

# THE GENDER ACTIVIST DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*We, the members of the gender community, bring of sound mind and sound conviction, do declare the following:*

*We are members of the human race and are of every religious creed, color, nationality, ancestry, physical condition, social status, marital status, age, gender, sex, and sexual orientation.*

*Our community is composed of people who wish to emulate the opposite gender or become members of the opposite sex. It also includes their spouses, domestic partners, relatives, friends and associates.*

*Those people in our community who are not mentally ill, who forsake the old labels, who reject the old standards of allowing denigration and discrimination against our community, who choose to fight for their freedom and rights, and the freedom and rights of others, shall be known simply as "GENDERISTS".*

*The term Genderist shall mean to be characterized by an attraction or predisposition toward the other gender role or the activities of the other gender. More specifically it means to cross the gender line and appear as the gender of ones choice. It may or may not mean changing the sex of the body in order to accomplish that goal fully. The term is meant to include everyone in the gender community. It is universal and has no negative connotations. It is a name for our community that allows us to build our new future without perpetuating an old past.*

*We choose the name "Genderist" to show our dedication to our activist cause. We choose this name as a standard for our pride and as our unifying banner, not as a new label. No one will be labelled a Genderist yet everyone can become one. A label is something someone else places upon you that is derogatory in some fashion or that has disparaging connotations. "Feminist", "Gay", "Lesbian" and "Black" are all standards of pride adopted by the members of those minorities to show that they are fighting for their freedom and true equality. The name "Genderist" is our standard of pride and shows unity of purpose and our commonality with other minorities.*

*We have no more insanity, criminality, or differences in sexual preference in our community than does the rest of humanity. The only similarity between us and the tiny minority of mentally ill persons in the gender community is that we once suffered from a common past of self denigration, labels, bigotry, discrimination and hate. There is no difference between members of our community and society. We are moral, ethical, capable and productive people who do different things and have other preferences - just like other members of society.*

*We, the majority, intend to create a new future. We understand that if we are not part of the solution we may be part of the problem. We will not allow our activity to be labeled and listed in the mental illness manuals or to have our name used in a derogatory fashion by anyone. By these words we give notice that any slander, libel, or defamation against our community, or a member of our community, will be taken as an intentional attack against our whole minority. The individuals in our community will act in unison to stop any such attack against our integrity.*

*We have no need for the degrading labels or their negative connotations. The statements from the mental health profession and others that we are sexual deviates, perverts, abnormal, sick, criminal, et al., are unjustifiable, false and derogatory. The mental illness designation is based on a biased examination of only 2% of our group and thereby has no validity. The other labels are based on intolerance, hate, fear of differences and religious and educational misinformation and have no validity. We reject the old notions that we are not part of the normal society or the idea that we have no rights.*

*We reject the old line of thinking that says we should hide our behavior as though we were somehow criminal. We have the right to choose and express our preferred gender publicly and freely and to be treated as first class citizens without discrimination in any form against us... We have the same right as anyone else to change our physical imperfections and be treated by the medical profession without judgement because of our choice... We have an unquestionable and bona fide right to our Civil Liberties and Human Rights. No other person has the right to deny to our minority those rights which they do not deny to themselves.*

*We recognize that the practice of discrimination and denigration foments strife and unrest, retards the evolution of civilization, and adversely affects the interest of all people in our society. We oppose this malevolent pattern of behavior against us or anyone else as it is destructive. We oppose those who feel they must keep us and others from freedom and equality. We vow to fight to attain our goals and back those, who like ourselves, must wage a fight against oppression. We will do for ourselves what no one else is willing to do for us.*

*We believe that all people should be treated equally and deem that Human Rights and Civil Liberties are meant for everyone.*

*By our own hand we seal this Declaration on this day and stand by it with pride in ourselves, our community, and our League.*

*Ms. Cynthia Howard - Carolyn Williams - Charla Fern Clark - Toni Carson - Trina Martina David Bloom  
Lauren Hotchkiss - Rochelle F. Fry - JoAnn Roberts - Kymberleigh Richards - Janice Van Cleve  
Jane E. Fairfax - Frances Fairfax - Wendy Parker - Ann Blockwood - Eve Burchert*

*X.*

*This 17th day of March 1991 - Founders - Gender Alternatives League*