we would get a lot of people saying 'I got on a bus and somebody was homophobic towards me' and they didn't really know who to go to. Or was that a police issue, was that a British Transport Police issue, they didn't really know. And so I had quite a few meetings with British Transport Police and out of that they asked me to speak at their National Conference in

Edinburgh in 2007, which was a bit of an achievement for me I suppose. To talk at a national conference. I think yeah, we did make some inroads with the British Transport Police but again because I left I don't think that's been taken up, so that always happens. You need to keep things going and sustainable really.

R OK. Jackie, thank you very much.

J Thank you.

<End of recording>