

In Solidarity

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT'S PRISONER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Welcome Back!

Dear Friends,

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) is pleased to welcome back the long awaited Prisoner Advisory Committee (PAC) publication, *In Solidarity*.

In Solidarity is a collaborative newsletter created by PAC members, who are involuntarily locked away, SRLP staff & volunteers. Together our words & collective efforts work against injustice for low income and/or people of color who are trans, intersex & gender non-conforming both inside and out of the prison industrial complex and towards gender self determination for all. Additionally, this newsletter has always been a critical way for SRLP staff to connect with & inform volunteer members of the Prison Advisory Committee.



Since the last edition of *In Solidarity*, many positive transitions have taken place. The SRLP office has settled in to its new location & it brings us great pleasure to highlight PAC member art & poetry, share updates & introduce new staff & programming.

Finally, as SRLP collective member Catherine Granum so eloquently wrote in the last edition, "This is our newsletter, to inspire and fortify our spirits and bond us for the struggle ahead." Welcome to *In Solidarity*.

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PRISONER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project strongly believes that the people most affected by the systems of violence and oppression we fight against are the best people to lead that fight. We also believe that social justice organizations must find ways to directly involve the members of our community who have been separated from us by the criminal injustice system. The Prisoner Advisory Committee (PAC) is one way to overcome the enormous state-created barriers to communication and political participation for the people who are most affected by the prison industrial complex.

PAC currently has around 60 amazing members who are enthusiastic about sharing their time, passion, and expertise with SRLP. Our members are trans, intersex, gender non-conforming people and allies who are currently incarcerated in New York. Members of PAC work together with members of our collective to develop strategies & goals for our work. Already, PAC members have helped with a national position statement on transgender healthcare in correctional settings and provided comments to the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission. They are developing creative ways to work on changing policies, building community, and sharing information and strategies. Along with SRLP staff members and volunteers, PAC also creates *In Solidarity*. We are grateful to have PAC join in SRLP's work and we look forward to more great things from PAC in the future!

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DISCLAIMER

Please note that the ideas and opinions expressed in *In Solidarity* are solely those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. The Sylvia Rivera Law Project makes no representations as to the accuracy of any statements made in *In Solidarity*. Authors and artists bear sole responsibility for their work.



THE SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. SRLP is a collective organization founded on the understanding that gender self-determination is inextricably

intertwined with racial, social and economic justice. Therefore, we seek to increase the political voice and visibility of low-income people and people of color who are transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming. SRLP works to improve access to respectful and affirming social, health, and

legal services for our communities. We believe that in order to create meaningful political participation and leadership, we must have access to basic means of survival and safety from violence.

A FEW SRLP COLLECTIVE MEMBERS, STAFF & FAMILY



SYLVIA RIVERA STORY

This project is named for civil rights pioneer Sylvia Rivera. A veteran of the 1969 Stonewall uprising, Sylvia was a tireless advocate for all those who have been marginalized as the "gay rights" movement has mainstreamed. Sylvia fought hard against the exclusion of transgender people from the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act in New York, and was a loud and persistent voice for the rights of people of color and low-income queer and trans people. This project works to continue Sylvia's work by centralizing issues of systemic poverty and racism, and prioritizing the struggles of queer and trans people who face the most severe and multi-faceted discrimination.



"I'm not missing a minute of this, it's the revolution."

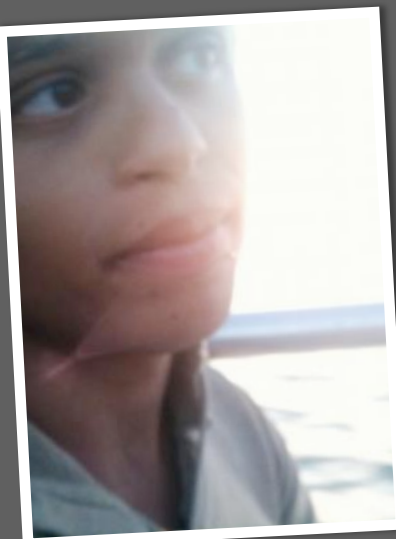
— Sylvia Rivera,
regarding the Stonewall Riots

Movement Building Team:

From ideas to action, the Movement Building Team & new programming has arrived!

