***The House of Kings and Queens***

27th July 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of The Sexual Offences Act 1967, that decriminalizes homosexual acts in private between two men. It is still illegal in 77 countries to engage in homosexual acts.

In Sierra Leone homosexuality has been illegal since British colonial rule in the 1800s, offering a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. While the law is rarely enforced by the judiciary system, people of the LGBT community in Sierra Leone face persecution of a different kind. Harassment, ridicule, eviction and violence are common afflictions at the hands of people who say homosexuality goes against their religious or cultural beliefs, and so the vast majority of LGBT people in Sierra Leone choose to keep their sexuality a guarded secret from the people around them.

But within the heart of Freetown, Hull’s sister city and Sierra Leone's Capital, lives a young transgender woman who has welcomed those of the gay community who are in need. Her home serves as a sanctuary for a small group of LGBT people who would otherwise have nowhere to go. Here, they don’t have to hide who they are, and can instead live without oppression whilst surrounded by those who understand and accept them.  They call it ‘The House of Kings and Queens’, Lee Price has been commissioned to create a unique collection of photographs that acts as a window into the lives of its inhabitants, whilst exploring what it means to be gay in Freetown.