

COPS



Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance

PUBLIC MEETING to launch COPS
Thursday 27 February 2014, 6.30pm

Opposing undercover police surveillance

Diskus Conference
Centre, Unite House,
128 Theobald's Road,
Holborn, London
WC1X 8TN

Free admission.

Places are limited, so
please book by email to
cops@haldane.org

Speakers: **Baroness Doreen Lawrence**
Imran Khan, solicitor to Lawrence family
Lois Austin, Youth Against Racism in
Europe, and Socialist Party
Helen Steel, one of several women suing
police over undercover relationships
Harriet Wistrich, solicitor to eight women
bringing legal action against the
Metropolitan Police Service
Dave Smith, Blacklist Support Group
Robbie Gillett, Drax protester

Further information: <http://campaignopposingpolicesurveillance.wordpress.com>



Letter published in *The Observer*, October 2013

We the undersigned are a mixture of individuals, organisations and lawyers affected by undercover police operations or representing people who believe that they have been the targets of undercover policing

In June 2013 the public reacted with shock and outrage to revelations that undercover police surveillance was used against members of Stephen Lawrence's family, to find "dirt" that could discredit them.

This is yet another revelation about the nature and extent of secret policing in Britain, showing decades long spying on and interference with political movements and campaigns. In addition to efforts to spy upon or smear people such as the Lawrence family who have lost loved ones, particular disgust has been expressed at the gross intrusion of undercover officers forming intimate sexual relationships with some of those upon whom they were spying; at the use of the identities of dead children to obtain cover; and at police

links with the blacklisting of trade union members. It has also become apparent that many criminal convictions have been rendered unsafe as a result of misconduct by the police and prosecutors.

We have no faith in Operation Herne nor any of the up to sixteen often secret, internal police or prosecutor reviews. They are not sufficiently transparent, robust or independent to satisfy public concern and they do not come close to addressing all of the issues raised.

The public is entitled to know what has been going on in their name and paid for by their taxes. We therefore call for an independent public inquiry into all the revelations that undercover policing has been used against political protest and campaigns. This inquiry must have full powers to compel police officers to give evidence. Such political policing has no place in a democratic society and a mechanism must be found to ensure that such unjustified conduct does not continue into the future.