

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station  
New York, New York 10003

June 10, 1971

TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades,

The attached letter has been sent to women's groups and individuals across the country to build the June 12 meeting and to publicize the idea of a national abortion action campaign. As can be seen from the letter, the list of endorsers for this campaign is already quite broad, reflecting the depth of sentiment for abortion law repeal in this country.

At the June 12 meeting we hope to come out with an authoritative call for a national women's abortion conference, to be held in New York City, July 16-18. As soon as this call is out, comrades should begin obtaining endorsement of the conference from abortion law repeal groups, campus and city-wide women's liberation groups, NOW chapters, gay women's groups, church groups, Third World women's groups, YWCA's, prominent individuals, etc.

The attached letter can be used immediately to begin discussing the whole abortion action perspective with women from these different groups. We want to get these women involved as soon as possible in building the conference in local areas--planning transportation, local publicity, fund raising, etc.

There are only five weeks remaining until July 16-18, which means that all locals, branches and at-large areas must make building the conference a top priority of their work. Regular reports on the progress being made in local areas should be sent to the national offices of the YSA and SWP. Mailing lists of interested groups and individuals should be sent to the Committee for a Women's National Abortion Coalition, as well as reports from these groups on their plans for building the conference.

Comradely,

*Ruth Robinett*

Ruth Robinett  
YSA National Women's Liberation  
Work Director

*Betsy Stone*

Betsy Stone  
SWP National Women's Liberation  
Work Director

COMMITTEE FOR A  
**women's national abortion coalition**  
137A WEST 14th STREET, 3rd FLOOR • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011 • 212 924-0894

June 4th, 1971

Dear Sisters,

It has become increasingly obvious in the past year that women have tremendous power when we unite to fight for control over our own lives. In response to our growing strength, anti-abortion forces in this country have opened a campaign to deny us one of our most basic rights—control over our own bodies. This trend has been made clear by the tremendous energy and funds the Catholic hierarchy has poured into anti-abortion groups such as "Right to Life"; Nixon's hypocritical attack on abortion as a violation of his belief in the "sanctity of human life"; and the practice of a proposed increase in involuntary sterilization, particularly of welfare mothers. It is also becoming clear that abortion law repeal is not going to be won by simply going through the courts on a state by state basis. As with woman's suffrage, the recognition of abortion as a woman's right is going to require nationwide political action and agitation by masses of women of all races and economic groups.

A group of concerned women met recently in New York City to discuss a national abortion campaign. We owe it to ourselves to organize on a national basis into a powerful force that can defend the right of every woman to decide for herself whether or not she wishes to bear children. We are convinced that nationwide coordination is needed to make visible and powerful the protests against abortion laws that are taking place in every state.

We believe that the most democratic way we could launch a national campaign for the repeal of all abortion laws would be to move quickly to hold a national conference on abortion [for women only]. We want to gather the growing numbers of women who are eager to get involved, and together decide on a course of action that can best win the repeal of all abortion laws with no forced sterilization. We will also be concerned with the repeal of restrictive contraception laws that exist in 30 states.

At a national conference we can both share information and experiences and discuss proposals for action. Women from New Haven, for example, have already suggested holding a massive demonstration in Washington in October demanding that the Supreme Court recognize the rights of women and declare all existing abortion legislation unconstitutional. Such a demonstration would coincide with Supreme Court hearings on whether a woman's constitutional right to privacy applies to abortion. The outcome of this decision will have national significance. Others are discussing the possibility of working for a constitutional amendment or other federal legislation that would wipe out all state abortion laws.

We are calling this conference for July 16, 17 & 18, 1971, in New York City. This date has special symbolic significance, since it is the anniversary of the historic 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, where our sisters of the last century met and organized the first women's rights movement. Our actions can be as historic as theirs.

In order to build this campaign into one that can win a victory for our sex, the support and ideas of every woman is needed—and the polls show we are a majority. Every concerned

woman should be in on the ground floor and have a say in planning the July conference. As the Committee for a WOMEN'S NATIONAL ABORTION COALITION, we are calling for a representative planning meeting Saturday, June 12, 12:30 p.m. at YWCA residence, 51st Street and Eighth Ave. This meeting will make decisions on the conference structure and agenda. It is extremely important that you, or someone from your group, attend this pre-conference planning meeting and contribute your ideas. You are also invited to attend a 10:00 a.m. meeting to establish the agenda for the day.

