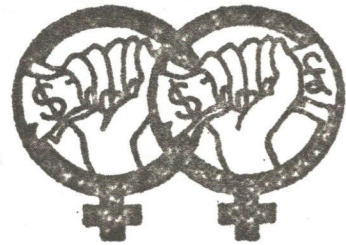


Wages due lesbians

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 6, 1978

At the January 14th, 1978 rally to stop Anita Bryant's crusade against homosexuals, Francie Wyland read an open letter to Anita Bryant from Wages Due Lesbians. It described the uphill fight that lesbian mothers in many different life-situations are making for custody of their children. Immediately afterward, a lesbian mother who recently won a custody battle spoke -- anonymously, and disguised with a hood. As a mother Mrs. X could not afford to identify herself, because a custody decision is never final. Her story and her presence brought the audience of 1000 to its feet. She spoke for millions of lesbian women who are forced, like her, to be invisible.

Wages Due Lesbians has been organizing for two years to help Mrs. X, by raising money for her, and by publicising the struggle that she and other lesbians are making. We co-sponsored (with C.H.A.T. women) a benefit dance in October 1976. We have spoken widely to the media, at conferences, rallies and public meetings about her case and her need for financial support. In July 1977 we called a very successful picket of the Ontario Supreme Court to protest the laws that allow discrimination against lesbian mothers and against all women who cannot measure up to financial criteria in custody decisions. And that same month saw the publication by Wages Due Lesbians of the pamphlet Motherhood, Lesbianism and Child Custody, by Francie Wyland, for international distribution.

NOW, BECAUSE OUR ORGANIZING HAS PUT US IN TOUCH WITH MANY MORE WOMEN IN MRS. X'S POSITION, WE ARE FOUNDING A LESBIAN MOTHERS' DEFENSE FUND. THIS NEW FUND JOINS A GROWING NETWORK OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA. IT WILL BE A PERMANENT RESOURCE FOR WOMEN WHO NEED INFORMATION AND MONEY TO BUILD THE BEST POSSIBLE LEGAL CASE. Expert witnesses -- psychiatrists, child psychologists, etc. who charge professional fees -- must often be called upon in court to testify that a woman's lesbianism is not sufficient cause for removing her children from her care.

We will officially launch the Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund on International Women's Day, March 8, 1978. But we are beginning now to elicit support from other women's, gay, and community groups, and from concerned individuals.

Wages Due Lesbians invites you to become a sponsor of the Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund by making a minimum contribution:

Individual Sponsor: \$5
Group Sponsor: \$25
Sustaining Sponsor: \$50 or more

And we hope that many of you will be interested in giving your time to help make the Defense Fund a well-known and effective service. For more information call (416) 465-6822 or 921-9091. Thank you.