

Lynda King Taylor with the Prime Minister Tony Blair receiving her Home Office national Taking A Stand Award



The "Taking a Stand" Award to Lynda King Taylor is signed by the Prime Minister and Home Office Minister Hazel Blears stating their admiration and thanks to Lynda for outstanding dedication to promoting respect in Lynda's community of Westminster and Paddington. This, for working across diverse cross cultural communities, many who had never previously been in partnership with police to work together to reduce crime, disorder and anti social behavior.

Distributed by Harrison Cowley on behalf of the Home Office April 2006 Press contacts foot of page

RESPECT AWARD FOR TAKING A STAND RECOGNISES LOCAL HEROINE

Local heroine Lynda King Taylor from Westminster was honoured in April 2006 for her efforts in tackling anti-social behaviour and creating a safer community.

Nearly 600 nominations were received from individuals and community groups across England and Wales and 350 winners were chosen. Lynda, one of 6 distinguished winners, was presented with her award by Home Office Minister Hazel Blears and the Government's Co-ordinator for Respect, Louise Casey at a ceremony in London.

As part of the Respect Awards for Taking A Stand, Lynda was recognised for her commitment and bravery in taking a stand against prostitutes and indecent behaviour. The problems faced by Lynda and her community included noisy aggressive prostitutes and their aggressive pimps. Foul language, excessive drug taking, sexual indecency and obscenities seven days a week eventually took its toll on the residents.

Lynda has played a crucial part in bringing together a cross-cultural community and using her own financial resources, time and energy she has developed a unique police community website www.padpolice.com. The website is the only one in existence within the Met Police at the crucial local delivery level - it has also been translated into Arabic. It informs and advises people about reporting crime anonymously. The site was set up in response to anti-social behaviour in the community and also brought organisations together in partnership to reduce crime and to tackle anti-social behaviour together.

Lynda helped service the first ASBO awarded in Westminster for aggressive vice. She had brought together not only vulnerable and minority communities but also agencies such as the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) to both reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. She has also improved minority communities' knowledge of policing and especially reporting of anonymous crime.

Home Office Minister, Hazel Blears, said:

"It is inspiring to see so many ordinary people taking a stand against the unacceptable behaviour of a minority of people. The winners of these awards should be congratulated for overcoming their own fear to make real improvements in their neighbourhoods. They are a lesson to us all that we should not be afraid to challenge those who think it is okay to intimidate people and create havoc in our communities.

"Tackling disrespect is a priority for this Government. Our aim is to encourage decent behaviour in schools, in communities, in our towns and villages. We all have the right to live our lives free from harassment. Yet with those rights come responsibilities. We must all work alongside the police and local authorities to tackle disrespect and unacceptable behaviour."

Lynda's nominations were widespread in their support and included the police/community partnership in her Ward, Westminster City Council, Westminster Community Network, the local Amenity Group, Local Strategic Partnership and the Egyptian UK Association. Mostafa Ragab, Chair of Westminster's Black Minority Ethnic (BME) network which represents more than 160 communities said they were delighted to have nominated her, *"Lynda unites people from all races and religions, nationalities and neighbourhoods to change their communities for the better, and to encourage us all to take a stand to fight crime"*

Lynda, who is also the Chair of Westminster's Paddington police/community Sector Working and Safer Neighbourhoods Group across Hyde Park Ward said she was honoured to receive the Award from the Prime Minister and Home Office, however it was a team effort for those across all the multi cultural communities represented on the Group and those who had nominated her. *"Often facing intimidation and threats, many across our minority and 'hard to reach' communities also worked relentlessly and rigorously with police, their partners and Westminster City Council to reduce crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour. It may have my name on it but it is their Award."*

Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur, Head of the Metropolitan Police Serious Crime Directorate added:

"I have worked with communities in London for a number of years, and seen some of the corrosive effects that anti-social behaviour and related crime has on them, particularly those communities that are vulnerable and do not have a voice.

Any work that makes a difference, and gives confidence and inspiration to communities under threat, must be congratulated and be given strong support to build sustainability. Lynda King Taylor and Paddington Police Community Sector Working Group has made that difference, in one of the most culturally diverse areas of the United Kingdom, and therefore is richly deserving of this Home Office Respect Award for Taking a Stand”.



"Distinguished winner" Lynda King Taylor receiving her 'Taking a Stand' Award from Home Office Minister Hazel Blears on Lynda's return from No 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister

Distributed by Harrison Cowley on behalf of the Home Office. April 2006. For interview bids or further details, please contact Susan Hutchinson, Laura Fitt or Jane Outen on 020 7404 6777 or email: susanh@harrisoncowley.com

For speaking engagements contact Lynda or Marea on ☎+44 (0) 20 7262 1531 or via email ✉ LKTLondon@aol.com, or visit her website at www.lyndakingtaylor.com

Or you can speak to Wendy Morris @ the London Speaker Bureau

☎ +44 (0) 20 8748 9595 or email ✉ wendy@londonspeakerbureau.co.uk

Notes to editors

1. The Respect Awards for Taking A Stand are run in partnership with Crime Concern.
2. The Respect Awards for Taking A Stand ceremony took place at the Royal Horticultural Halls, London on 4 April 2006.
3. Each winner will be awarded £1,000 to further fund their community projects, with four gold winners awarded £5000
4. Further details of the awards are on the awards website at www.takingastand.org.uk
5. The Respect Awards for Taking A Stand judging panel comprised: Louise Casey, Government's Co-ordinator for Respect and previous Taking A Stand award winners.

ENDS.2006