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FIGHTING THE RIGHT Draft

Conclusion of the workshop looks at ways in which we can fight
To prepare it we've read about and talked to people involved in
current and recent successful, and sometimes not so successful organization
against the right. *and tried to draw out the most important points.* In particular, the California campaign against
the Briggs amendment to do away with gay and lesbians rights and prohibit
us from teaching in schools and the ~~re~~ current campaign against police
and right-wing violence in Toronto provide some useful examples of
wayd in which lesbains are currently fighting the right ~~xxxxxxx~~ around
the issues OF our sexuality. ~~Feminixxxxxxxxforxxxxthe fight against~~
~~xxxxxxx~~ *in Vancouver we* [Lesbians] have supprted the B.C. Organization
to Fight Racism ~~xxxxxx~~ in its recent mobilizations as memners of feminist
groups and as individuals, and we have been active in defending women;s
right to choose across the country, In Quebec and English Canda.

, What can we learn from these struggles, what are the quest ion which
we face?

~~These are the elements which struck me as most essential in building
an effective strategy against the right:~~

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as effective strategy against the right:

- 1) a response to attacks through mobilization
- 2) mass ~~xxxxxxx~~ education to counter the rights slanders against us
- 3) an inclusive unity: figuring out who are allies are (the right
helps in most instances by telling us) and providing mutual defense
- 4) organizing ourselves to articulate ~~xxxxxxx~~ our demands and
insure our defense
- 5) bringing the campaign into mass organizations ~~like~~ especially
the unions, women's organizations, community groups, churches, the
NDP
- 6) meeting the Right on the right political terrain: hitting their
attacks on our sexuality right on
- 7) putting forward positive demands as well as defending ~~xxx~~ ourselves
England

1) [In ~~xxxxxxx~~, in Toronto now around abortion and lesbian and gay
attacks by police, in Vancouver against teh KKK and in California
against Briggs *to* We have mobilized when attacked. This has had a three
fold effect: it has shown the right that we can often outmobilize them,
and that they will meet a militant and organized opposition. It has
shown people who are ~~xxxx~~ not yet conscious of the dangers of the right

* self-defense *

That there is a heterogenous opposition to the Right which often includes members of their own communities. It has shown us that we are not isolated and outnumbered. e.g. of Right to Privacy demonstrations in ~~THE~~ T.O.

We need to learn how to physically defend ourselves + our allies.

1) mass education. Briggs was defeated because there was a grassroots campaign which reached into ~~THE~~ the most outlying communities in California. The Proposition 6 passed only in those few ~~THE~~ areas where there was no campaign visible. The Right feeds on stereotypes and ignorance. By getting out, being visible, talking to people we become real and our ideas become popularized. We will have to go to neighbourhoods, door to door, shopping plazas, bars, ~~THE~~ sports events, unions, community groups, church groups. ~~EVERYWHERE~~ schools, everywhere that we can talk to people about why the right is a threat to them and to us.

We need to figure out who our allies are (The Right usually helps by telling us)

2) We cannot stand alone against the ~~THE~~ Right.) it is important that we defend others under attack by organized right-wing and police violence. For many of us that also means defending ourselves for as well as being lesbian we may be trade unionists, women of colour, ~~AFRICAN AMERICAN~~ Jewish, etc. We need to work towards an inclusive unity. By this I mean that ~~WE~~ our goal should be to win support from anti-racist organizations for our right to be lesbians, that we support the struggle for reproductive rights, of youth for sex education, etc. It means we work to mobilizing together whether it be in rallies like the recent one in Toronto which featured speakers from the IWDC, GLARE, IPANA and the OFL Women's Committee. ~~WE~~ ~~EXAMPLES~~ ~~ACROSS~~ ~~THE~~ ~~COUNTRY~~ ~~AND~~ ~~ABROAD~~ It means we work in organizations like BCOFR to build them as well as with the perspective of winning a broader basis of unity which takes up our struggle. We need to explore effective ways of organizing: in coalitions of organizations for example, in one united anti-RW organization, in separate movements which come together to support each other's events: all of these are possibilities and perhaps stages in the process of organization. We have to make sure that however we organize it is democratic. The Right to Privacy Committee in Toronto has been so successful because it has held democratic membership meetings regularly and people assigned to organize events and actions have stuck to the members' decisions. Democratic organization is one of the ~~THE~~ most important aspects of the women's movement, it is something we need to contribute and protect as we move into unity with other movements/

5) Its important that we also organize as lesbians to insure that ~~we take~~ attacks on us are ~~not~~ also taken up. The Right is particularly adamant that we be denied the right to have, ~~adopt~~ ^{to choose} ~~care~~ ^{artificial} for and adopt children, ^{in semi-} ~~(that is those of them who don't just want us to be killed)~~. ~~XXXX~~ ^{natural} Organizing ourselves, in groups where we can, in caucuses within broader organizations is important. Its important that the issue of women's right to control our bodies, a right which the rightwing wants to deny all women, include our right to control our sexuality as well as reproductive rights. Only lesbians can insure that this link can be made.

