

must start with education.  
Specifically, we call for:

1. **Educating Children** in our schools on lesbian and gay concerns and on the equal validity of same sex and opposite sex attractions; let the cycle of homophobia be broken with this generation.

2. **Supporting and defending our gay and lesbian youth.** We strongly endorse social services specifically designed to help lesbian and gay adolescents, such as project 10 in the Los Angeles Unified School District. We have to encourage the realization of their self worth and remove the barriers to their self-expression. If their families reject them, we must provide them with love.

3. **Removing the shroud of secrecy** that has for too long hidden the achievements of both historical and contemporary gays and lesbians.

4. **Including positive role models** in mass media. We should be as visible on prime time as we are on Pride Day.

**Socialism is the logical and necessary route for smashing the deathgrip that homophobia has over our daily lives.** Unfortunately, many who use the name do not, or will not, accept the responsibility for this; **the Socialist party, USA, the democratic socialist party of Eugene Debs, does.**

In solidarity there is victory; *come out and join us.*

## Socialist Party USA

339 Lafayette St., No. 303  
New York, NY 10012  
Phone/Fax: (212) 982-4586  
Web: [www.socialistpartyusa.org](http://www.socialistpartyusa.org)



- I want to know more about the Socialist Party USA; please add me to your mailing list
- Enclosed is \$6 for a year's subscription to *The Socialist*
- I want to join the Socialist Party USA; please send me a membership application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

-----

### Local Contact:

---

# DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM LESBIAN & and GAY LIBERATION

---



“Oppression of lesbian and gay people is a serious problem; therefore we demand liberation. We also support all efforts to increase understanding and cooperation among persons and groups of differing sexual orientations and the elimination of degrading stereotypes.”

*Socialist Party USA Platform*

---

**T**he problem of homophobia in this country is both real and critical. Daily, we, as gay men and lesbians, are beaten and killed simply because of our love. Harassment in our public and private lives, from our employers and families, from service agencies and co-workers, is epidemic in our society.

The discriminatory laws are voluminous, ranging from solidly conservative Georgia, where any physical homosexual expression is illegal, to liberal Massachusetts, where it is nearly impossible for gay & lesbian couples to adopt children or act as foster parents.

Although the expressions of this hatred are varied, there is an important and common underlying cause — the attitudes fostered by a capitalist system.

Under capitalism, the economic system is patriarchal, where the bosses make the decisions for the majority, and the people have little power over their own lives. Dominance and control are the rules of conduct, and are nurturing behavior is suspect and derided. This patriarchal system is not only the cause of traditional sex roles, it is also dependent upon their exploitation.

Homosexuality is a threat to those roles because it provides a nurturing bond between members of the same sex, rather than the domination of one sex by another. Therefore, as gay men, we are not living up to our “masculine potential,” and as lesbian women, we are guilty of transgressing the “inferiority” of our

femininity.

Also, a capitalist economy functions best when there is a labor surplus forcing to many workers to compete for too few jobs, thus lowering wages: without children we fail to support this economy, and to the capitalists, we can be seen as a threat.

The early liberationists at Stonewall recognized the danger that this system posed to the free expression of our lives and formed anti-patriarchal, mass democratic organizations, such as the Gay Liberation Front. Eventually, they were replaced by a new generation of more centralized groups dominated by upper middle class white males for whom acceptance by the mainstream population replaced liberation as the goal of their struggle.

The result of this was the growth of a theory that might be called liberation through accumulation. In short, we would secure our freedom by emulating the successful of the capitalist society, and thus demonstrating that we are just the same, except for the way we love; any political action would be subtle and address the legalities instead of realities of a situation.

However, this philosophy is ultimately self-defeating because it is egocentric and anti-democratic, and seeks to gain freedom from oppression by supporting a system that is inherently oppressive. It may be personally enhancing, but it is in no way liberating, because it doesn't ad-

dress society's negative views toward homosexuality: instead, it creates a token acceptance based upon material accumulation.

Furthermore, this conservative view is both racist and sexist, in that those excluded from success under the capitalist system are by default excluded from this so-called liberation.

We as democratic socialists reject this view. We support the empowerment and liberation of all oppressed people, and we cannot accept the exclusion of anyone; as such, we also condemn the discrimination against members of our own community by other gays and lesbians. The Socialist Party supports specific legal actions to reinforce the rights of lesbians and gays, with severe penalties for those who violate them; for example:

**Federal Lesbian and Gay Bill of Rights**, guaranteeing full parental rights, including the right to provide foster care; equal treatment in housing, employment and the provision of social services; and legal recognition of same-sex marriages.

**Repeal of Discriminatory Laws**, such as anti-sodomy statutes and immigration restrictions. However, no matter how important these laws may be to making our lives more tolerable, they still only address the effects of homophobia and not the cause; as such, they can only be part of the solution. As with combating racism and sexism, the struggle must be to change people's attitudes, and this