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We are OUT OF CONTROL a San Francisco based women's (primarily lesbian) group which has been doing work to close the Lexington control unit almost since its beginning. Our community requires our focus and we choose to focus on our community. It is in this way that unity will happen for us and for you.....(herstory about who what where when of OOC was written 84 for a letter or something; Jane will try to find it & it would be good for intro)

WHERE WE ARE GOING.....it is clear due to the positive response around this campaign to shut down the women's control unit that now is a good time to broaden. But we must not lose the reality that this was a campaign built with a focus on women. Women are the fastest growing prison population and therefore an appropriate focus. Due to the small # of women prisoners it is very easy to target them for the intensified experimentation now being carried out by the BOP. Small group isolation is a recognized form of psychological torture everywhere in this world. And because of the small # of women prisoners it has historically been easy for them to become lost in the face of broad based prison campaigns.

Traditional sex roles in this society make women constantly vulnerable to specific sexual attack in ways that men can never be. Even when men rape men in prison it is blamed on women (or cuz there are no women). ^{Don} The brave and brazen out there faggot is seen only as a substitute woman by his fellow prisoners.

Since being female & vulnerable is seen as shameful in the general view of this society (and this is of course reflected in the left); it is no surprise to us that this campaign would shift away from a focus on women as soon as politely/politically possible. Are men so uncomfortable & guilty & threatened by the level of sexual abuse that women can be forced to endure on a daily basis that they will use human rights as a decoy once again??? There will be no significant ^(evolution) progress if we continue to run away from the hard parts.

Remember that the colonizer will always consider the slave his sexual property especially in a prison environment. This was all made very clear during the struggle around the Dessie Woods case. Have we forgotten already?

And one thing for sure, in all control units in this land it is only the women who have to ask male guards for a Kotex (one at a time). And it's only women who when held down by robot guards are raped vaginally as well as anally. It is only women who daily suffer the very specific hatred of sexual torture at the hands of the U.S. gov't.

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The current heavy trend in prisons is to secure a cheap labor pool. This move has been in motion for many years now & has only expanded under 'ray-gur as a clear direction due to the shaky conditions of u.s. economics. Also the sky~~rocketing~~ costs of warehousing prisoners who as a group represent the rejects from the working class, working poor, or just plain poor. In additon there is the^gincrease in military mentality witch means more control on every level of life as we know it.

These unemployables have always included women; but even more these days. Woemen are the cutting edge of the changing econmic seen in amerika. As single mothers, as lesbians, as economic need dictates women continue to ^{refuse} ~~to~~ to accept the traditional roles specified for them ^ounder decaying u.s. culture. Since women of color are by far the majority in prisons, it is also a convenient way to get rid of the colonized. The base theory for us prisons has always been out of sight out of mind.

As the working class grows without increased job possibility, unskilled labor becomes less and less necessary. Women, particularly women of color, have always been the most unskilled & unemployable. This works to keep women dependant on welfare, workfare, all so called social agencies & on the individual men in their lives. Women prisoners are working in sweat shops just as colonized women work in sweat shops in singapore, puerto rico, new york & san francisco.

Gay people as a sub-culture are outside the mainstream employment market unless they manage to pass in some way thru education and/or acceptable costume(drag). Lesbians as a sub-culture of the sub-culture are even further outside. Poor dykes & working class dykes have even less opportunity to gain skills when they do not stay put in the closet. They usually get nothing but shit jobs with little or no job security.

To braoden this campaign could mean to broaden our defintion of women pp's. It wood be very different cuz women are not just a nation. PR pow's add complexity of colonialization; and women are pp's are additonal prioners of gender; and dykes have even more political repression for stepping ^{further} outside the male rule.

Most women who are in prison for "violent crimes" were with a male who had a weapon or for self defense. And this usually after years of abuse, and. or for protecting their children. 1,000 women a year go to priosn for cl^r acts of self defense. Women do longer time than men for comparable offenses and women convicted of "violent crimes" get harsher sentences off the top. This amounts to additonal punishment for women who dare step outside the traditional role of women as the passive, quite girl.

3: Women & lesbian political prisoners and prisoners of war magnify this step outside of this women's role. they have made a very conscious decision from a political awareness of the world to not just step out but to leap as far as possible. these bold bitches even strike successful blows. most anyone can take something from the "man" but when a woman does it to him, it enrages the fuck outa him. it makes him acutely aware of his weakness & his unsucess at creating passive stepford wives.

men are afraid of women who fight back. when men fight back it is somehow seen as an acceptabew part of the male role.....boys will be boys...boys sewing wild oats...etc

when a woman fights back she is automatically seen as a dirty useless slut whore who might do anything, she becomes unpredictable and uncontrollable; she becomes dangerous. womens anger from the witches to the Dahomey Amazons to the battle of Algiers has flat out scared the piss out^{of} men.



