

October 11, 1987

Our Demands

March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, held October 8 through 13, 1987, attended by over one-half million people, was the second such event, the first occurring in 1979. Issues of anger were the federal government's slow response to the AIDS pandemic and the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision upholding Georgia's sodomy law. The march was also the occasion of the first display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. A mass civil disobedience action at the Supreme Court on October 13, 1987, resulted in the arrest of some 800 people.

OUR DEMANDS

Chosen Family and Relationships

Recognizing and celebrating the diversity in family relationships, we demand legal recognition of lesbian and gay male domestic partnerships with all the benefits and entitlements that flow from marriage. These include, but are not limited to, rights of inheritance, extended medical benefits, visitation and custody rights, insurance rights, parenting, foster care and adoption and immigration, etc.

- Since gay and lesbian youth are often without societal and familial support, we demand funding for a broad range of social services targeted to them, including, but not limited to: alternative housing, foster care, counseling services, legal aid, etc. All such programs must have significant representation of lesbians and gay men on all levels of policy and implementation.
- We demand safe sex information and health services for gay and lesbian youth, sexuality and anti-homophobia curriculum in the schools, access to and the freedom to organize and participate in all school and related social activities.

Sodomy Laws

Because the sodomy and related laws form the cornerstone of discrimination against lesbians and gay men, the lesbian and gay community of this nation demands a repeal, through federal and local action, of all laws that violate the right to privacy by criminalizing consensual sex between individuals above the age of consent; that the term "sexual orientation" be added to the Federal Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay men in employment; that Congress, through any means available to it, prohibit states from regulating private adult consensual activities and that education be done on the definition of sodomy to show that sodomy laws prohibit the majority of consensual sexual activity.

Presidential Action/Executive Order

We demand use of the full presidential authority to eliminate all discrimination based on sexual orientation in all aspects of executive branch employment, programs and policies. Specifically, we demand:

- Issuing of a presidential executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in federal employment, the military, federally-contracted private employment, the granting of security clearances and all federally funded programs.
- Inasmuch as the exclusion of gays and lesbians is not medically or scientifically valid, the public health service shall resume its policy of non-enforcement of the gay/lesbian medical exclusion under the immigration law.
- Repeal of all military regulations discriminating against lesbians and gays, including sodomy regulations, upgrade of all less than honorable military discharges for reasons of homosexuality with full restoration of benefits, including retirement with no statute of limitations.
- A presidential order banning use of HIV testing or AIDS-related discrimination in federal employment or by federal contractors.
- A presidential order guaranteeing uncensored access to information for gay/lesbian prisoners, equality of visitation rights and protection from discrimination based on AIDS and/or sexual orientation.
- The Justice Department shall cease and desist from the interpretation of laws in manners which are oppressive and destructive to the civil rights of lesbians and gay men and all other people; including repeal of their interpretation discriminating against workers associated with AIDS.

Discrimination Against People with AIDS and People with ARC

- End discrimination against people with AIDS/ARC, those testing positive for the AIDS virus or those perceived to be in any of those categories.
- End the special discrimination suffered by people of color, prisoners, persons on active military duty, veterans and IV drug users.
- Stop discrimination in the delivery of health care, insurance, social services, housing, employment, public accommodations and education.
- End discrimination in immigration related areas.
- Criminalize discrimination by any corporate or governmental entity.
- End federal funding for organizations (or corporate tax breaks) for governmental bodies which practice discrimination.
- We demand compassionate, comprehensive health care services: both in- and out-patient services without regard to ability to pay, based on the San Francisco model. We must give special attention to health care services for people of color and those in low income areas.
- We demand the federal government immediately implement legislation which would prohibit any individual from invading the privacy of any person that has tested positive for HIV or has been diagnosed as having AIDS/ARC by revealing said information to employers, landlords, educational institutions, governmental agencies, or any other individual without the written informed consent of said person with AIDS/ARC.
- We demand that education be provided at the government's expense specifically geared to gay and lesbian youth.

Funding for AIDS

- We demand complete federal funding of all health and social services for all people with AIDS/ARC: that the federal government underwrite and insure all research for a cure and a vaccine; that the federal government fund a massive AIDS education and prevention program that is explicit, culturally sensitive, lesbian/gay affirming and sex positive.
- That funding come from the military budget, not already existing appropriations in the social services budget.

Other Demands

- Lesbian and gay people shall be included in the National Holocaust Commission and its administration.
- We demand the right to control our bodies and practice our sexuality freely. This includes an expansion of reproductive rights, an end to sterilization abuse and free abortions and contraceptives on demand to persons of all ages.
- We demand that the Federal Government fund a nation-wide educational campaign to counter the wave of hatred, violence and misinformation being directed against lesbians, gay men and youth. This fund is to administered by the lesbian and gay community.
- The lesbian and gay community shall support the ERA (This demand, we feel, may be either a demand or an incorporated principle).
- The system of apartheid in South America [*sic*] is racist and violates all human rights. We demand the freedom of black activist Simon Nkoli, facing treason charges, and all South African political prisoners. We support the South African freedom struggle and demand an end to U.S. Governmental and corporate support of South African Apartheid.