



a family of
LGBTQ
prisoners and
"free world"
LGBTQA allies
who support
each other

May 2012 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Over the past week or so I have been reading the newly released book, *Love and Struggle: My Life in SDS, The Weather Underground, and Beyond* by David Gilbert. David is a political prisoner held in upstate New York. While Black and Pink recognizes that all prisoners are political prisoners in the sense that the United States incarceration system targets poor people, communities of color, queer/trans/gender non-conforming folks, im/migrants, and other marginalized groups; political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States are those who are serving sentences because of their radical struggle for collective liberation or nationalist freedom. David Gilbert was part of an armed underground organizing effort to challenge the foundations of white supremacy, capitalism, and imperialism. This book, *Love and Struggle*, is David's reflections, critiques, and memoirs of his political organizing and the commitment to revolution held by so many at the time.

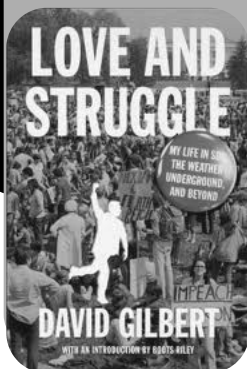
I mention this book because there are many lessons for us in the abolitionist movement today. We are fighting for revolutionary change. When we say that **no one** should be monitored by the police, tried by a judge, sentenced to prison, given probation, or have any kind of interaction with the prison industrial complex – we are calling for a revolution of values both here in the United States and in alignment with liberation struggles through the Global South/Third World. On page 90 David writes, "revolutionary action must be clearly in the interests of the vast majority, the oppressed, and action must be geared to build their participation and power rather than to consolidate the organization as a power over them; any such action must be rigorously tailored towards mobilizing the people and weakening the power structure." What does that look like for you behind the prison walls? How do you imagine revolutionary action playing out by your own organizing and resistance? What role do you think those of us on the outside need to play? How do you think people who are not in prison can be accountable to your visions of revolution? What does this mean for Black and Pink as a family and organization? Many questions – we would love to share your visions in this newsletter month after month.

I know that organizing behind prison walls can be really challenging. I know that the consequences when you get caught can be horrendous, being locked down 23-24 hours a day with no access to canteen, phone, visits, radio, etc. can drive one crazy. Yet so many readers of this newsletter are already stuck in that situation. My friend Morriegan recently wrote a great article about the Occupy Wall Street movement that is going on. The under-title for her article is, "solidarity means that even if you win, you stand with everyone until everyone wins." Organizing is about building the capacity of oppressed people to take power back from those who have stolen it and used it to subjugate others and cause endless harm. We are most powerful when we work together and create a shared understanding of what we want to see. Have you seen cross-race organizing where you are locked up? Can you imagine the power prisoners have when they are united, as happened at Attica, Lucasville, throughout Georgia, Pelican Bay, and at Walpole? All of these moments of prisoner power worked because people came together across divides, where do we as LGBTQ people fit in with others who seek revolutionary change? Where do you fit? What choices are you going to make? We ask all of these questions and create an assortment of strategies knowing that once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In love and struggle,
Jason

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LETTERS TO THE BLACK & PINK FAM!

B&P Family,

This is my first letter, I have just barely come out and embraced my Bisexuality. Yay go me! In doing so I got into it with the correctional facility over Freedom of Speech issues. They say I can't discuss my sexuality in prison. I told them I would grieve it, so they put me in solitary confinement to teach me a "lesson." LOL! If they only knew the lessons B&P have taught me! That's why I'm writing, I'd like to thank all of you who have written, sent art, etc... You have inspired me, given me the courage to come out, to be proud, and most importantly to stand up for myself and my beliefs! For all those fighting the fight I thank you for your stories, they let me know I'm not alone. Thanks for lighting the way. So as I start my confinement, I'm not really trippin! Thank you for standing by my side. Your friend till the end.

