

STATEMENT OF LEXINGTON GRAND JURY DEFENSE FUND COMMITTEE

On March 8, 1975, six people were held in contempt of court for refusing to answer the questions of a Federal Grand Jury in Lexington, Kentucky. These people, five women and one man, all gay, were incarcerated in three different county jails in Kentucky. Their case has been appealed. If the appeal fails, these people could remain in jail for the life of the Grand Jury (through April 1976).

Congress has refused to give the FBI subpoena power. Recently, when people have exercised their right to refuse to talk to the FBI, they have often been subpoenaed before a Grand Jury to answer questions covering wide areas of their personal and political lives. Therefore, Grand Juries are increasingly being used to coerce people to testify. The traditional function of Grand Juries is to return indictments. Therefore, the present tactics are an abuse of the Grand Jury system and a violation of our civil liberties.

The Lexington Grand Jury Defense Fund Committee supports these six people in their resistance. We recognize the validity of many forms of resistance. The form these people have presently chosen is one, but only one, way of combating constitutional abuse and police state tactics. We strongly believe it is in the best interest of all people working for social change in this country to support this struggle.

The Defense Fund Committee is composed of women and men, gay and non-gay, of varying political persuasions. We understand that because this attack is upon the most vulnerable part of the left, it is essential that it be met by united resistance.

We intend to continue our support of these six people. We intend to continue to resist FBI harassment and to continue to educate the wider community as to the issues involved.

Once again we see our sisters and brothers falling victim to the oppressive patriarchal, capitalist system. We are united in our determination to learn from this struggle and to continue to organize to put an end to this system.

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