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## Lesbian Bill Of Rights International Supports Lesbian-Only Spaces

This is a statement in support of the application by Lesbian Action Group (Melbourne) to the Australian Human Rights Commission for an exemption from anti-discrimination laws so that they may exclude men from "Lesbians Born Female," a lesbian-only event to be held in Melbourne.

Lesbian Bill of Rights International ("<u>LBOR International</u>") is an international network of lesbian organizations that have all adopted the <u>Lesbian Bill of Rights</u>. Members in the network include LAZ reloaded (Germany), Lesbian Resistance (New Zealand), the Women's Declaration International Australia/New Zealand Lesbian Caucus, The Countess Lesbian Working Group (Ireland), and the Women's Declaration International USA Lesbian Caucus.

The LBOR provides, in pertinent parts:

Whereas, the enshrining of so-called "gender identity" in law has resulted in the erasure of lesbian-only spaces and the demonization of lesbians, who, recognizing that homosexuality is based on sex, refuse dating and sexual relationships with men who say they are lesbians;

Resolved, that lesbians have the right to create and maintain lesbian-only spaces.

The position of LBOR International is not unique. The <u>Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights</u> provides (Article 5) that women's rights to peaceful assembly "should include the right of women and girls to assemble and associate as women or girls based on their sex, and the rights of lesbians to assemble and associate on the basis of their common sexual orientation, without including men who claim to have female 'gender identities'."

Recently LAZ reloaded, one of the member organizations in the LBOR International network, released a <u>statement</u> on lesbian-only spaces, which has been endorsed by all members of LBOR International. It is written in the context of Germany; but the principles are universal. Any law that prohibits lesbians from peaceful assembly in public *as lesbians only* – meaning female homosexuals – has the effect of stigmatizing all lesbians, criminalizing those lesbians who refuse to recognize the lie that some men are lesbians, and erasing lesbians from public life; and is fundamentally sexist and anti

homosexual.

We urge you to grant the requested exemption to the Lesbian Action Group in Melbourne.The world is watching.

LBOR International LAZ reloaded (Germany) Lesbian Resistance (NZ) The Countess LWG (Ireland) WDI Australia/New Zealand Lesbian Caucus WDI USA Lesbian Caucus