-Koinz, Utah



Hello,

My name is Billy, aka Wolf BlueEagle. I'm a 29 year old Spaniard/Lakota Sioux mix. I'm also Bisexual. I'm in Ad-Seg (Solitary/Lock Down), due to a crime, self-defense, of 1st Degree Assault. The courts ruled that since I injured the guy so severely that I was the guilty party. Regardless of the fact that I'd already been raped in prison (3 times), and that because of my sexuality, I must have not really been raped at all. So- I was given 16 years for essentially "defending" myself, when the staff would not help me. I even was told by the "Housing Captain" and "Case Manager" to stop trying to tell on people or they'd see to it that I'd be housed with "sexual predators" and feel what it is like to truly be "raped." I've sought help through the ACLU, but was not replied to at all. As if my treatment/abuse was of no concern to them, so why should they even care.

I've been in Ad-Seg for over 7 years now and don't have any hope of going to "G.P." anytime soon, as the Colorado prison system does not have a "P.C." program for anyone that has more than 5-7 years remaining in prison, stating "It's far too expensive to place inmates in P.C. for extended periods of time." This seems stupid to me as it's more expensive to house Ad-Seg inmates. Due to my long-term placement in Ad-Seg and the lack of proper housing/P.C. programs, I am basically forced to remain in Ad-Seg for the next 7-15 years, so that I will be safe from harm and/or death. I've even developed acute Anxiety, Depression (Bi-polar), and Borderline Personality disorders due to the abuse and long term placement in Solitary/Ad-Seg.

I firmly believe that there should be help when needed, unconditionally, for everyone who seeks it. Am I wrong? I know that I've made mistakes and have to do my time for them, but I also believe that I should be able to do my time safe & secure without fear of being raped or harmed/killed because of my sexuality (or past criminal mistakes.)

Everyone should be loved and cherished regardless of race, religion, sexuality, or criminal past, as we are all humans and deserving of the best in life. **No one** should ever have to be subjected to harm/abuse because of their past or lifestyle (so long as it harms none, ourselves included.) We are all born the way the Creator intended, and it's no one's place to force a difference or condemn us for the choices of the Creator.

Sincerely & With Love,
Billy Wolf BlueEagle, Colorado

SASHA TAYLOR'S STORY



My name is Sasha Taylor and I'm a 36 yr old transgendered individual serving time in Federal prison for a drug conviction. Before I came into the system my only guidance to prison was doing some time in county jail, movies and TV. I had some time out in the free to prepare myself for what's to come. It was and still is a culture shock and it seems that prison is behind in the times. I started my time back in my home state of Texas at Beaumont Medium and then I was moved to the low facility there. Both places I met several people whom I can call fairly good people and trustworthy. They took the time to show me the ropes and make sure that I didn't get hurt. If I carried myself with respect then I would get it in return. Not to say that there weren't bad times. I did get the usual harassing statements and hazing. At the low I opened up my artistic abilities and began to be more of a social butterfly. Yet I stuck to my own rules such as, if you keep your circle small then the less drama and problems you have. Then the inevitable happened at the low two guys whom didn't like me or what I was about had attacked me and my close friend. They put all of us in the SHU or Special housing Unit and I spent 4 months in there till I got transferred to where I am at today. Prior to all this happening I was able to get the medical dept. to approve me to get back on my hormones. Since I was taking them out in the world I was back on them easily. I have now

been back on my hormone replacement therapy for 2 years.

My new spot is 1,536 miles away from my front door step instead of where I was at only being a few counties away from home. Coming up here was a complete 360, because the ignorance and hate was way worse. Not only the inmates but the staff was hateful and encouraged bad behavior. Also in all three places that I was at I did not like to hang around with the other "Girls", because that brings more unnecessary drama. It has taken me the better part of a year up here in Loretto low to try to teach who and what I'm all about rather than lose to ignorance. While here in the first few weeks I did meet a good person who has taken the time and patience to bring out a hidden talent. I was already a good artist and designer and entertainer, but he taught me how to play the guitar, read music, and write songs. I have now performed in several of the holiday shows for the inmates and got to name one of the two bands that I am in. I named it Puss N Boots and the crowd would you believe were cheering us on and there were no hecklers. I call him "Shaggy" and he has turned out to be a true friend indeed. Now it may sound like all is good with me, I am set to return home in the next 6 months and I have a home, family, and job waiting for me. I consider myself lucky in that aspect, but I still find myself fighting to be understood. I also have a skin disorder called vitiligo which makes my skin look like a cheetah. After reading the many horror stories in Black and Pink and the news itself about the goings on behind bars and the outside world. I can only offer my own story of which there is more to hopefully bring some sort of hope to others. Always remain true to yourself and know that you were someone in the free world and you still are that person inside. I am writing a book about my life so far, continue my art and of course try to become a recording artist.



