

## **INQUEST Calls on Prisons Minister Paul Boateng MP To Take Action Over Wandsworth Prison Death 14<sup>th</sup> April 2000**

Deborah Coles, Co-Director of INQUEST, the advice and campaign group concerned with deaths in custody said:

“INQUEST is disgusted that yet another inquest into a prison death has exposed the failings of the Prison Health Service to care for a suicidal prisoner who had been clearly identified, from the point of arrest and thereafter as being at serious risk. The Coroner’s recommendations merely reinforce suicide prevention guidelines in place but that are simply not being implemented. Recommendations have been made at inquests and in Prison Inspectorate reports time and again but are routinely ignored. Neglect of and indifference to prisoners’ distress has become a feature of prison life as characterised by the relentless number of self-inflicted deaths. We call upon the Prisons Minister Paul Boateng MP to make a statement as to what action is to be taken over this shocking case.”

Note: Since the death of Keita Craig two more prisoners have taken their own lives at Wandsworth Prison. There have been 25 self inflicted deaths in prison this year (up to 6 April 2000).