

# just out

## Resolution to end discrimination

*It is especially important that we not forget the discrimination that goes on within our community*

BY JULIE M. BAUMLER

The following document was written in early 1987 by the now defunct New York State Gay and Lesbian Youth Caucus, of which I was a member. It was written in response to the discrimination we receive both from society at large (for being gay) and from the gay community (for being under 21). Since this discrimination is common to all gay youth, we felt, at the time, and I still feel, that we could speak for all of us.

At a time when many of us are becoming more involved in the fight against discrimination against our community, I think it is especially important that we not forget the discrimination that goes on within our community.

### Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions

The history/herstory of gay and lesbian youth is one of great abuses and misdeeds. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

We have been denied the right to control our own bodies.

We have been denied access to the establishments of the gay and lesbian community.

We have been excluded from both the governments and organizations of our peers.

We have been denied information about ourselves.

We have incurred severe penalties when we have chosen to live openly.

We have been divided and separated from one another.

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. We, therefore, the New York State Gay and Lesbian Youth Caucus do publish and declare the following Resolutions.

**RESOLVED**, that all legislation restricting access to and availability of family planning, birth control, reproductive health information, services and treatment be repealed.

**RESOLVED**, that laws be enacted to protect access to and availability of public events and establishments for those below the drinking age, but at or above the age of 16.

**RESOLVED**, that alternative spaces specifically for youth be created within the gay and lesbian community.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities

public and private, immediately prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

**RESOLVED**, that all federal, state, and local funding for these institutions cease until this action is taken.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, immediately establish health clinics which offer information and services pertinent to gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, cover all sexualities in the curricula.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, discuss the accomplishments of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in literature, history/herstory, mathematics, science, art, music and other courses.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, develop a gay and lesbian studies program.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, mandate sensitization workshops on gay and lesbian issues, beginning at the elementary level.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, punish those members who harass gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, immediately recognize and found student organizations for gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

**RESOLVED**, that all youth groups and student organizations admit gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

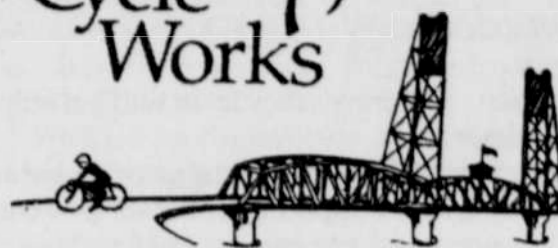
**RESOLVED**, that all schools and universities, public and private, allow gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to participate in all sponsored functions.

**RESOLVED**, that the Gay and Lesbian Youth Caucus actively supports and affirms the guidelines for safer sexual practices.

**RESOLVED**, in the interests of safety and the protection of youth, that the Gay and Lesbian Youth Caucus call on the gay and lesbian community to dissociate itself from and denounce the activities of those individuals and organizations which promote or encourage any form of rape, coercion, or sexual abuse.

**RESOLVED**, that we demand an end to all social, economic, judicial, and legal oppression of lesbians and gays, and people of every race, gender, ability, health, class, age, ethnicity, faith, political ideology, and sexual orientation.

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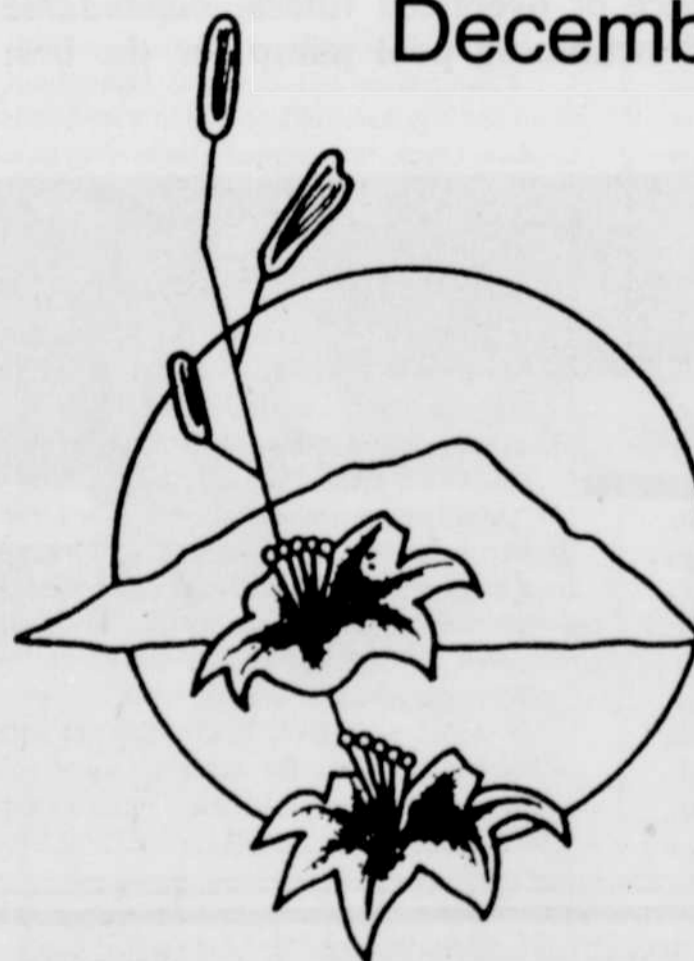
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