Sincerely,
Sasha T.

Editor's Note: Sasha was the artist who painted the beautiful watercolor on the postcards mailed to the Black and Pink family in April 2012!

LOVE'S UTTER EXHAUSTION

He bathed away the scents of others
From my long ravished/ravaged body
Scouring away the lush memories
of long ago lusts and desires
Trying to ignore the wet burning kisses
I trailed down his Adonis-like torso
As I sought and found his royal/regal staff!

Later, out passions momentarily sated,
We slept together in love's utter exhaustion!

-Mavourneen, Georgia



Art: Shaylanna Luvme

LOVE

Love is a powerful word. The emotion behind that word has brought life as well as caused death. How many of us really understand what love is. It is human nature to want to be loved. Love is the most selfless gift a person can give. Many times a person misunderstands love. When a person is asked who they love, they often say family, friends, and their companion. I have come to understand that love is deeper than that. Love is understand that we are all human beings- beautiful, amazing, imperfect human beings. Love is understanding that we are all unique individuals living here to help each other, to heal each other, encourage each other, and learn from each other. Love is the only thing we can receive by giving it away. Love is being able to put someone else before yourself. Love is being able to give someone in need and not expect anything in return. In the world we live in today love- true love, real love- is hard to find. There is so much violence and corruption in the world today that people are caring less and less about their fellow human beings. When will the moment come that we relinquish our fears of rejection and of the unknown and just love our human race. I am tired of war, tired of hating. I want to have peace and the only way to do that is to love. No matter your past crimes or mistakes, you are my fellow men and women and because of that I care for your wellbeing. I am reaching out to all of you to bring a change.

Black & Pink, Thank you for allowing me a way to have a voice in the world. You have probably helped more people than you realize with your newsletter. You sure have helped me. May Peace, Love and Prosperity follow you all the days of your life.

With Love,
Mark, Florida

[Editor's Note: Mark left his address for everyone; we can't include it in the Newsletter, but we can add it to the Prisoner-to-Prisoner (P2P) list that gets sent out occasionally for those who can write between prisons.]

GAY MAY DAY!!



MAY 1971

Most people living in the United States know little about the International Workers' Day of May Day. For many others there is an assumption that it is a holiday celebrated in state communist countries like Cuba or the former Soviet Union. Most Americans don't realize that May Day has its origins here in this country and is as "American" as baseball and apple pie, and stemmed from the pre-Christian holiday of Beltane, a celebration of rebirth and fertility... On May 1, 1886, more than 300,000 workers in 13,000 businesses across the United States walked off their jobs in the first May Day celebration in history. In Chicago, the epicenter for the 8-hour day agitators, 40,000 went out on strike with the anarchists in the forefront of the public's eye. With their fiery speeches and revolutionary ideology of direct action, anarchists and anarchism became respected and embraced by the working people and despised by the capitalists... Over one hundred years have passed since that first May Day. In the earlier part of the 20th century, the US government tried to curb the celebration and further wipe it from the public's memory by establishing "Law and Order Day" on May 1!

-Eric Chase, 1993, IWW.org

Gay and lesbian activists of the early 70s had been involved in civil rights, student, antiwar, feminist and counterculture actions of the period, learning tactics and sharing the ideology of other liberation groups. At the Gay Liberation Front - DC (GLF-DC), Michael Ferri had strong ties to the peace movement. Bruce Pennington had worked for Liberation News Service. New York-based John Scagliotti, just 19, already had been very involved as a leftist and antiwar activist. Warren Blumenfeld had been a member of Students for a Democratic Society and a founder of GLF-San Jose before coming to Washington, DC. Perry Brass, a New York Gay Liberation Front member, had been involved in antiwar and gay activism before coming to DC. Other members of GLF-DC, such as Tim Tomassi who provided medical care for the Black Panthers in DC, worked with and supported local and national liberation groups. Gay activists expected that other liberation groups, however heterosexual they might be, would reciprocate their respect and support.