Last Summer SRLP restructured the Collective to combine and re-imagine the work of our Public Education Team and Organizing Support Team into a new structure called the Movement Building Team (MBT). MBT's work centers on developing the skills, leadership and political power of low-income transgender people and transgender people of color while increasing our capacity to improve access to respectful and affirming social, health, and legal services for our communities. The MBT works to build and strengthen relationships with community members, and support members' participation in SRLP's work. In this way, SRLP will build a membership base, increasing both our organizational capacity and the scope and scale of our leadership development.

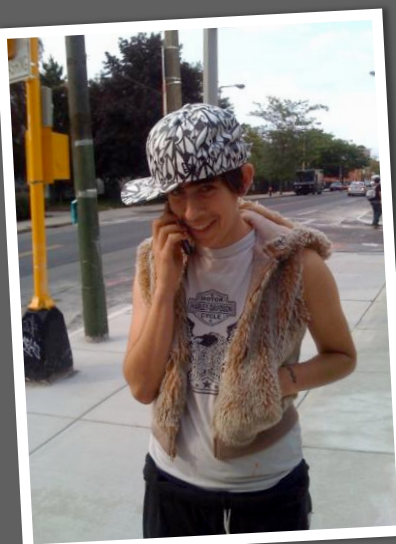
We understand leadership development as a key element in building movements for change that are led by the people most impacted by our issues. Because many community members struggle with daily survival issues that often act as deliberate, state created barriers to political engagement, SRLP is committed to creating and expanding accessible entry points for involvement in our organization.



REINA

Membership Director, MBT

Reina Gossett joined SRLP in July of 2010. Along with Gabriel Foster she will staff the newly created Movement Building Team, working to develop SRLP's membership and community organizing work. She believes creativity & imagination are crucial for growing strong communities and practicing self determination. She also loves making collages, watching re-runs of Battlestar Galactica and reading anything illustrated.



CHASE

Staff Attorney & PAC Coordinator

Chase Strangio joined the staff of SRLP as an Equal Justice Works fellow in September 2010. Chase is excited to work alongside brilliant coworkers on a fellowship dedicated to expanding coalition work with the disability justice movement and increasing SRLP's capacity to provide direct legal services to community members with psychiatric disabilities. Chase also enjoys admiring small kittens, watching tv and going on long and short bike rides.



GABRIEL

Outreach Director, MBT & PAC Coordinator

Gabriel Foster is a queer, black, trans, "momma's boy" who relocated to New York to join SRLP in 2010. Before making his way to New York, he worked for SPARK Reproductive Justice Now with & for LGBTQ Youth of color & allies in Atlanta. After many years of preparation & community building, it is just not possible for him to be any more excited about being at SRLP!

MOVEMENT BUILDING UPDATES, Continued...

As an organization committed to gender self determination we provide a safe, trans-positive space to develop leadership skills and experience while working towards social change.

MBT builds SRLP's membership structure using our new monthly events known as, HOT STUFF! and Coffee Talk. These meetings serve as entry points to the organization and will focus on building power through skill shares, political education and connection to policy and campaign work. The meetings are designed to be welcoming, accessible. These meetings are not focused on organizational development questions, but instead provide a place to meet folks, get involved, get a sense of what SRLP is about, and get mobilized.

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO SINCE JULY.

MBT STAFF WERE HIRED!

Reina Gossett, Membership Director and Gabriel Foster, Outreach Director. As Membership Director, Reina focuses on building and maintaining relationships with new SRLP members to grow leadership and deepen their involvement in our work supporting gender self-determination and changing policies that impact our communities. In his position as Outreach Director, Gabriel works to connect and engage community members by

spreading the word about SRLP while working closely with the Membership Director and the Movement Building Team. He also coordinates outreach to our imprisoned community members through the Prisoner Advisory Committee and Prisoner Pen Pal Project.

