

Press Release

Victims of hate crime remembered at St Paul's Cathedral

Monday, 8th October 2012

An act of remembrance for the victims of hate crime will be held in St Paul's Cathedral, this Sunday, 14 October at 6.30pm.

The short, inclusive, quiet and reflective ceremony – for those of different faiths and those of no faith – will mark the beginning of Hate Crime Awareness Week.

The service is being supported by [17-24-30](#), an organisation founded to support the victims of the London nail bomb attacks in 1999.

The name of the organisation relates to the dates in April that year on which the attacks took place:

17 April – Brixton, aimed at the black community

24 April – Brick Lane, aimed at the Asian community

30 April – Soho, aimed at the gay community

The service in St Paul's will include readings, prayers, music and the lighting of candles, and all are welcome to attend. A candle will then continue to burn in the Cathedral for the duration of Hate Crime Awareness Week.

The Revd Mark Oakley, Canon Treasure of St Paul's, said: "Like many people in London I remember only too well those terrifying days in 1999 when London's black, Asian and gay communities were targeted with bombs that killed, injured and terrified innocent people.

"All hate crimes seek to kill the human. Whether it is life that is taken away or the dignity of the human soul, these crimes against our human diversity cast a deep and fearful shadow over our life together.

"Too many are being injured, abused, bullied, humiliated and murdered simply because of their race, sexuality, religion, disability, gender identity or ethnicity. We must stand alongside those who suffer and are bereaved and do everything we can to stop the pain and abuse they endure."

The Rt Revd Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, commented: "All of us carry seeds of hatred within ourselves. A spiritually evolved human life is developed by confronting what lies within us and so dispelling the darkness which otherwise we are tempted to project on to others. As we recommit ourselves to rebuilding a civilisation of love, our first responsibility is to accept the need for personal transformation and then to stand with those who are the objects of the irrational hatred of others."

Hate Crime Awareness Week will end with a vigil in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, 20 October from 7-9pm.

ENDS

For more information please contact Ed Holmes, Press and Communications Manager,
St Paul's Cathedral on 020 7246 8321 or email ed@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

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