

lesbian ~ feminists of los angeles

Statement of Unity

We are a lesbian-feminist organization made up of lesbian-feminists and other lesbians interested in lesbian-feminism. Our organization and meetings are for women only. We are a visible lesbian force in the Los Angeles area. We fight for lesbian rights, and we struggle for the rights and dignity of all women from a visible lesbian-feminist perspective. We study herstory and lesbian current events so that we know what we have done and what we are doing. We are "fighting lesbians", acting and reacting in support and defense of lesbians. We will analyze our actions and learn from our mistakes, joining with other lesbians in the ongoing process of developing and practicing lesbian feminist politics.

We define "lesbian" as any woman who does not relate sexually to men and is willing to identify herself as a lesbian by joining this organization — even if she has not had a woman lover, either because she has not had the opportunity or because she chooses to remain celibate. Any non-lesbian women who are interested in lesbian-feminism are welcome to join a consciousness-raising group to be made up of themselves and any interested members of Lesbian-Feminists of Los Angeles with the understanding that participation in that group does not constitute broader membership in Lesbian-Feminists of Los Angeles.

Beginning Definition of Lesbian~Feminism

As lesbian-feminists we see that all aspects of our lives are political. We recognize and respect our lesbian identity as an integral part of our being. We are woman-identified women who care about other women. We acknowledge that we are victims of oppressive institutions and therefore must commit ourselves to struggle against all oppression faced by women around the world, recognizing that no woman is free until all women are free. It means being visible as lesbians, taking offensive as well as defensive action. Lesbian-feminism means demanding equal rights while cherishing our uniqueness. Understanding the nature of patriarchal society requires us as lesbian-feminists to have a group politic which puts lesbian concerns first. Inherent in our lifestyle is struggle.

In considering the above, we ask that you keep in mind that this is not a final statement but rather the beginning of a process.

Herstory ~ Actions

After having struggled individually as lesbians, and after participating collectively in the June candlelight march in response to the Dade County vote, the June LWY Conference, and the Christopher Street West march, we realized the necessity for an autonomous lesbian-feminist group to organize around our immediate and on-going needs:

- to politicize ourselves as lesbians
- to be a visible lesbian-feminist force in Los Angeles
- to demand responsible media representation
- to stop the Briggs Bill and any other oppressive legislation

How Does the Organization Work? general meeting

These meetings are for the entire Lesbian-Feminist organization. We will share reports of committees and discuss the work we are doing. Here we offer criticisms and group suggestions on how our work can best be carried out. Voting on controversial issues will take place in the General Meetings. Development and re-evaluation of our group politic would happen here as we see it work in process. This meeting takes place twice monthly, every other Sunday.

open house

This is a meeting ground for all lesbians. It is a time for information and experience sharing, introducing new members, and a socializing time for us to get to know each other. The open house meets twice monthly, following the General Meeting.

task forces

Women in these committees choose to work with certain priorities. These committees carry out work within the general principles of unity and in the spirit of feminism and sisterhood. The organization holds the committees accountable and expects women to accept and work with constructive criticism. In exchange, the organization places initial trust in each committee to represent the Lesbian-Feminist organization with care. All task forces/committees are always open to all lesbians, and women are encouraged to form new groups as well.

MASS ACTION - Plans and initiates political actions the organization will participate in.

MEDIA / SPEAKERS BUREAU - calls for responsible media representation and provides speakers to inform and educate about lesbians and lesbian-feminism.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION - investigates discrimination against lesbians in employment, housing, prison, etc.

FUNDRAISING - plans and initiates fundraising events

SOLIDARITY - outreach group to other oppressed groups and peoples - struggles to form political alliances.

STUDY GROUPS - supportive places to develop political theory and study our collective herstory.

CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING - A group for all women to consider from time to time - a place and a process for examining where we come from and sharing personal experiences.

IWY - committee to organize support for lesbians to be visible to the media and other women during the IWY Houston convention.

OUTREACH - group interested in reaching out and informing lesbian-feminists and other lesbians about our organization and politicalization.

How to Contact the Organization

PHONE NUMBERS -

WOMONSPACE - 399-9813
ALCOHOLISM CENTER FOR WOMEN - 381-7805
SUE - 413-4921
LYNN - 664-8756
DIANA - 399-5501
CAROLE - 396-8252

LOOK FOR FLYERS AT -

PAGE ONE
SISTERHOOD BOOKSTORE
WOMONSPACE
WOMAN'S BUILDING
and others

meeting places

WESTSIDE -

Church in Ocean Park
corner of 2nd and Hill St, Ocean Park

EASTSIDE -

Los Angeles Public Library - Felipe de Neve Branch
2820 West 6th St. (in Lafayette Park), Los Angeles