MOVEMENT BUILDING TEAM

Since October, the Movement Building Team, consisting of five extremely dedicated members and two staff began meeting on a regular basis to learn new skills and grow our skills collectively by coordinating, outreaching for and hosting monthly events (HOT STUFF! and Coffee Talk). MBT members both inform and guide the work of the Membership Director and Outreach Director in addition to designing and implementing new programming.

HOT STUFF!

Beginning last November, MBT began the skill building/workshop series HOT STUFF! Over the past few months MBT has joined forces with SRLP lawyers to provide education & tools to our communities to build power and knowledge by demystifying legal processes around legal name & gender marker changes, navigating the immigration system, and most recently on healthcare, specifically medicaid and its exclusion of health care coverage for transition related

care. Now MBT and the SRLP's Direct Service Team (DST) are working on hosting ongoing sessions for community members to come in and talk about trans health issues in our lives. HOT STUFF! happens on the 3rd Thursdays of each month. Spanish to English interpreting is available on occasion.

COFFEE TALK

In addition to HOT STUFF! MBT hosts its newest ongoing event, Coffee Talk. Coffee Talk is a member led, informal political education space for our community members. Already Coffee Talk has hosted films, documentaries and discussions on trans people in the media, the history of trans activism as well as the ways trans people navigate their family lives. Coffee Talk offers the rare space BY and FOR trans, intersex, gender non-conforming people who are low income and/or people of color to build community together through conversation and truth telling while we "Chit, Chat and Chew".



MBT UPDATES, Continued...

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

In just nine months MBT members and staff have deeply engaged in moving our work forward in so many ways. Through training HRA workers with the Welfare Justice Coalition, being active participants as members of Transforming Justice, formulating new membership structure conversations, continuing collaboration with allied organizations, developing our outreach skills, connecting with members in person through prison visits and re-imagining our prisoner pen pal work, we have made monumental strides. Thank you community for all the ways you have already cheered us on. Just you wait, there's so much more on the way!

SRLP has a New Home!



LAST MARCH 2010, SRLP MOVED ITS OFFICE TO A NEW LOCATION AT 147 WEST 24TH STREET IN NEW YORK!

On Thursday, September 16, 2010, SRLP along with the Audre Lorde Project, FIERCE, & Queers for Economic Justice held a joint housewarming party to celebrate our new shared home.

Free and open to all ages, over 500 people joined in this vibrant celebration of the collaborative spirit of four established community organizations with a combined 42 years of critical work in New York City.

“WE HAVE REACHED A MILESTONE FOR THE GROWING POWER OF GRASSROOTS LGBTQ ORGANIZING IN NEW YORK CITY.”

**–RICKKE MANANZALA,
FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF FIERCE**

“Sharing the same building gives our members greater access to our programs and services in one location while offering a safe and welcoming social space for community building. It also gives our organizations a great opportunity to amplify our impact, share resources, and work collaboratively on efforts that will improve our communities.”

Since September the allied organizations have been able to better share resources, collaborate & co-host gatherings and events! The benefits of sharing this space have already become a powerful testimony to strength of community “togetherness”.



AN ODDITY

by "Ms. Pat"

Butterflies and Bumblebees,
By all means an oddity!
But is it as odd as
Two lesbian men coalesced in sin?
Yet some would rather play with
Big Wheels and Waterfalls,
Than to romp in the hay with
A pair of lipstick homosexuals.
But then again—
Who are we to judge?
I mean, don't we all kindle
Fetishes of the most freakish kinds?
However, step forth from the
Shadows if your conscience is pure!
For disdain is a disease that
Cedes no cure...
Be it true or false,
Right or wrong—
Life is but a musical,
An oddity in song.



a picture of a change soon to come
by Russell

A Flower Among Weeds

by Ms. Chase A. Burnett

I'm just a flower among the weeds trying to let my beauty shine, I refuse to relent... or just hide in the shadows... for i have a beauty that's all mine.

"You're different"; they say... these bold, ugly weeds... as they try to choke out my last breath, little do they know; I'm stronger than most... and I'll fight them straight to their death!

And in the end when they are dust at my roots... my petals will reach to the sky, glittering and shining for all to see... for surely I refused to die.

