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# FA tackles homophobia

Tuesday, 28 September 2004.



**The FA's commitment to opposing homophobia at all levels of football has led to the backing of a new play. The production opens at Southwark Playhouse this October in association with York Theatre Royal.**

In response to increasing awareness of homophobic attitudes within the game, a comprehensive education programme will also be delivered through the Ethics and Sports Equity Department of The Football Association.

GAFFER! is the story of George, manager of Northbridge Town, a club struggling in the lower half of the league. As a vital cup-tie looms, George gambles on his new teenage signing making a decisive impact. As the pressure builds and certainties of George's world crumble around him, a kiss with a 17-year-old on a park bench throws everything wide open.

The FA is committed to ensuring football is open to all sections of society without fear of abuse of any kind. The FA's lead on combating homophobia has been applauded by other European football associations as well as sporting and campaigning groups.

With the support of The FA, Southwark Playhouse are offering free tickets to grassroots football organisations and free workshops exploring themes raised by the play. The workshops will take place on 21st and 28th October from 2pm-4pm. These two hour sessions will be facilitated by experienced FA endorsed practitioners.

Lucy Faulkner, The FA's Ethics and Sports Equity Manager said, "We believe football must be open to everyone in our society. We believe football truly is the national game and abuse of any kind is unacceptable. We've made clear our opposition to homophobia in football and believe attitudes are changing. This play will help raise further awareness of the issues."

The FA's comprehensive Ethics and Sports Equity strategy explains the commitment to ensuring football in England is diverse and inclusive. The FA has taken a clear lead on opposing racism and other forms of abuse, as well increasing representation from under-represented groups.

FA TACKLES HOMOPHOBIA

28 September 2004

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ETHICS & SPORTS EQUITY

07 March 2004



# Homophobia

## The FA's lead on tackling homophobia in football is being recognised across Europe.

Under the Ethics and Sports Equity strategy The FA's opposition to homophobia is spelt out and, along with race and disability discrimination, is punishable with sanctions including abusive players being banned from the game.

But The FA believes encouraging inclusion runs alongside the threat of sanctions.

Already UEFA, the Dutch Sportfederation (NCS) and the Spanish Football Association have asked for guidance from The FA on our approach, which goes under the Football for All banner. The FA has also been praised by the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation for making clear its opposition policies on tackling homophobia.

The FA's Football for All education and training programme includes a three hour workshop looking at generic equality and diversity issues for grass roots football and those making decisions along with a diversity competence training strategy across the whole of football.

This means abuse and discrimination have no place in football.

HOMOPHOBIA

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