Additionally, we want to request your financial support. If we are to organize ourselves to defend our sisters right to abortion and wage a strong counter-campaign to combat anti-abortion forces that are pouring vast financial resources into denying us that right, we need the financial support of every woman. Send us your endorsement and contribution today.

**ENDORSED BY\***

Roz Baxandall, Committee to Defend the Right to Learn,  
Women's Liberation Childcare Collective\*  
Ann Hazlewood Brady, Poet  
Renee Blakkan, *Guardian* writer  
Renate Bridenthal, Brooklyn College Women's Organization  
Susan Brownmiller, Radical Feminists, feminist writer  
Alva Buxenbaum, Nation Women's Commission  
of the Communist Party-USA.  
Jacqui Ceballos, President, New York NOW  
Phyllis Chesler, Psychologist  
Lucinda Cisler, President, New Yorkers for Abortion Law  
Repeal; National Co-ordinator of NOW Task Force  
on Reproduction and Its Control  
Evelyn Cunningham, Women's Unit, Gov. Rockefeller's  
Office  
Liz Diggs, Half of Brooklyn  
Clara DiMiha, Jeanette Rankin Rank and File  
Elizabeth Fisher, Editor of *Aphra*  
Ruth Gage-Colby, Women's International League for Peace  
and Freedom; Co-ordinator National Peace Action  
Coalition  
Arlene Gilbert  
Dorothy Pittman Hughes, West Side Community Alliance  
Inez Martinez, Half of Brooklyn  
Rev. Tilda Norberg, Task Force on Women's Liberation of  
United Methodist Church  
Debbie Notkin, Socialist Workers Party

Dolores Prida, Spanish American Feminists  
Rachael Sidman, Half of Brooklyn  
Robin Reisig, writer  
Susan Reverby  
Ruth Robinett, Young Socialist Alliance  
Pauline Rosen, Women's Strike for Peace  
Susan Rubenstein, Adelphi Women's Liberation  
Nancy Stearns, Attorney  
Francine Stein, Planned Parenthood—World Population  
Gloria Steinem, feminist writer  
Roselyn Udow, Executive Director,  
Committee for Legal Abortion  
Kathryn Wall, Richmond College Abortion Referral Center  
Debby Woodroffe, United Women's Contingent  
Brooklyn NOW  
Columbia Women's Liberation  
New Haven Women's Liberation  
New Women Lawyers  
New York University Law School Women's Right's  
Committee  
Queens Women's Center  
Women's Strike Coalition  
Women vs. Connecticut  
Women's Health and Abortion Project

\*ORGANIZATIONS LISTED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

Mail to: Committee For a WOMEN'S NATIONAL ABORTION COALITION  
137A West 14th Street, 3rd Floor, NYC 10011 212-924-0894

- I endorse the Committee for a Women's National Abortion Coalition
- I plan to attend the June 12 meeting
- Send more information on the national campaign for the repeal of all abortion laws and the July conference
- Enclosed is a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help the national campaign
- I will need childcare

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 29, 1971

No. 11

NEC Present: Andy, Rich, Mirta, Frank, Cindy, Laura, Norman

NEC Excused: Ruthann

NC Present: Steve, Dave, John H., Terry Hi.

NC Alt. Present: Terry Ha., Ruth, Byron, B.R. W., Debbie N., Linda

Guests: Nancy, Louise

Convened: 10:22 a.m.

Chairperson: Frank

- Agenda:
1. Political Report
  2. Women's Liberation Report
  3. Antiwar Report
  4. Black Liberation Report
  5. Chicano Liberation Report
  6. Convention Call

1. Political Report - Frank

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Debbie N., Byron, Rich, Dave

Motion Carried

2. Women's Liberation Report - Ruth

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Debbie N., Steve, Dave, Byron, Ruth, Byron, Rich, Louise, Cindy, Ruth, Rich, Ruth, Norman

Motion Carried

3. Antiwar Report - Dave

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Motion Carried

4. Black Liberation Report - Norman

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Ruth, Byron, B.R. W., Ruth, Rich

Motion Carried

5. Chicano Liberation Report - Mirta

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Frank, Rich

Motion Carried

6. Convention Call - Frank

Motion: That the National Committee call a convention of the YSA at the end of 1971, and that the NEC be empowered to organize a convention and decide on the dates and the place.

