

SEE WHAT ALL THE  
RAGE IS ABOUT

**WHY ARE SOME GUYS  
STILL USING 3 BLADES?  
BETTER ASK THEIR  
MOMMIES.**



**H.E. 4x4**  
4 Blade Performance X 4 LubeZones™

A man needs a man's razor, like the new H.E. Old Spice 4x4 – the first-ever disposable razor with 4 blades and 4 lube zones. So, love your mom. Just don't let her pick your razor.

**ONLY THE SMOOTH ARE CHOSEN.**



Old Spice and High Endurance are registered trademarks of The Procter & Gamble Company, used under license by the Universal Group.

## RECORD REPORT

# freshfromyard

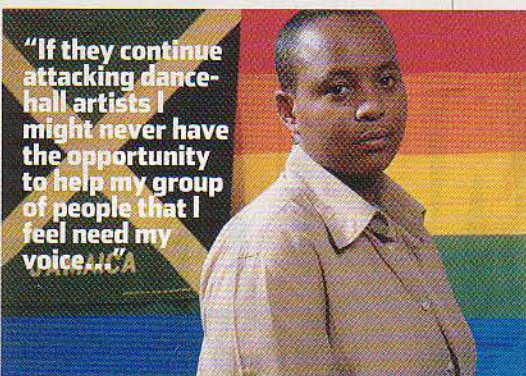
BY TRACII MCGREGOR  
JAMAICAN ROOTS, CULTURE & RIDDIMS



**B**eenie. Bounty. Buju. Capleton. Elephant Man. Sizzla. T.O.K. Vybz Kartel. Dancehall's best and brightest names top the list of Jamaican artists being targeted by fervent gay activists who charge that their lyrics incite the murder of gay people. Even though no such case is documented, British gay rights group OutRage, and their network across Europe, have successfully pressured several unwitting concert promoters to cancel shows by artists on their hit list. This month, Fresh From Yard had the opportunity to interview a gay artist and activist who actually listens to our music and staunchly disagrees with OutRage and their questionable tactics! Meet Deepa Soul.

**Fresh From Yard:** *You're a gay woman who listens to dancehall and reggae. Do you honestly think these songs promote hatred and violence against gay people?*

**Deepa Soul:** I listen to, dance to it, I even try to flow to it the way they do. I am totally into reggae and dancehall. I go to gay parties where the DJ plays the "Chi Chi Man" song and we dance to it! KRS-One once said, "If one doesn't know about the other one's culture, ignorance swoops down like a vulture." It's about context. And in Jamaican culture "burn" is to get you some form of healing, a form of cleansing. The bible even says something about purification when you burn...Jamaicans are just not as liberal as they are in Europe. It's a different culture and you have to respect that.



**FFY:** *Why do you think they initiated this witch hunt solely against Jamaican artists?*

**Deepa Soul:** People are addicted to racism. When I think about some of the lyrics that I have heard from groups like Guns-N-Roses, Ozzy Osbourne, Marilyn Manson, that's when I wonder what this is really about. You allow Eminem to say whatever he wanted to say without any of his shows being cancelled, without any of his music being pulled from the shelves, without getting kicked off of MTV. But here they are economically oppressing these artists because they have Black skin, because they're from a "third world" country like Jamaica. And so what about all the priests and reverends who come out everyday on television and talk about how gay people are vile? This is all controversial in the sense that there is no

consistency — except that they are consistently economically oppressing Black men.

**FFY:** *As an artist, how does this issue impact your freedom of expression?*

**Deepa Soul:** If they continue attacking dancehall and reggae artists in this way I might never have the opportunity to help my group of people that I feel need my voice. It will effectively shut the door on me, stop me from promoting sexual freedom and prevent me from helping a lot of young people who have crisis with their sexual identity. Christian parents would love to have me banned! It's really scary because it feels like the world is coming to a place of acceptance and reality. There has been dialect about gay rights; there has been dialect about civil rights for gay people. Freedom of expression is supposed

to be free. But if we move forward on these reggae artists like this, free is no longer free. And if we start letting them, we are going to lose all our freedoms one by one.

**FFY:** *You live in Flatbush, Brooklyn, the heart of the Caribbean community in New York. Do you face constant harassment and/or fear for your safety in your neighborhood because you are gay?*

**Deepa Soul:** When I first walked into the Caribbean barbershop where I get my hair cut on Flatbush Ave., I said, 'hold up, y'all know my steelo right?' These gentlemen

felt a little uncomfortable, but we took our time, we talked. Now if you walk into that barbershop and anybody has something bad to say about me, they are going to defend me. They respect that there are differences between us and when I sit in that chair they don't treat me any different than anyone else who walks through that door. Those are my boys. We in the 'hood and we watch out for each other. I really feel loved in that community.

**FFY:** *What might be a better way for the gay community to deal with this issue?*

**Deepa Soul:** There has to be a forum; there has to be some kind of way we can talk about this. The goal should be to get people to come to a common understanding, not to force them into respecting gay people. That is how we build allies.