**International documentary photographer Lee Price has created a poignant collection of photographs, commissioned by Hull 2017 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act**

**While the law is rarely enforced, people of the LGBT community face persecution of a different kind. Harassment, ridicule, eviction and violence at the hands of people who say homosexuality goes against their religious or cultural beliefs. Therefore, the vast majority of LGBT people choose to keep their sexuality a guarded secret from the people around them.**

**However, within the heart of Freetown, lives a young transgender woman who offers a warm welcome to members of the LGBT community in need. Her home is a sanctuary where they do not have to hide who they are and can live without oppression whilst surrounded by those who understand and accept them. They call it 'The House of Kings and Queens '.**

**This unique collection of photographs, acts as a window into the lives of the house 's inhabitants and explores what it means to be gay in Freetown.**

**The photographs convey both the cloud of secrecy that the subjects of the images live under and the sense of liberation that they feel at being able to express themselves freely, even in such a restricted environment.**

**Price's personal work predominantly focuses on the topic of sexuality. As a gay man, sociological attitudes towards sexuality have always been of great interest to him, and he has explored this subject matter in numerous forms and in various parts of the world.**

**His projects often document groups and subcultures that are hidden from view, from the gay cruisers of ‘*Sex with Strangers’* to the discriminated LGBT community of Uganda in ‘*Against the Order of Nature’*, and act as windows into underground worlds we might otherwise not know exist. With his ability to tell a poignant visual story, Price hopes to raise questions and spark debates surrounding issues he feels ought to be addressed.**