In announcing the formation of GLF-DC in the local underground paper Quicksilver Times (June 23, 1970), Dave Aiken wrote: "Gay people are perhaps the last oppressed group to get themselves together ... It's time for gays to surface, join with their comrades (both gays and right straights) and fight repression in all forms... Power to the People! Gay Power to gay people!"

Black Panther leader Huey Newton's August 15, 1970 speech validated gay and women's liberation as true liberation movements. The speech heartened gay men and lesbians' feeling of inclusion in the radical left. In response, GLF-DC and gay liberationists from across the country supported the Panthers' November 1970 Peoples Revolutionary Constitutional Convention in Washington, DC by providing logistical support and participating in convention discussions. A group of GLF-Chicago members came to DC for the convention and, having been arrested following a riotous protest at the Zephyr Restaurant, had to stay on in DC. The Chicagoans settled into the GLF House (1620 S St. NW) and the new Skyline Faggots collective (1624 S St. NW).

For gay activists, the 1971 Mayday protest was both an antiwar protest as well as another validation of their presence among new left liberation groups. As with the Panthers' convention, gay activists wholeheartedly supported the planning and execution of the protest. Scagliotti has commented that

"Gay people felt on the social level more comfortable with counterculture people. The only space for gay people on the left was in the radical caucus." -*The Rainbow History Project*:

JUSTICE FOR TRAYVON... BUT HOW?



wordsandsteel wrote:

"Reading about Trayvon Martin's killing and am beyond saddened, sickened, and outraged at the continuation of state-sanctioned killing of black and brown youth. I wonder, however, if there another way to push for justice for Trayvon, without appealing to the prison-industrial complex as a means of retribution. Even if the state does prosecute his killer, what does it do to our communities in the long run when we ask for more surveillance, stronger penalization, more brutal justice? In the end, whose bodies will be most subjected to the PIC?"

As we demand Justice for Trayvon, I wonder if we can keep the call for prison abolition and real social transformation in mind. "

Lowendtheory wrote:

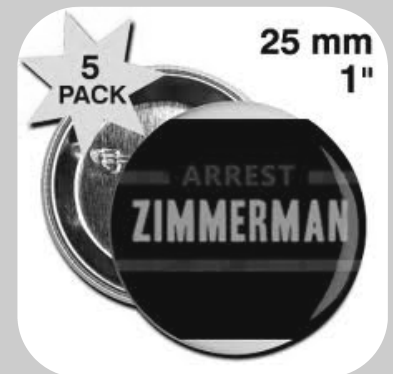
"Yes. This is one of the complicated paradoxes of demanding justice from the very state that is so often the object of our critique—in order to demand justice we end up conferring legitimacy on the state whose ability to use violence we try to delegitimize. We may want to see George Zimmerman's arrest, prosecution, and, probably, imprisonment, not only because some of us, in our more sadistic moments, would like to see him suffer (and thereby collapse suffering into our imagination of what justice should look like), but also because some of us likely believe it will be a way to register our collective rejection of the white supremacist imperatives that make a person like Trayvon Martin killable. Yet, in appealing to the power of the police to arrest, and to the power of the courts to sentence Zimmerman, we also make heard a message that we might otherwise hesitate to send: namely, that we believe that these institutions—the police, the courts, the law—are institutions capable of delivering the justice we want. The irony here is especially high in light of the track record of the Sanford Police Department that would, ostensibly be doing the arresting we demand. To what extent are we willing to appeal to a white supremacist police force as if it were capable of delivering justice for Trayvon? And also, why is this just about justice for Trayvon?"

