

THE CHILD CUSTODY DEAL ISN'T FIT FOR US

Anita Bryant and her campaign to 'Save our Children' have gotten a lot of publicity. This attack against homosexuality comes at a time when many lesbian women are fighting for custody of their children, and shows just how powerful that fight has become.

More and more women -- straight and lesbian -- are losing custody of their children, both in and outside the courts -- to husbands, relatives and the Children's Aid Society. When we are without money or a 'stable' relationship with a man, we are especially vulnerable to the threat of losing our children -- if we are lesbians, single mothers, immigrants, in prison, mentally or physically ill, or prostitutes.

Wages Due Lesbians is organizing a picket in front of the Supreme Court of Ontario to protest these injustices and the forced invisibility of our fight to have and keep the children we want.

- * WE REFUSE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN OUR SEXUALITY AND OUR CHILDREN!
--Sexual preference should not be a criteria for judging the 'fitness' of a parent. What the courts deem to be in the 'best interests' of our children may not be what we or our children want for ourselves. That decision must be in our own hands.

- * HANDS OFF OUR CHILDREN!
--No custody judgement is ever final. We can lose custody at any time, if we are said to be lesbian, prostitutes, or 'unfit' for any other reason. No one has the right to snatch our children when we are the ones who invest our lives in raising them.

- * A PARENT'S INCOME SHOULD NOT BE A CRITERIA IN COURT FOR A CUSTODY DECISION!
--Until the Government guarantees women money for our work in the home beyond present welfare levels, and parity* with men's wages outside, we cannot compete with men in the courts. Using these criteria, the majority of husbands will win hands down.
*(on the average, women earn 55% of men's wages in the paid labour force)

- * WE REFUSE TO BE PENALIZED BY OUR POVERTY!
--Women's general level of poverty forces us into many forms of separation from our children. Immigrant women, for example, who come to Canada from the Third World, often face long periods of separation from our children and must work years before we can afford to bring them here.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO THE PICKET. PLACARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE OR BRING YOUR OWN.

Wednesday, July 13, 12:30 pm
In front of the Supreme Court of Ontario,
145 Queen St. W. (at University Ave.)

For more information, call Francie or Ellen at 921-9091.