(so best be on yr way...and have a nice day)

it is clear from Julio/MLN purposal that a human rights campaign is being put forward. it is good that^{the} long over due analysis of prisons as a tool of ameriakn oppression will be a major basis of this work. At the same time it is clear that the major focus will be on men unless something very specific is done to empasize woemn. If women are not a focus then they will be lost cuz we are always seen as some kind of petty detail to be discussed later (even after the revolution)

We see no need to change the focus of this campaign. Having women as a focus has gained us an incredible audience & some of that audience will undoubtedly be lost if this campaign changes too much.

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WHERE WE ARE GOING...it is clear due to the positive response to this campaign to shut down the women's control unit that now is a good time to broaden. But we must not lose the reality that this was a campaign built with a focus on women. We believe that the successes of the campaign are tied to the fact that its focus has been on three women. Women are the fastest growing prison population even though they are in the minority of all prisoners. Due to the ~~small~~ small number of women prisoners it is very easy to target them for the intensified experimentation now being carried out by the BOP. The BOP hasn't changed its ~~new~~ policies on women. For example, they recently upgraded the security rating of all women in u.s. prisons. We think that ~~they~~ they are using this as a maneuver to justify the construction of HSU's like Lexington and Marianna.

Traditional sex roles in this society make women constantly vulnerable to specific sexual attack in ways that men can never be. One thing for sure, in all control units in this land it is only the women who have to ask male guards for a Kotex (one at a time). And it's only women who when held down by robot guards are raped vaginally ~~and~~ as well as anally. It is only women who daily suffer the very specific hatred of sexual torture ~~at the hands of the sexual torture~~ at the hands of the u.s. gov't. Prisons exaggerate societal racism, classism, and lesbiphobia. Women of color, poor women, and lesbians are disproportionally incarcerated and singled out for worse treatment than straight, white, middle and upper class women within these institutions. Women who cannot or will not conform to prevailing standards of physical attractiveness ~~or behavior~~: fat women, butches, visibly disabled women are punished for their appearance. Similarly, women who, due to religious or political convictions, cultural traditions, or simple survival tactics, are said to "exhibit behaviors" not in line with prevailing standards of femininity and are condemned for their "bad attitudes!"

~~next page...~~

Many ~~are~~ women who are in prison for "violent crimes" were with a man who had a weapon. Many others are there for self defense, and usually after years of abuse, and/or for protecting their children. 1,000 women a year go to prison for clear acts of self defense. Women do longer time than men for comparable offenses, and women convicted of "violent crimes" get harsher sentences ~~2~~ off the top. This amounts to additional punishment for women who dare step outside the traditional role of women as the passive, quiet girl. Women and lesbian political prisoners and prisoners of war magnify this step outside of ~~this~~ women's role. They have made a very conscious decision from a political awareness of the world to not just step out, but to leap as far as possible.

The current heavy trend in prisons is to secure a cheap labor pool. This move has been in motion for many years now & has only expanded under 'ray-g' as a clear direction due to the shaky conditions of u.s. economics . Also the skyrocketing costs of warehousing prisoners who as a group represent the rejects from the working class, working poor, or just plain poor. In addition there is the increase in military mentality which means more control on every level of life as we know it.

These unemployables have always included women, ^{and the numbers are growing} but even more these days. ^{Prisons are dumping grounds for} Women are the cutting edge of the ^{faltering} changing economic scene in america. ^{single} mothers, ^{not} lesbians, ^{and} ~~an economic need-dictator~~ women ^{who} ~~continue to~~ ^{refuse} ~~fail~~ to accept the traditional roles specified for them under decaying u.s. culture. ^{because} Since women of color are by far the majority in prisons, it is ~~also~~ a convenient way to ^{stifle the resistance} get rid of the colonized. The base theory for us, prisons has always been "out of sight, out of mind."

As the working class grows without increased job possibility, unskilled labor becomes less and less necessary. Women, particularly women of color, have always been the most unskilled & unemployable. This works to keep women dependant on welfare, workfare, all so called social agencies & on the individual men in their lives. Women prisoners are working in sweat shops just as colonized women work in sweat shops in singapore, puerto rico, new york & san francisco.

Gay people as a sub-culture are outside the mainstream employment market unless they manage to pass in some way thru education and/or acceptable costume(drag). Lesbians as a sub-culture of the sub-culture are even further outside. Poor dykes & working class dykes have even less opportunity to gain skills when they do not stay put in the closet. They usually get nothing but shit jobs with little or no job security.

It is clear ~~the~~ from Julio/MLN proposal that a human rights campaign is being put forward. It is good that the long overdue analysis of prisons as a tool of american oppression will be a major basis of this work. There is tremendous potential to foster international pressure in this area. A human rights campaign is also a concept that can attract a broad sector of the movement.. At the same time it is clear that the major focus will be on men unless something very specific is done to emphasize women. We should also be aware that focusing on human rights could cause us to emphasize prison conditions and not the political realities that led to those conditions; specifically, racism, sexism, etc.