It is no disrespect to Trayvon Martin's memory to point out that our ability to make him into a slogan is based less on who he was as a person than on our desire to fit him into a mold that will allow others to see him as worthy and deserving of justice. That mold is called the Innocent Victim, and its shape can be seen in the details that we choose to highlight and repeat ad nauseam about the case: He was unarmed, he was holding Skittles and Arizona Ice Tea, he was on foot, he had no criminal record, he was a "good kid." Add whichever narrative that you'd like to hang on him here. It's rather perverse, really, our collective love and desire for the innocent victim, the victim who "did nothing," the victim who, we convince ourselves, must have been so pure that we immediately scoff at George Zimmerman's alibi that he was acting in self-defense. What if Trayvon Martin had come at this white man who held a gun? Would his killing have been justified? Would we be protesting and petitioning as righteously as we are? What if he'd had, instead of Skittles, a bag of weed? Or a beer? Or a knife? Or something else that made it harder to make him look like a kid? How many fewer signatures would that correlate with on change.org?

It should hardly be disputable that a great share of what killed Trayvon Martin was his existence in a racist state system in which to be black is always to be seen as being guilty of something, a system in which criminality is always implied in blackness and in which blackness is understood as a predisposition toward criminality that nonblacks learn to imagine themselves as the innocent victims of.

It should also hardly be disputable that a great share of what subjects young black persons like Trayvon Martin to "the state sanctioned or extralegal production and exploitation of group-differentiated vulnerability to premature death" has something significant to do with the ways in which we fetishize innocence. It has something significant to do with the ways in which in order to see a person, or a group, as deserving of justice, we expend so much energy toward shoring up evidence that they did nothing at all, toward proving, once and for all that the Trayvon Martins of the world get killed not because of what they did—not, that is, because they broke the law or used violence—but because of who they are. Black. By which we mean, through this distinction between being and doing that we should never have had to make, not criminal.

But what about the blacks who do commit crimes? The blacks who have criminal records? *Continued on Page 7*



Continued from Page 6: The blacks who might be found carrying knives rather than Skittles, or, lord forbid, both? The blacks who, unlike Trayvon Martin, might not have a parent living in the subdivision in which they happen to be walking at night? Would George Zimmerman's bullets have been more appropriately directed at them, and not Trayvon? It may sound vulgar to say this, but in our collective dwelling on the details that make Trayvon Martin the innocent victim we want him to be, I get the sense that the answer is, more or less, yes. Or, to put it less vulgarly, I strongly doubt that if it were the case that Trayvon Martin had a criminal record, we would be seeing anywhere near the degree of public outcry that we currently are. There would be, in other words, much less of a palpable feeling that there has been a major and significant breach, breakdown, and failure of justice. We'd have a much harder time maintaining certainty that Trayvon's killing was caused by what he was (black) than about what he'd done (break the law, in whatever fashion).

Innocence, Victimhood. Two social and legal constructions that make an almost inordinate claim both on whom we are and are not able to see as deserving of justice, and on whom we are and are not able to tolerate seeing as targets of violence. Our insistence in representing Trayvon Martin as an innocent victim is a stark reminder of how much we will have to shift our angle of vision—to say nothing of our social infrastructure—in order collectively to regard millions upon millions of black and brown people as not only deserving but fundamentally entitled to a substantive kind of justice. For so many of those who have no claim to innocent victimhood, to have not done anything wrong, our public discourse has a radically difficult time imagining a form of justice whose instruments are something other than the barrel of a gun, or the interior of a cage."



MARTIN LUTHER-OSCAR GRANT (ODE TO MARILYN BUCK)

A dream must include enemy or friend
or nightmares and sugar plums
would have the same end
Cell phones they speak louder than words
a bullet in the back or one in the head
a foe of this system or one in this bed
Amerikkan equality equals a Black man dead
The hate remains as the people wait
The blood it runs and still we wait
No more – never – lets do this now
Hunger strikes, prison strikes, dead revolutionaries
a dream, a vendetta, a beautiful wobbly woman's words,
"following the tradition