"Different"... I'm not; but "UNIQUE" I sure am; an outstanding and resourceful force, I can please your eye... or pamper your skin with my scent... to me I'm a remarkable source.

A source of not only beauty... but strength that is sure; a unique and very special kind, that's what I am... A flower among weeds... a beautiful and special find.

LEGAL UPDATES

WE WANT TO SHARE SOME LEGAL UPDATES.

Unfortunately, many of the cases discussed below do not have positive outcomes and reflect the biased nature of the court system. But as we have expressed in the past, with each case we can learn new strategies for fighting the next one. We thank all the individuals who fight these battles both in and out of court and wish them the best. In the future, if anyone wants to share legal strategies or updates from their own cases or tell us about victories or defeats in the courts, please let us know and we can include your stories in future issues.

Please also be aware that the court opinions included herein are all unpublished district court decisions from outside of New York and therefore will not directly affect the outcomes of any New York cases you might have pending.

POLICY

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
As many of you know, the Department of Justice

published proposed regulations to the Prison Rape Elimination Act on February 3, 2011. These regulations reflected many of the suggestions made by PAC members during the prior comment periods. SRLP and many other organizations submitted another round of comments and are now waiting for the Department to publish final regulations based on all of the comments submitted. During this round, we encouraged the Attorney General to prohibit all searches of transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex individuals for the sole purposes of determining genital status. We also advocated for clearer guidelines regarding the placement of vulnerable individuals in involuntary protective custody and included many other suggestions based on the input that PAC members, clients, and others have shared with us over the years.

UK Prison Policy

The United Kingdom issued a new policy regarding the

placement of transgender individuals in prisons. The new policy specifies that individuals shall be placed in accordance with their legal gender, which is unrelated to genital status. Under the guidelines, where an individual requests to be placed in a facility opposite from the gender recognized under UK law, the agency must make an individualized determination of the most appropriate placement. The policy also prohibits all searches to determine genital status.

COURT CASES

Gann v. Schwarzenegger, 1:09-CV-01616-MJS PC, 2010 WL 5170173 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 14, 2010).

Jennifer Gann, a transgender woman in prison, brought a pro se claim against various officials, alleging that she had not received adequate medical treatment for Valley Fever, Hepatitis C, and a broken nose. The court screened the case. The court ruled that while her treatment was “irregular and inconsistent,” her allegations at



LEGAL UPDATES, Continued...

at most supported a finding of negligence and therefore did not rise to the level of deliberate indifference. The court granted her leave to amend her complaint to correct deficiencies in pleading medical malpractice claims.

Briones v. California, C 10-3901 LHK PR, 2010 WL 4860676 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 8, 2010).

Angie Marie Briones, a male-to-female transgender person in prison, brought a pro se claim against a guard who sexually assaulted her, as well as supervisory officials, and the court screened the claim. Defendant Correctional Officer Rocha allegedly asked Ms. Briones to show her breasts to him while he took pictures; asked her to perform sexual acts on her cellmate while he filmed it; and sexually harassed and abused her. When she and her cellmate reported the abuse, Mr. Rocha threatened her life. The court dismissed her claim against supervisory defendants but allowed it to continue against the individual officer.

Gann v. Neotti, 09CV1703MMANLS, 2010 WL 2486826 (S.D. Cal. June 15, 2010).

Jennifer Gann, a transgender female in prison, brought a motion to supplement her complaint in her pro se action against prison officials to add new defendants and claims. She also brought a motion to file an amended complaint. She

objected to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation that her motions be denied. Her original claim alleged violations of her civil rights through discrimination and harassment against her because she is transgender; cruel and unusual punishment including lack of outdoor exercise and deliberate indifference to her medical needs; and denial of equal protection rights through treatment of her that differed from treatment of women who are not transgender. The court adopted the report and recommendation of the magistrate judge denying her leave to add defendants and claims because she could not have exhausted her administrative remedies as to those claims at the time she filed her action, since the relevant incidents occurred after the date she filed her case. The court also agreed with the magistrate that new claims against additional defendants alleging that they violated her due process rights through interfering with her use of the prison grievance system failed to state a claim for which relief could be granted. However, the court did grant her motion to add certain other claims against existing defendants.

