



**MARCH
ON WASHINGTON
FOR LESBIAN & GAY
RIGHTS
OCTOBER 11, 1987**

Assemble, 9 a.m., at
the Ellipse, 17th St. &
Constitution Ave.
[behind the White House]

March starts 12:00 p.m.
Rally at the Capitol,
West Terrace!

**For love and
for life,
we're not
going back!**

A CALL TO ACTION

“Depriving individuals of the right to choose for themselves how to conduct their intimate relationships poses a far greater threat to the values most deeply rooted in our nation’s history than tolerance of nonconformity could ever do.”

*—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun,
dissenting from the Court’s 1986 ruling that upholds sodomy laws.*

We of the U.S. gay and lesbian communities must bring an urgent message to the people of this nation: It is not we, but the threats to us, that endanger the entire nation and its values.

Our enemies are pushing a familiar agenda of hatred, fear and bigotry—against us and against freedom. They’re determined to deny us the right to make love, even in the privacy of our own homes.

Lesbians must survive in a society that renders us invisible and denies fair compensation for a woman’s labor. We’re told we’re unfit to nurture our own children, or to adopt otherwise unwanted ones. In the name of “morality,” young lesbians and gay people face rejection and violence not only from a hostile society, but also within our own families. And many of us even are driven to suicide.

The AIDS crisis is being manipulated to advance this agenda. Irresponsible voices in the media and inaccurate information from health officials frighten the public. Politicians exploit these misguided fears, disregarding the plain facts of both science and justice. The federal government’s feeble response to the AIDS crisis comes at the expense of already underfinanced social programs. Meanwhile, despite medical evidence that AIDS is not transmitted through casual contact, the Justice

Department sanctions discrimination against people with ARC and people with AIDS.

The United States is in danger of becoming a place where everyone’s privacy and freedom yield before the prying eyes of a fearful lunatic fringe. The “LaRouche Initiative” in California set the stage for forced HIV antibody testing, identification cards and detention camps.

The escalating attacks on our community are but one part of a pattern of assault on human rights. Not only does our government threaten the rights of gay men and lesbians—including denying entry to gay and lesbian foreigners—it is systematically dismantling the hard-won civil rights of People of Color. The federal government supports regimes and military insurgencies around the world, including South Africa, Central America and South America, that routinely violate basic human rights.

Washington’s priorities for military expansion and a repressive social agenda leave little room for spending on human services, especially for AIDS research.

The 1969 Stonewall Rebellion released the stifled cries for freedom that had been stilled through centuries of oppression. Today, after all the suffering and all the struggling, we issue this call for a March on Washington, to proclaim to friend and foe alike... ***for love and for life, we’re not going back!***

▶ **PASSAGE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS BILL:**

That a federal bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation be passed.

▶ **AN END TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE WITH AIDS, ARC, HIV POSITIVE STATUS, OR THOSE PERCEIVED TO HAVE AIDS. MASSIVE INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR AIDS EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND PATIENT CARE. MONEY FOR AIDS, NOT FOR WAR:**

That discrimination based on real or perceived AIDS, ARC, or HIV-antibody positivity be ended in the public and private sectors: that funding for AIDS education (including safe sex information), research and patient care be massively increased; that these monies come from the military budget, not existing social services.

▶ **THE REPEAL OF ALL LAWS THAT MAKE SODOMY BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS A CRIME:**

That all state and federal laws criminalizing consensual sex be repealed as they violate the constitutional right to privacy.

▶ **A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER BANNING ANTI-GAY DISCRIMINATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:**

That the President ban by executive order all discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal government particularly in the military and in immigration; that the President end

exclusion of people with AIDS or HIV-antibody positivity from government employment.

▶ **LEGAL RECOGNITION OF LESBIAN AND GAY RELATIONSHIPS:**

That lesbian and gay male domestic partners are entitled to the same rights as married heterosexual couples; that social services for lesbian and gay youth be greatly augmented.

