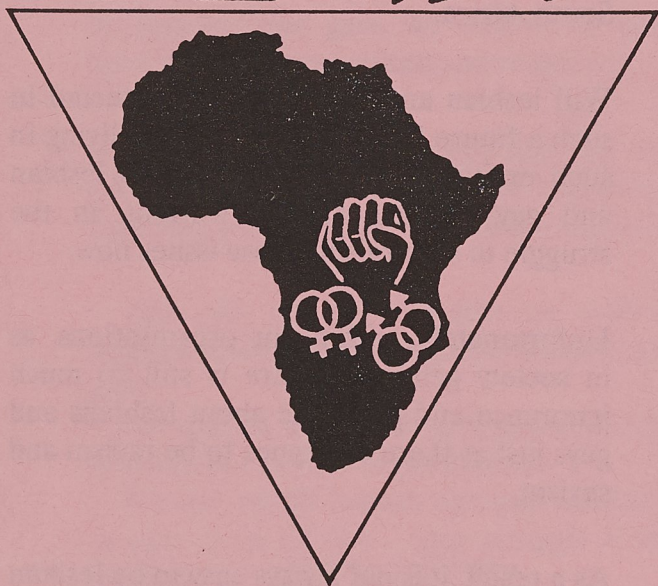


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OLGA



ORGANISATION OF LESBIAN & GAY ACTIVISTS

A New South Africa?

Everyone is talking about the changing political climate and the need for a new constitution outlawing racism and sexism, and creating a truly democratic and unitary South Africa.

Will lesbian and gay rights be protected in such a future South Africa? We are living in such exciting times and it is up to lesbian and gay activists already working in the struggle to start raising these issues now.

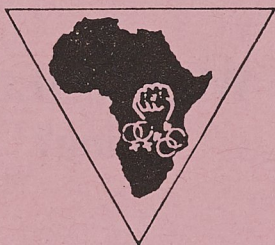
Unfortunately, within our organisations, as in society generally, there is still so much ignorance and prejudice about lesbians and gays just as there continues to be racism and sexism.

As a result, it is not always easy to be lesbian or gay in a society which is as intolerant as ours. Some activists find it very difficult to come out in their organisations because they fear a negative reaction. Is coming out in your organisation a problem?

Have you ever stopped to think that it's not being lesbian or gay that is the problem? The problem is rather the attitude of many other people and the way we are brought up to think of it as 'a problem'.



What is OLGA?



The Organisation of Lesbian and Gay Activists (OLGA) was formed in October 1987 by a group of Cape Town lesbian and gay activists in order to provide a specifically lesbian and gay voice within the liberation movement.



Our aims are:

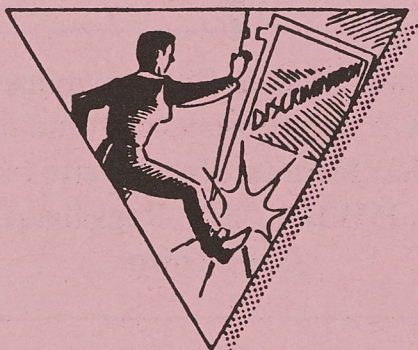
- * To work towards a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.
- * To oppose all forms of oppression, including racism, economic exploitation, sexism and discrimination against lesbians and gays.
- * To situate the lesbian and gay struggle within the context of the total liberation struggle.
- * To raise the visibility of lesbians and gays working within the struggle, and to support them.
- * To encourage support for the broad democratic struggle among the lesbian and gay constituency of South Africa.
- * To maintain links with the international lesbian and gay movement.

Why the need for a lesbian and gay organisation within the democratic movement?

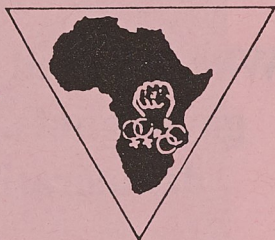
* Lesbians and gays, as with women, are singled out as targets for a specific form of oppression. Like women, we believe we need our own organisation to serve as both a rallying point and a voice for our sector within the democratic movement.

* We know that many lesbians and gays active in the struggle do not feel free to be open about their sexual orientation. We want to help bring about the kind of climate where lesbian and gay activists do not feel the needs to make a secret of the fact that they are lesbian or gay.

* We see it as our task to encourage more members of the lesbian and gay constituency to support and become actively involved in the mass democratic movement.



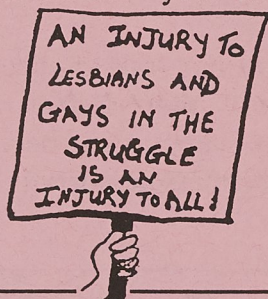
Our Call to you.



As lesbians and gays, we believe we have the right to be recognised and respected.

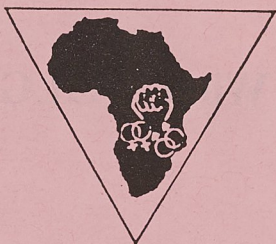
We will fight for this right and we will continue to fight all forms of oppression until there is total liberation in our country.

- * We call on all comrades to actively oppose discrimination against lesbians and gays.
- * We call on all lesbian and gay comrades to come out in your organisations.
- * We call on all lesbian and gay comrades to join us in OLGA - your struggle is our struggle!



If you would like to find out more about
OLGA or you wish to attend our
discussion forums, please write to us at :
OLGA, P.O.Box 7315, Roggebaai 8012,
Cape Town

What is OLGA doing?



- * Participating in the democratic movement by having an OLGA presence at meetings, rallies, workshops and festivals.
- * Printing and distributing OLGA pamphlets, newsletters, T-shirts and badges.
- * Holding discussion forums for lesbian and gay activists.
- * Giving personal support to lesbian and gay activists.
- * Supporting lesbian and gay political prisoners and trialists.
- * Writing letters to newspapers challenging discrimination against lesbians and gays.
- * Participating in the AIDS working group of the Progressive Primary Health Care Network
- * Participating in the debate around the ANC's Constitutional Proposals, including the question of protecting lesbian and gay rights.
- * Working with other progressive lesbian and gay organisations inside South Africa.
- * Keeping in contact with the progressive lesbian and gay movement internationally, especially through our affiliation to the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).

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