Finch v. Reinke, 1:09-CV-00529, 2010 WL 3926193 (D. Idaho Oct. 1, 2010).

Breanna Lynn Destiny brought a claim against prison officials with regard to medical care for Gender Identity Disorder and

self-castration. The court appointed counsel Lauren Scholnik and Erika Birch to represent Ms. Destiny. Defendants moved for summary judgment and plaintiff moved for additional time for discovery under Rule 56(f). The court granted the Rule 56(f) motion and denied the motion for summary judgment without prejudice, reasoning that plaintiff had not yet had an opportunity to conduct discovery because the court had been conferencing with the parties concerning alternative dispute resolution and had not yet set a schedule for discovery.

Smith v. New Jersey Dept. of Corr., A-3303-08T2, 2010 WL 4008172 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. Aug. 27, 2010).

James Smith, a male-to-female transgender individual in prison, brought a claim pro se alleging that the Department's failure to diagnose her with GID and provide her with appropriate treatment was arbitrary and capricious. Ms. Smith repeatedly requested that she receive a diagnosis of GID and treatment in the form of hormones, female clothing, cosmetics, and surgery. When Keasha Baldwin, a social worker at the prison, told Ms. Smith that she would not receive diagnosis or treatment and that "it would be better if [she] just forgot about it," Ms. Smith requested administrative review of the decision. She then met with a psychiatrist, Dr. Moshkovitz, who declined her

More Legal Updates

request for treatment for GID and instead prescribed her Paxil for depression. Ms. Smith challenged the decision in court and the court remanded to the Department for further development of the record. The Department then formally refused her request, stating that she did not meet the diagnostic criteria for GID and that sex reassignment surgery is elective and not provided to people in prison. Ms. Smith again appealed, also raising violations of her confidentiality. The court affirmed the Department's decision. The court stated that the Department was not arbitrary or capricious in rejecting Ms. Smith's "self-diagnosis," since she had never been diagnosed with GID and had a mustache prior to incarceration. The court also concluded that no facts supported Ms. Smith's contention that her confidentiality had been violated.

Jackson v. Moore, 3:10 CV 1096, 2010 WL 3808251 (N.D. Ohio Sept. 24, 2010).

Nakala Desirae Jackson, a transgender woman in prison, brought a pro se claim against the director of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the warden of Marion Correctional Institution, alleging that they failed to protect transgender prisoners from "discrimination, slander, verbal abuse, defamation of character, intimidation, negligence, sexual

harassment, denial of medication, or retaliation." The court dismissed this claim, stating that a mere failure to act is insufficient to find defendants liable and that Ms. Jackson had not plead their personal active involvement in constitutional violations. Ms. Jackson also brought claims against individual officers for verbal harassment, verbal retaliation when she filed a grievance, and for only allowing her to take one shower a day when other people in prison could take more than one shower a day. She was permitted to take a shower alone for safety reasons. The court also dismissed these claims, reasoning that they did not rise to the level of an Eighth Amendment violation and that she had not shown that other prisoners were in the same position that she was for purposes of showers (i.e., at high risk for assault).

Wolfe v. Beard, CIV.A. 10-2566, 2010 WL 5173199 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 9, 2010).

Jessica Elaine Wolfe, a male-to-female transsexual in prison, brought a pro se claim against officials alleging a number of types of mistreatment. Her claims included denial of clothing appropriate to her gender and body; failure to reflect her legal name change in prison records; strip searches conducted by male guards in which her breasts were lifted and nipples touched; seizure of her property including legal

materials and medications; violent physical attacks by guards; and program interference and cell transfer in retaliation for filing grievances. The court dismissed her claim about her name change, reasoning that unless the name change were for religious reasons no First Amendment rights were implicated. The court also dismissed her claim concerning gender appropriate clothing, finding that she had not established that she had a serious medical need for such clothing. Her claim for retaliation with regard to her program failed because she ultimately kept her job and her claim for the seizure of her property failed because the court considered the grievance system to be an adequate post-deprivation remedy. The court allowed her claim for excessive use of force to continue against an officer who ground her face into a metal grate and also granted her leave to amend her complaint with regard to her 8th amendment claim against that officer for holding her in a van for over an hour in high temperatures without access to food, water, restroom facilities, or fresh air. Her retaliation claim concerning cell transfer also