▶ **REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM, THE RIGHT TO CONTROL OUR OWN BODIES, AND AN END TO SEXIST OPPRESSION.**

▶ **AN END TO RACISM IN THIS COUNTRY AND APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

As members of the Lesbian and Gay movement, we too are affected by rising racism and sexism which oppresses People of Color and women; thereby the liberation of Lesbians and Gays is intricately linked to the struggle against racism, sexism and anti-semitism. We realize that "none of us will be free until we are all free." We therefore call upon all of our sisters and brothers to actively confront racism and sexism on all levels both within our movement, and in the larger society. We demand an end to racist and sexist oppression. We demand an end to all social, economic, judicial and legal oppression of Lesbians and Gays, and people of every race, gender, ability, class, ethnicity, faith, political ideology, transgenderal orientation and sexual orientation.

NATIONAL LOBBY DAY: Friday, October 9. Delegations from around the country will meet with their Senators and Members of Congress to acquaint them with our issues and to urge them to support appropriate legislation.

MARCH AGAINST DEATH AND VIOLENCE: Friday, October 9 through Sunday, October 11. For a period of 40 hours, culminating with the March, people carrying the names of those who died of AIDS or homophobic violence will move in a solemn single-file procession past the White House, the Capitol and other national symbols. By bearing witness to the violence and suffering our community has endured, we hope to awaken the conscience of the nation.

THE WEDDING: Saturday, October 10. A non-sectarian union ceremony celebrating the relationships of hundreds and perhaps thousands of same-sex couples will emphasize the demand that gay and lesbian domestic partners be entitled to the same rights and privileges as married heterosexual couples. A reception will follow the ceremony.

LESBIAN & GAY BANDS OF AMERICA CONCERT: Saturday, October 10, 8 to 11 pm, DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street NW. Thirteen bands and two choruses featuring 250 musicians will perform.

VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE: Sunday, October 11. Prior to the March, gay and lesbian veterans will conduct a memorial service at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor the many thousands of gay men and lesbians who have given their lives

while members of the U.S. military. Immediately following the memorial service, the veterans will proceed across the Potomac to join the March.

AIDS MEMORIAL PROJECT: Sunday, October 11. The Names Project is creating a national AIDS Memorial composed of thousands of individual 3' x 6' fabric panels, each inscribed with the name of someone lost to AIDS. The panels will be assembled into one massive expanse of names and displayed across the Capitol Mall. Tax-deductible contributions and completed panels can be sent to the Names Project, P.O. Box 14573, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call (415) 626-5725.

NATIONAL LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS CONGRESS PLANNING MEETING: Monday, October 12. Plans will be initiated for a 1988 nationwide Congress of lesbians and gay men, to show our diversity, to establish our priorities and to devise strategies for accomplishing them.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE FOR LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS: Tuesday, October 13. A non-violent Civil Disobedience Action at the Supreme Court to demand full civil rights for lesbians and gay men; a powerful statement of resistance and hope for love and justice for all.

BICENTENNIAL PROTESTS IN PHILADELPHIA: The Philadelphia Lesbian & Gay Task Force is organizing protest demonstrations for **July 15** (joint session of Congress), **September 17** (Constitution's 200th Anniversary) and **September 23** (tentative convening of the U.S. Supreme Court). Join in protesting the hypocrisy of the official Constitution Bicentennial celebrations.

Our organization endorses the March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights.

I (we) are enclosing a contribution of \$ _____ .

Tax-deductible contributions of \$100 or more, to support the related charitable and educational work of the March on Washington Committee, Inc., may be made out to the Mobilization for Survival Education Fund, and mailed to: March on Washington Committee, P.O. Box 1876, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10011.

I (we) would like to volunteer to help.

Please place me (us) on your mailing list and keep me (us) informed about March-related events in my (our) community.

Buttons, posters and t-shirts promoting the March are available. Please indicate the number of t-shirts you wish to order for each size.

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____

Total number of t-shirts _____ @ \$7 each . . . \$ _____

Please send _____ buttons @ \$1 each \$ _____

Please send _____ posters @ 50¢ each \$ _____

Plus 15% for shipping if ordering by mail . . . \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Contact the National Office for prices on bulk orders.

ORGANIZATION OR PERSON'S NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

Please make out checks and return with coupon to the local contact listed below (except for tax-deductible donations of \$100 or more as noted above). If no local contact is listed, return to the National Office:

March on Washington Committee,

P.O. Box 7781, Washington, DC 20044

(202) 783-1828.