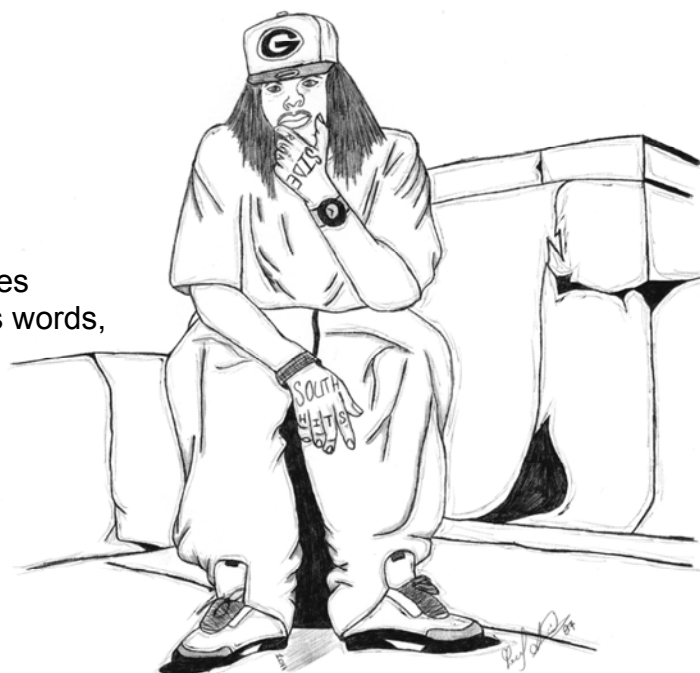
Nat Turner – John Brown

Wobblies Subversives

Resistance in the belly of the beast"

Sweetest mos captivating soul I've ever heard
ticking, ticking – it's getting close
closer, closer – who wants it most
the people rise up – the people take back
mankind progresses
two steps forward – zero back
it's time comrades!

- Brandon C.



Art: Shaylanna Luvme

BLACK AND PINK FAMILY

LOVE & SUPPORT

UNFULFILLED ME

There's a hole in my heart
When we are separated
I just want to touch you
Run my fingers up and down you
Feel you
But there's a hole in my heart

I miss you
I miss how we made beautiful love
I miss your sweet letters
Our passion and soul
Our classic and heart
But now there's just a hole

I miss you
I miss running my hands up and down
Your spine
I miss tickling you
And making you mine

I miss all the time
We used to spend
With no interruptions
And no need to end

And now I am yearning
With one hand on my heart
Shielding the hole
From the bitter wind
That will rip me apart
If I don't find your warmth soon...

I am coming
I hope you wait!
Just don't leave me

-Greg, Missouri

I WANT YOU TO KNOW

I want you to know
that you got somebody
that cares for you
wishing for the best for you
hoping you get through
your situation OK

I want you to know
that I know how it feels
to be all alone
because nobody understands you
and think that you're crazy
because of who you are
and will always be
But no matter what
you will always have
me standing by your side
'cause we're the same
no matter what people say

I want you to know
it doesn't matter where you go
I'm going to stand by your side
through good and bad
no matter what people say or do
I'm going to be there for you
ride or die
like friends are suppose to

Dedicated to all GLBTQ
P.S. Just like Whitney Houston said,
I will always love you
RIP Whitney.
-Juicy, Pennsylvania

Art: Brandon B.



BREAKTHROUGH DECISION FOR TRANSGENDER EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS



Mississippi GLBTQ Examiner 4/24/12 By: Tammy Rainey

In a decision that transgender rights activists are calling a “sea change,” the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a ruling Monday which legal experts say will fundamentally alter the landscape for transgender workers nationwide. According to the decision, an employer which discriminates against an employee or potential employee based on their gender identity is in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination based on sex.

The decision, which was delivered to lawyers for complainant Mia Macy, comes in the wake of a growing number of court decisions deciding that discrimination against transgender individuals constitutes sex discrimination. Perhaps the most notable recent example, among several, being the decision in favor in *Glenn v. Brumby* in the 11th Circuit Court.. There was no objection to the decision by any member of the bipartisan five member commission and applies to all EEOC activities nationwide and expands the effects of the Glenn case to all Federal departments and agencies.

Macy had filed the complaint against the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) who denied her employment which had been previously offered upon learning of her plans to transition. Macy, a former police officer and a veteran, applied for the position while presenting as a male and was provisionally accepted for employment in the position she sought. After the Department learned of her planned transition, they informed her the position had been cut. Macy later learned that the job had, in fact, been filled by another.