Discussion: Rich, Byron, Mirta, Andy, Frank

Motion Carried

Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 30, 1971

No. 12

NEC Present: Cindy, Laura, Norman, Andy, Frank, Mirta, Rich

NEC Excused: Ruthann

NC Present: Steve, Dave, Terry Hi., John H.

NC Alt. Present: Terry Ha., Debbie N., B.R. W., Byron, Ruth

Guests: Nancy, Louise

Convened: 10:20 a.m.

Chairperson: Steve

- Agenda:
1. National Office Report
  2. Procedural Motions for the Plenum
  3. High School Movement Report
  4. Defense Report
  5. International Students Report
  6. Organization Report
  7. Financial Report
  8. Young Socialist Organizer Report

1. National Office Report - Nancy

a. Membership

Motion: To accept the following applications for membership at-large:

1. Tim F. in Lodi, Calif.
2. Bill D. in State College, Pa.

Motion Carried

Motion: To re-admit Naomi A. into the YSA in Denver.

Motion Carried

Motion: To re-admit Leonard G. into the YSA as at-large member in San Jose, Calif.

Motion Carried

Motion: To transfer the following comrades from at-large areas to locals:

1. Marie D. from Chapel Hill, N.C. to the No. Boston local.

2. Kirsten M. from Albuquerque, N.M. to the Denver local.

Motion Carried

Motion: To transfer Larry M. from the Logan local to at-large status in Big Bear Lake, Calif.

Motion Carried

b. National Committee

Motion: To approve the graduation of NC member Herman F. from the YSA, and to inform Jean S. that as number one alternate, she is automatically elevated to full membership on the National Committee.

Motion Carried

2. Procedural Motions for the Plenum - Frank

Motion: To propose the following organizational motions to the plenum:

1. Motion: That the Presiding Committee be: Frank, Cindy, Rich, Laura, Andy, Mirta, Dave and Norman.
2. Motion: That procedural questions be decided by majority vote with one speaker for and one against, each with one minute.
3. Motion: That the plenum adopt the following rules:
  - a. Consultative delegates have voice and consultative vote.
  - b. Discussion presentations be limited to six minutes.
  - c. That in a discussion period no one may speak a second time before each person desiring the floor has had a chance to speak.
4. Motion: That consultative delegates be the following: Nancy C. and Louise G. from the National Office staff; local and regional organizers who are not on the National Committee; Lynn W. from E. Lansing, Gary P. from Ann Arbor, and J.C. B. from Colorado Springs.
5. Motion: That observers be the following: Debby B. from the SMC National Office with voice under the antiwar report; George N. from the Socialist

Workers Party; Jacquie H., Joe Y., and Al C.  
from the YS/LJS; and Edith B. from the C.L.

Discussion: Laura, Frank, Norman, Frank

Motion Carried

3. High School Movement Report - Cindy

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Terry Hi., B.R. W., Cindy, Dave, Rich, Steve, Terry Hi.,  
Cindy, Andy, Terry Hi., Cindy, Steve

Motion Carried

Motion from Frank to add point on National Office staff.

Motion Carried

Motion: That Louise G. from Detroit be assigned to work in the  
National Office.

Motion Carried

Motion: That Louise G. attend NEC meetings while she is working in  
the National Office.

Motion Carried

4. Defense Report - Rich

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Laura, Terry Hi., Byron, Laura, Rich, Frank

Motion Carried

5. International Students Report - Nancy

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Mirta, Byron, John H., Nancy, Dave, Nancy, Dave, John H.,  
Rich, Cindy, Steve, Andy, Frank, Andy, Rich

Motion Carried

6. Organization Report - Andy

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.



Discussion: Steve, Terry Hi., Rich, Terry Hi., Andy

Motion Carried

7. Financial Report - Terry Ha.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Motion Carried

8. The Young Socialist Organizer Report - Laura

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Discussion: Terry Hi., Laura, Andy, Byron, Rich, Laura, Frank,  
Terry Hi., Laura, Debbie N., Norman, Terry Ha., Andy,  
Byron, Rich, Terry Hi., Rich

Motion Carried

Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.