

The fundamental rights of lesbians, gay men, and bisexual people are under attack in Oregon by the OCA, a right-wing organization whose agenda, we believe, also threatens the rights of women, Jews, people of color, and the poor. We invite all people who believe in justice and freedom to unite to fight this bigotry.

On Sunday, June 7, 1992, hundreds of people will begin a 150 mile, 2 week walk from Eugene to Portland, entitled "For Love and Justice - A Walk Against Hate." Walking through the Willamette Valley, we ask all Oregonians to stand with us for justice and against bigotry. We will meet with people along the road, in evening programs, and daytime rallies. Our goal is to build bridges and to promote an end to oppression and hatred in all its forms, including racism, sexism, homophobia and heterosexism. We hope to dispel the misinformation of the OCA propaganda video with real live people: gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and friends, families, and allies.

The walk will be passing through Eugene, Junction City, Monroe, Corvallis, Adair Village, Monmouth, Rickreall, Salem, Keizer, Woodburn, Canby, Estacada, Oregon City, Milwaukie, Sellwood, and Portland. The walk ends in Portland on June 20 at the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade.

We will be hosted by over 70 churches, synagogues, community organizations, and businesses throughout the Willamette Valley.

As the coordinator, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to talk and work with so many wonderful people involved with hosting the walk, people who have the courage to say and do what is right even in the face of the hatred fueled by the OCA campaign. The support for this walk shows that the people of Oregon know that discrimination is wrong

and should not be tolerated. It is also clear to me that people know that our lives are at stake, not just lesbian, gay, and bisexual lives, but everyone who lives in Oregon and does not fit into the tiny box that the OCA describes as normal.

I have been profoundly moved by the generosity of people who are inviting us into their homes, their places of worship, and their communities for an opportunity to dialogue and celebrate, and to work towards social justice for all people.

We acknowledge that on this walk we follow in the footsteps of those who have walked before us for human dignity and civil rights. From Selma to Montgomery, to the India salt marches, to the California farmworker marches, to the Walk to Moscow, walking has been and continues to be a wonderful medium for social change. We are honored to be participating in this extraordinary event, which is, to our knowledge, the first long distance walk for lesbian and gay civil rights in the nation.

"For Love and Justice - A Walk Against Hate" is sponsored by the Lesbian Community Project with support from hundreds of people and organizations throughout the state. People are welcome to come and walk with us and contributions are still needed to make the walk a success. Let's show the nation that Oregon is a state of fair and open-minded people, not one shrouded in bigotry, fear, and discrimination.

Anne Galisky  
Walk Coordinator