

An apology from Loncon 3 Chairs

The events of this past weekend with regard to the Hugo Awards Ceremony announcement have been a source of distress and concern. Recognising that, several apologies are in order.

The Chairs of Loncon 3 wish to apologise publicly to Jonathan Ross and his family for the situation that occurred over the weekend. We invited him in good faith, as a creator and fan, and a high-profile member of our community, to be Master of Ceremonies at the Hugo Awards Ceremony, and he graciously accepted, offering us his services as a volunteer.

Having invited him to take the role, we failed to brief him about the recent debates in fandom, and failed to help him deal with the controversy which ensued after we announced his participation. He and his family have had a horrible few days, and it was our fault for putting him in that situation.

The Chairs of Loncon 3 also apologise to all those inside and outside Loncon 3 and our wider community who were affected by these events. We regret any and all offence caused to those who disagreed with our choice of Jonathan Ross, those affected by the exchanges that followed on social media, and those who are disappointed that he has now withdrawn. In hindsight, we did not consult widely or promptly enough within our own Committee or with external parties before making and publicising the decision. The Chairs and Committee remain committed to the letter and spirit of our Code of Conduct.

We have learned important lessons, and these can only help us in our continuing work to make Loncon 3 as great a convention as possible, and welcoming to all aspects of SF fandom.