SRLP's Prisoner Pen Pal Project: Re-envisioned & Restructured

Beginning in 2007 SRLP provided ongoing communication and support to community members in prison through the community sustained pen pal project. The goal of the Project is to connect New York state based incarcerated trans/gender non-conforming people incarcerated in New York with other trans, intersex, gender non-conforming community member pen pals who have also been affected by the prison and jail systems and allied community members.

As you know from experience or can imagine, for community members in prison having ongoing contact with a volunteer pen pal and someone who is committed to working in fighting for justice, has a deep and sustaining impact in peoples' lives. However, after careful assessment of the Project and as a result of several thoughtful conversations, it has become apparent that now is the time to re-conceptualize and restructure SRLP's Prisoner Pen Pal Project to better support people in prison, pen pal volunteers, staff and the entire project over all.

While the PPPP has provided both a valuable and crucial service to our community members inside and outside of

prisons, we have come to the conclusion that we do not have the capacity to continue maintaining the Prisoner Pen Pal Project and will no longer be able to focus on matching members in prison with volunteer pen pals.

We will be able to make referrals to other pen pal projects and programs that concentrate on trans, intersex, gender non-conforming and queer communities and we will continue to provide information for those considering becoming a pen pal and to those who want to host letter writing events.

We have always valued and continue to value the connections that we have with our community members who are presently incarcerated. The purpose of this shift is not to abandon that work but rather to re-imagine the work of the PPPP in a more sustainable way.

Beginning in May 2011, the PPPP program will transition into the Pen Pal Postcard project!

The Pen Pal Postcard Project will host ongoing postcard writing parties & provide SRLP community members in prison with 2-4 postcards a year designed by other trans, intersex, gender non-conforming people who are low income and/or people of color.



Here are a few reasons we feel excited about hosting pen pal project postcard gatherings:

- If people already have pen pals, these gatherings may encourage pen pal volunteers to remember to write to their pen pal(s)
- For incarcerated individuals that have not heard from their volunteer pen pals for a long time, this will provide the opportunity for incarcerated folks (who are in our database) to hear from someone at least 2-4 times a year
- Gathering participants may be able to ask questions of people who have done it before and we can connect them with other pen pal projects



- This is another way to share resources and build networks of support for people inside and folks coming out. People can talk about resources they are sharing with their pen pal and pass them along to others
- Through collectively writing, we are able to provide a space to emotionally support each other in doing a type of support that can be difficult because of the violence of the prison system and the pain of knowing that people we care about are locked up
- This format supports art and culture that is created by and for low income transgender/gnc/intersex folks and transgender/gnc/intersex people of color
- Community folks inside will receive words of support and art to keep!

Don't Quit

by Dee Dee

When things go wrong as they sometimes will;
 When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
 When the funds are low and the debts are high,
 And you want to smile but you have to sigh
 When care is pressing you down a bit...
 Rest if you must but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
 As every one of us sometimes learns,
 And many a person turns about
 When they might have won had they stuck it out,
 Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
 You may succeed with another blow.

Often the struggler has given up,
 When they might've captured the victor's cup.
 Success is failure turned inside out...
 So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit...
 It's when things seem worst that you mustn't QUIT!

In Solidarity.

Many of you reading this letter are currently a part of the pen pal project or have expressed interest in being a part of it and may find this letter bringing up a lot of emotion. I would like to close this letter with a reminder that SRLP's correspondence work with community members in prison will continue. We hope you will understand our effort to move forward with integrity while being honest about our capacity. We also

hope for your excitement and support for future pen pal postcard projects. Stay tuned!

You have all been instrumental in deeply honoring all the love that has gone into the development of the PPPP as well as the great care in the participation and maintenance that was given over the years...for that we say, Thank You.

If you have any questions or comments you'd like to share, please feel free to contact Gabriel Foster at 147 W 24th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Please see page 13 for a list of other pen pal project that serve our community.

