



## **Mark Healey**

Mark is an “out and proud” gay man. He has been a victim of homophobic hate crime several times, on one occasion dragged into an alley way and beaten to the ground, on another occasion witnessing his partner attacked in front of him as they walked home from a concert, on a third occasion as four men in a passing car launched towards attacking him and his partner – he called the police, leading to their arrest and later prosecution. He is also a survivor of sexual abuse.

“I’ve been a victim, I’ve been a survivor, now I’ve evolved from those experiences to provide advice and support to others. I’m passionate about tackling all forms of hate crime and have dedicated my life to it.”

In 2009, Mark set up the Facebook group 17-24-30 to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the London Nail Bomb attacks on Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho. The group 17-24-30 takes its name from the dates of those attacks that took place on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 1999. Since April 2010 Mark has organised the April Acts of Remembrance each year to mark the anniversaries of these attacks – to ensure that those lost are remembered, that those affected by these attacks are supported, and that

future generations are educated about what happened in the hope that our communities working together can prevent further attacks from taking place.

In the same year Ian Baynham was homophobically abused and beaten in Trafalgar Square, and PC James Parkes was attacked by a drunken mob in Leeds. Mark's response was to organise the London Vigil Against Hate Crime, an event that went viral with over 20,000 people sharing it around the world and over 10,000 people attending the first vigil in Trafalgar Square. The London vigil inspired annual vigils around the UK which evolved into what we now refer to as National Hate Crime Awareness Week which takes place in October each year.

Mark has coordinated National Hate Crime Awareness Week since 2012, developing a national H.O.P.E. Campaign to raise Hate crime awareness, improve Operational responses to hate crime, Prevent hate crime and Engage communities. With funding from the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime Mark delivers NationalHCAW resources across London and hosts an annual Act of Hope and Remembrance for those affected by Hate Crime at St Paul's Cathedral.

Mark has over 36 years' experience LGBT+ community development work, running numerous LGBT+ groups and forums and setting up the first Lesbian and Gay Centre in Reading in 1991. He attended Lesbian and Gay Police Association events in the 1990s, forming a positive relationship with many LGBT+ police officers. He was involved in the founding of the first Westminster LGBT+ Community Forum in 2000 after the Admiral Duncan nail bombing and participated in Community Safety Partnership activities in Westminster.

He has a wealth of experience working across the UK Hate Crime Sector, bringing people together to say no to hate crime with the aim of making communities safer places for everyone.

He is currently the Co-chair of the London Hate Crime Stakeholder Reference Group, and regularly attends Borough Hate Crime forums across London – including the Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum (which he rates as one of the best examples of how local authorities, key partners and communities affected by hate crime should work).

Mark was recognised with a lifetime achievement award for his hate crime work at the No2H8 Crime Awards in 2019