We can broaden the campaign to include human rights and amnesty for all political prisoners and prisoner of war without losing our emphasis on women. Having ~~women~~ women as a focus has gained us an incredible audience and some of that audience will undoubtedly be lost if this campaign changes too much. There will be no significant revolution if we continue to run away from the hard parts.

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Working Paper

OOC (DRAFT) POSITION PAPER

Out of Control is a San Francisco-based women's group with predominately lesbian membership that has been working since 1986 to close the Lexington Control Unit. Our efforts have focused primarily in the women's and lesbian communities where we have received a very positive response to the campaign.

We believe that this is a good time to broaden the national campaign and were pleased by the MLN proposal which would expand the analysis, objectives and constituency of the campaign. However, we are concerned that the focus on the women prisoners, which has been integral to the campaign so far, is lost within the proposal.

The successes of the Campaign have been at least in part linked to this focus on women. The women's liberation movement, while portrayed in the national media as passe, remains one of the most active. It is women who have formed the bulk of the campaign's constituency. We think that it would be a mistake to lose this constituency, and we are concerned that that is what may happen if the campaign loses any specific program or analysis related to women prisoners.

Women have been attracted to the campaign because of the personal ties that have been formed with the three women in Lexington. The women political prisoners inspire other women as role models of strong women in resistance. Further, the conditions of women in prison, like those of other groups, provide a microcosm of women's oppression at large.

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CCC (BRAFT) POSITION PAPER

Out of Control is a San Francisco-based women's group with a long history of lesbian membership that has been working since 1972 to change the Washington Control Unit. Our efforts have focused primarily in the women's and lesbian communities where we have received a very positive response to the campaign.

We believe that this is a good time to broaden the national campaign and were pleased by the WML proposal which would expand the analytical, objectives and commitment of the campaign. However, we are concerned that the focus on the women prisoners which has been integral to the campaign so far, is lost within the proposal.

The successes of the Campaign have been at least in part linked to this focus on women. The women's liberation movement, which is portrayed in the national media as passive, remains one of the most active. It is women who have formed the bulk of the Campaign's constituency. We think that it would be a mistake to lose this constituency, and we are concerned that that is what may happen if the campaign loses any specific program or analysis related to women prisoners.

Women have been attracted to the campaign because of the personal ties that have been formed with the three women in Washington. The women political prisoners inspire other women to take models of strong women in resistance. Further, the conditions of women in prison, like those of other groups, provide a microcosm of women's oppression at large. Women, while the fastest growing prison population, are in

small numbers compared to men prisoners and have historically been lost or ignored within the broader prison movement. Yet because of these smaller numbers women provide an easy target for the psychological experimentation exemplified by the Lexington Control Unit. Women political and other prisoners are subjected to sexual harassment and attacks specific to women. (For example, having to ask for Kotex one at a time.) Women are still those primarily responsible for children and access to their children as well as what happens to children while their mothers are incarcerated is a women's issue. Women prisoners are harassed and punished, not only for their politics but for stepping out of women's traditional roles. For example, women who commit what are considered violent crimes receive proportionately harsher sentences than men. Worth noting is the fact that the overwhelming majority of women who are in prison for violent offenses are incarcerated for fighting back against a male abuser.

We propose that the Campaign include a specific program related to women's issues in prison. Within the broader focus on prison conditions we would like to see specific work around issues such as strip searches, male guards in women's joints, repression of lesbians, rape, access to children, access to menstrual supplies.

We applaud the proposal to broaden the types of prisoners encompassed by the campaign and specifically want to see work done around women imprisoned for self-defense within the context of a political prisoners support movement. It is also important

small numbers compared to men prisoners and have historically been lost or ignored within the broader prison movement. Yet because of these smaller numbers women provide an easy target for the psychological experimentation exemplified by the Lexington Control Unit. Women political and other prisoners are subjected to sexual harassment and attacks specific to women. (For example, having to ask for Kotex one at a time.) Women are still those primarily responsible for children and access to their children as well as what happens to children while their mothers are incarcerated is a women's issue. Women prisoners are harassed and punished, not only for their politics but for stepping out of women's traditional roles. For example, women who commit what are considered violent crimes receive proportionately harsher sentences than men. Worth noting is the fact that the overwhelming majority of women who are in prison for violent offenses are incarcerated for fighting back against a male abuser.

We propose that the Campaign include a specific program related to women's issues in prison. Within the broader focus on prison conditions we would like to see specific work around issues such as strip searches, misgendering in women's prisons, segregation of lesbians, rape, access to children, access to natural supplies.

We applaud the proposal to broaden the types of prisoners encouraged by the campaign and specifically want to see work done around women imprisoned for self-defense within the context of a political prisoners support movement. It is also important

to us to support the "D.C. 7" anti-imperialist political prisoners and particularly the two lesbians among them.

Finally, we propose that women and lesbians be a targetted constituency for organizing on the national level.