Respectfully,
 Gabriel Foster
 Outreach Director

LOVELY

by Precious Arial Barlow

Oh, how I can't wait until the day,
When all my troubles go away.
When I can finally be the She,
I was really meant to be.
The reflection in the mirror is not
me,
It appears to be a He.
I rather be lovely and feminine,
Than be rough and masculine.
Soon the whole world will see,
The beautiful more lovelier than
me.
She can finally come out the dark,
And proceed to make her mark
To be all she can be.
Which is beautiful and lovely.

This poem is for all transgender women who struggle with daily problems in and out of prison. We all have the potential to be lovely.

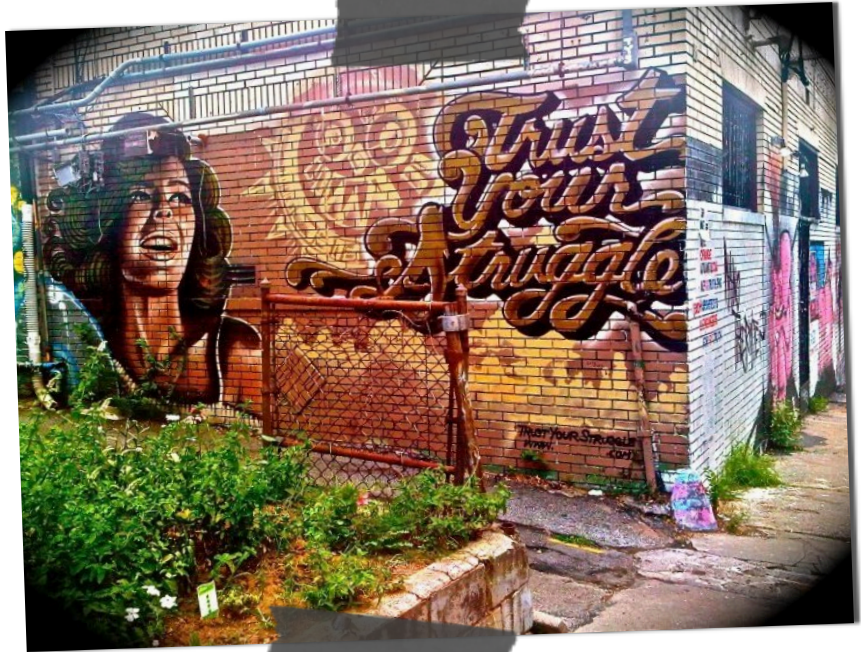
"You might as well ask me how important is breathing! Drinking water! Eating food! This is my community; I am trans. We are our own culture! It is made up day by day by every one of us that steps out into the world and states:

"HERE I AM. DO WHAT YOU WILL I AM NOT GOING AWAY. I AM HERE TO STAY."

We have the right of our existence simply because we were born."

—Miss Major

when asked in an interview how important trans community & culture is to her. Miss Major is a black, formerly incarcerated, male to female transgender elder, activist and advocate in her community for over 40 years.



Prison Rape Elimination Act Update

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is government legislation intended to reduce sexual violence and

exploitation in prison. In coalition with the

American Civil Liberties Union, The Equity Project, Lambda Legal, National Center for Lesbian Rights, The National Center for Transgender Equality and the Transgender Law Center, on April 4, 2011, SRLP submitted comments to regulations that would implement the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). We urge the Attorney General to make certain important changes to the proposed regulations to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, and gender nonconforming people in various forms of detention including prisons and jails. SRLP and SRLP's Prisoner Advisory Committee have been involved in fighting for the most effective and positive implementation of PREA possible for years. Thank you to all of the PAC members who also submitted individual comments!

RESOURCES

PEN PAL PROJECTS

Black and Pink

Prisoner pen pal website & monthly newsletter
c/o Jason Lydon
Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Hearts on a Wire

Ending policing & imprisoning in trans communities. PA only.
P.O. Box 36831
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Reaching Beyond the Walls

Inmate pen pal website
P.O. Box 6905
Rutland, VT 05702-6905

TIG Pen Pal Project

For transgender, intersex and gender nonconforming prisoners
426 President Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Write to Win

For IL prisoners only
2040 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
(773) 262-2172

Queers Against Prisons- Philly

Grassroots prison abolitionist organizing
LGBTQ prisoners only
210 S. 49th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Human Rights Coalition Fedup!