Macy consulted with the Transgender Law Center and with the assistance of the TLC her case was perused first with the ATF's internal Equal Employment Opportunity compliance office which denied her claim, asserting that title VII did not, in their judgment, apply to transgender persons. This decision was appealed to the EEOC in December asking for the clarification which came today. In part it read:

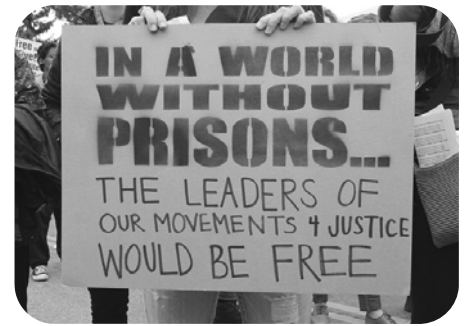
“[T]he Commission hereby clarifies that claims of discrimination based on transgender status, also referred to as claims of discrimination based on gender identity, are cognizable under Title VII's sex discrimination prohibition”

The EEOC had, in fact, telegraphed this decision in recent briefs submitted to various courts considering similar cases, but those briefs not being binding had received little attention. This decision, however, is viewed as an earth-shaking development in advancing the employment protection rights of transgender workers. National Center for Lesbian Rights director Shannon Minter notes that the decision, besides it's direct legal effects, serves as to create a “strong legitimizing effect” in many areas and EEOC decisions receive considerable deference by the courts. The implication is that not only does the decision have an immediate direct impact but it has a much broader indirect impact on the way that businesses and human resource professionals, as well as judges and politicians, view transgender equality issues.

Advocates also noted that one of the stumbling blocks to the passage of ENDA in the 111th Congress was, according to the bill's lead sponsor, the need for “more education” regarding the transgender issues. This decision is seen as being a game-changer in that conversation, as Congress is seen as more likely to act in support of already existing Civil Rights Acts protections than it is to expand those rights.

The decision was seen as extremely welcome news coming as it does little more than a year after the National Transgender Discrimination Survey was released. Among other things, the study found that over ¼ (26%) of those surveyed reported having been fired in the wake of their transition, and almost half (47%) reported an adverse job action (terminated, not hired, lost promotion, etc) as a result of their transgender status. A staggering 90% reported having been harassed or mistreated on the job because of their trans status. Transgender people are unemployed at double the rate of the average American. Advocates caution, however, that as welcome as the decision is, it is merely the beginning of reversing these conditions, not the climax. As Macy said of the decision: “At the end of the day, this isn't about me. There is my side, how I feel, that I want justice, but it's bigger. It's for every trans person that comes through that door — to have it open a little wider maybe.”

Keep in Touch w/ Black & Pink
Black & Pink—{Insert topic tag here}
c/o Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116



Help us by using these topic tags:

FOR

Newsletter Subscriptions (Start or Stop)
Newsletter Submissions (Poems & Stories)
“Outside” Free Pen-Pal Ad form request
Black & Pink Organization Feedback
Request Erotica
Religious Support
Volunteering (Send thank you cards to major donor Naomi Sobel this month or donate stamps)
Advocacy Requests (include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help)

USE TOPIC TAG

Newsletter Subscriptions
Newsletter submissions
Pen Pal
Developing Leadership
Erotica
Religion
Volunteer
Advocacy

Art Info Request & Submissions Only
Apologies, friends, we are behind in replying to your letters. We are getting there!

Black & Pink Art c/o Reed Miller
200 Amory Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. “Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.”

Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$24 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to:

Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor.

Ms. Chris Daley, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Apologies for not putting out an April 2012 newsletter; we are now back on track!

THANK YOU ALL!

We are now receiving hundreds of letters each month. There are only a few of us able to read mail at any time, so we are usually a few months behind and working hard to get people added to the newsletter mailing list and the penpal list. We are unable to answer letters personally most of the time. If you write with a specific subject line in your address, for example: “Black & Pink- Religious” or “Black & Pink- Newsletter Submission”, we can get it to the right place faster.

But we are mostly unable to answer letters personally at this time.

Thanks for your patience!
B&P Free World Leadership Circle