4) Organization is especially important in ~~the~~ the unions. We can fight for positive measures like sexual orientation clauses in contracts and for unions to take positions against fascist organizations, ^{as right to work legislation} or abortion rights etc. This way rank and file working ~~people~~ ^{and we take away the right-wings constituency} people are exposed to the issue of lesbian rights. [In California a trade union conference against Briggs was important in mobilizing union supporteers.] The Toronto District Labour Council spoke out vs the baths raids because trade unionists in EX CUPW have fought long and hard for lesbian and gay rights in their union and on the labour council. [We need support from mass organizations, we also need to educate our allies so that they understand what is at stake in our defense.]

We must meet the right-wings attack on our sexuality directly.

6) This is really important/ Gay rights ordinances were repealed or defeated in 4 places in the USA in the last two years because their defenders failed to take up the accusations of the right. They ran low profile campaigns which politely called for human rights for all. The problem with this is that the right does not ~~see~~ ^{represent} lesbians and gay men as human, they ~~see~~ ^{XXXXXX} ~~and~~ describe us as dangerous, carzed deviants, ~~and~~ ^{dangerous} ~~child~~ molesters and pwerverters (sexual vampires). Why should such people be given equal human rights?

[The right is seeking a major ideoligical victory, one which will not be easily reversed, its elements include the absolute ~~dominance~~ dominance of the traditional family and its authority relations, heterosexuality, the determination that life begins with the fetus and the removal (furthur removal) of reproductive control from women, an end to birth control, an end to sex education.] ^{*} To counter them we'll have to do what feminists in California did and what GLARE is doing in Toronto: take ~~the~~ up their ^{arguments} ~~stand~~ ^{stand}ers head on. This means taking up sexual repression in gneral, their desire to reconstitute the family, confronting the myth that we molest ~~children~~

**The right feeds on Mal anxiety and ignorance about sexuality.*

children with hard facts, supporting the right of youth to their sexuality and information about their sexuality. (Read quote if time from Socialist Review ~~the~~ description of ~~the~~ speech by activist)/We will need ~~to~~ state that our sexuality ~~is~~ as legitimate as heterosexuality. GIARE example.

~~XX~~ The right addresses real concerns - we need to propose positive alternatives.

7) Part of hitting the right head on means that we not only defend the status quo but ~~also~~ also go on the offensive when possible to extend our rights. [This is especially important because the right wants to push us so far back into the closet that we never come out again.] Some examples include sexual orientation protection for workers and teachers, inclusion in sex education, the right of communities to self-defense, repeal of repressive legislation, adoptive rights etc.

~~8) Self-defense~~
The dangers ~~are~~ and areas of weakness we have to watch for should be briefly mentioned. In my mind these include:

- 1) a lack of unity (between lesbians and other women, lesbians and gay men, minority communities and ourselves etc.)
- 2) not fighting for our own defense either because of diffusion, not being organized or because we accept the idea that we fight on one issue or to defend only one community now and ourselves later.
- 3) not being visible. (~~DADE~~ DADE example).

~~XXXX~~ Perhaps some things which could emerge from this workshop are:

- 1) A group or regional groupings of lesbians interested in working against the right.
- 2) Related to 1) a position paper or leaflet text which could be used by lesbians in various centres to organize, explain why other non-lesbian organizations should include our demands in their positions vs the ~~AKK~~ etc.
- 3) Contacts ~~in~~ for mailings or future anti-RW activities
- 4) Some clarity on the relationship between working with other groups and persuading our own defense.

- Bread & Roses - May 24th - 730

31st 730

Sara - phone
X Weste / Amy

- Room # 347 -

- ① HOW AFFECTED? - round
- ② FIGHTING BACK
- ③ who ally with / what alliances to make

} Intro. $\frac{1}{2}$
1 hour
 $\frac{1}{2}$

- Minutes
- plenary report
- time at end of group

A332.

My contact bus fell out in
the middle.

Just when I said the
thing about
forming one united
Right wing
organization

Excellent
😊