Prisoner resource and support
Pittsburgh Chapter
5125 Thomas Merton Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

TGI Justice Project

California only
342 9th Street, Suite 202B
San Francisco, CA 94103

NEWSLETTERS & MAGAZINES

T.I.P. Journal

Free Trans In Prison newsletter
Attn: Teeg
P.O. Box 404
Kittredge, CO 80457

The Fortune Society

Community reentry program
Attn: Fortune News
Subscription
26-76 Northern Blvd
Long Island City, NY 11101

Justice Denied

For the wrongly convicted
P.O. Box 68911
Seattle, WA 98168

Prison Health News

Quarterly newsletter
c/o Philadelphia FIGHT
1233 Locust Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Critical Resistance

Prison abolition organization
1904 Franklin St., Suite 504
Oakland, CA 94612

Prison Legal News

Monthly newsletter
2400 NW 80th St. #148
Seattle, WA 98117

POZ

About living with HIV
Free for prisoners
500 Fifth Ave, Suite 320
New York, NY 10110

POZ en español

Little W. 12th Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10014

Florida Prison Legal Perspective

Florida only
Attn: Theresa Burns
P.O. Box 660-387
Chuluota, FL 32766

Pro Se

Prisoners' rights legal updates- NY State only
114 Prospect St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Inside/Out

NY State only
666 Broadway, Ste. 444
New York, NY 10012

Southland Prison News

East Coast Regional
PMB 339
955 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

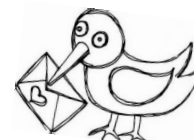
OTHER PROGRAMS

Prison Book Program

Free books for prisoners
c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore
1306 Hancock St., Suite 100
Quincy, MA 02169

Locked Out

Resource list for LGBT prisoners
c/o Prison Book Project
PO Box 396
Amherst, MA 01004





by S. W. Future

Speechless

by Candi Raine

Nothing to it – thus being very easy
 zip tuck toppling over your own feet
 falling ever so still
 but no one will appease me!
 Astuteness won't help a bit
 growing hatred inside
 but the hats won't forfeit the tip,
 Bowling over the edge
 getting way too hot in the room
 Let me breath will you?
 splattered all over my life,
 the ride to and from seems endlessly painful.
 Eyes full of fear flowing with endless tears
 find the battered spot of chill
 cold spirits dwell within that core
 charred through battles never won!
 History to be untold
 as no one will ever know what they've done
 to this young soul
 left unsated
 as the color of these lips begin to fade in
 in a shape only known to those captors!
 Now gone mouthless with nothing else to
 say...

AWAKENING

by Tabytha Ajenae Sylvester

Finally, I'm here, the time has arrived.
 Comfortable with myself, it was not easy.
 So I am surprised.
 No longer hiding from fear of rejection.
 Concerned about others' opinions
 Denying myself, total neglectation.
 Standing up now, to be what I see in my reflection.
 Facing life with purpose, through the struggle I am free.
 With a clear conscious and the liberty to finally be me...

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- The fabulous & dedicated Prison Advisory Committee
- Those of you who support the voices & experiences of our incarcerated community members
- Robyn Jordan, for graphic design
- and volunteer extraordinaire, Helen Stillman for editing, layout & design

With You, Not Without You



While we may not always be able to get your work published in the following issue, we will work hard to make sure it gets into future newsletters. We happily accept essays, articles, poems, drawings, short stories, art work, messages of hope & inspiration and letters from transgender, intersex, gender non-conforming people and our allies who are or were incarcerated.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO SHARE IS IMPORTANT

In Solidarity accepts submissions on an ongoing basis.

PLEASE SEND YOUR WORK TO:

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project
In Solidarity Submissions
147 W 24th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10011

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Let us know what you would like to see in the next issue of IN SOLIDARITY...

WRITE US!



147 W. 24th St., 5th Floor
New York, NY 10011