

Dear Sisters,

5/80

We would like to exchange newspapers/newsletters

We are sure that many of you have noticed the black and white flyers posted around the City, the East Bay, and through the mail periodically, which ask for support of the first Black Lesbian Conference. The theme of the conference is "Becoming Visible", with a silhouetted face of a Black woman gradually moving out from shadows and into visibility. Black lesbians, along with all other women of color, and White women, have been struggling for many years for the same goal: To Become Visible.

A group of Bay area women, some of whom attended the First Third World National Lesbian/Gay Conference held in Washington, D.C. last October, women from other support groups in the area, and a few newcomers to the San Francisco/East Bay area, got together in February of this year, to plan and organize this First Black Lesbian Conference to be held in October, 1980. The mere idea of this conference offers each and every Black lesbian a chance to make our existence in the community known, that we are indeed present and struggling with the total lesbian community in fighting the battles of sexism, racism, classism and homophobia. Our fight is not separate from the struggle of other women. Our cause is to reach into our own communities into areas throughout the Western regional states, where the voices, screams and fears of other Black lesbians are not being heard, whose concerns and ideologies are not being supported, and create a workable network for ourselves. Many of us have been involved in NOW-feminist movement organizations and have found that those groups have failed to answer or even listen to the needs of women of color—we must come together into our own ethnic culture, and begin to struggle as a unit. We must learn to fight against social and economic oppression as a collective political force. The Conference Planning Committee has a tremendous task ahead in order to present such a coming together in late October. Our cause is your cause, and we need support and representation from all of you. We need your organizational talents, your ideas, your physical energy, and financial assistance.

We, the organizers of this First Black Lesbian Conference, identify ourselves as supporters of our feminist sisters, within and without the Black lesbian community, and we cannot allow male power and the media structure to dictate a split between black lesbians. We must support and promote other groups of women with various political persuasions, and encourage them to work in coalition for a common understanding of our unity and our uniqueness.

We need your help.

For further information, please contact Rose Mitchell (285-7263), or Mary Mathis (540-0493), or write:

Becoming Visible
c/o Pacific Center for Human Growth
P.O. Box 908
Berkeley, CA 94701

In Solidarity,
In Sisterhood,

*The Planning Committee for the
First Black Lesbian Conference*

African Ancestral Lesbians: Journals, Newsletters, Etc., March, 1977-1993 and undated. March, 1977-1993; n.d. TS
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Archives. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CVHIFW708896432/AHSI?u=
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