

JoAnn Roberts

Box 1263 • King of Prussia, PA • 19406
215-640-9449



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To: All Transgender Support Groups

Re: A Bill of Gender Rights

The Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, all *men* are created equal..." In reality, it is self-evident that neither all men nor all people are created equal. Rather, all people should be treated *equally*; no one should be *denied* the opportunity to live, work or play simply because they are different. Different does not mean deficient. Different does not mean less capable. Different does not mean less moral. Different does not mean less ethical. Nor does different mean less honorable. Different simply means not exactly like the next person.

The Intent of the U. S. Constitution is to guarantee equal treatment under the law and the role of the Constitution is to protect minorities from the majority when the majority is clearly and patently wrong. It is *wrong* to think that one's physical sex (and, therefore, one's sex role) is more important than one's intellectual or physical capabilities. Under this logic, women are "inferior," homosexuals are "inferior," and all transgendered people are "inferior" to the average, white, adult, American male.

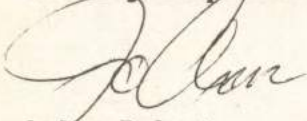
In recent months there has been movement among some gender groups toward coalitions of regional organizations. This is a good sign. It shows that groups can learn to work together—despite different philosophies—toward common goals. The main obstacle to building a real community is that no one has yet to articulate what those common goals should be. The Gender Rights offered here could become the focus of a national coalition of TV/TS /TG support groups. We would then have the common ground to speak out with one voice for our rights.

Some may ask, "Who are you to decide these things? How dare you speak for us." My reply is this, "I dare it because it must be dared—by someone, at least—if only so that wiser minds can argue with my choices, and, by arguing, clarify my vision.*"

So, argue with it, if you will, but show these "Rights" to your board of directors, publish them in your newsletters, but, above all, adopt a group resolution that accepts these "Rights" as a national goal for the gender community.

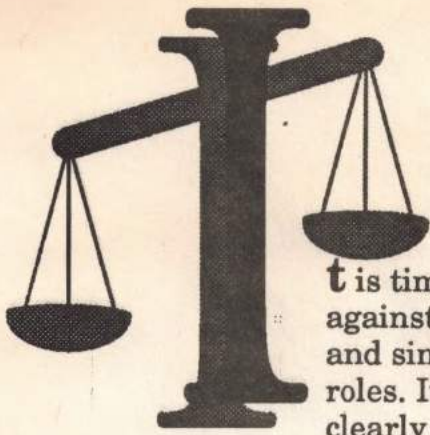
Once enough support from our community has been achieved, we can take the next step to build a lobbying committee which will work with other minority groups in securing and protecting the rights of *all* people regardless of sex, sex-role, gender-identity, gender role, or sexual orientation. It is time to speak up. Silence=Death.

With my deepest sincerity and greatest respect,



JoAnn Roberts

* *Future on Fire*; Orson Scott Card, Editor; Tor Books; 1991



A Bill of Gender Rights

It is time for the transgendered community to take a stand, a strong stand, against all gender-based discrimination simply because some people are different and simply because some people do not fit into current social norms of gender roles. It is time the gender-based community articulate this stand in words that clearly define exactly what their gender rights are. It is time to stand alongside other minority rights movements to declare these gender rights as follows:

The Right To Choose A Gender Role

Every human being has within themselves an idea of who they are and what they are capable of achieving. That identity and capability shall not be limited by a person's physical sex, nor by what any society may deem as "masculine" or "feminine" behavior. It is fundamental, then, that each individual has the right to chose a gender role that is comfortable for them, regardless of their genetic sex or sex role.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis that their chosen gender role or perceived gender role is not congruent with their genetic sex or sex role.

The Right To Freely Express A Gender Role

Given that each individual has the right to chose a gender role, it then follows that each individual has the right to freely express that gender role in any manner that does not infringe on the freedom of another individual.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis that a private or public expression of their chosen gender role or perceived gender role is not congruent with their genetic sex or sex role.

The Right To Make One's Body Congruent With Gender Role

Given that each individual has the right to chose a gender role, it then follows that each individual has the right to change their body or alter its physiology so it better fits their chosen gender role. These changes may be cosmetically, chemically or surgically induced, provided these changes are supervised by the appropriate licensed professional and the individual accepts sole responsibility for their actions in this regard.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human or Civil Rights on the basis that they changed or wish to change their body, cosmetically, chemically, surgically or any combination of these, to better fit their chosen gender role.

The Right To Sexual Expression Congruent With Gender Role

Given that each individual has the right to chose a gender role, it then follows that each individual has the right to express their sexuality within their chosen gender role.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis of sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation. Further, no individual shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights for expressing their chosen gender role through private sexual acts between consenting adults.