

From: [REDACTED]
Date: **Wed, 15 Oct 1997 03:35:53 -0400 (EDT)**
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: **Trans Prisoners**

Thanks for getting back to me. I realize you are very busy, but your willingness to help in getting a group to work with trans prisoners issues is deeply appreciated.

There was a group that met once about a year ago in a room at Hastings College. There was a lot of confusion at the last meeting over how the group was to be kept going. I think that before contacting people about this, I'd like to understand exactly what your involvement in the group will be. Will someone from your office again be able to attend? Is there any chance of getting a room at Hastings College again for another meeting? If someone from your office attends, will they be attending just that one time or not? Exactly what kind of support will you be offering us?

I am sorry for asking you so many questions, but I feel these have to be answered before any attempt is made to involve others on this project.

Your letter also raised other, more general questions. You mentioned that you would help us in identifying trans prisoners. What exactly did you mean? I have heard that some convicts will try to pass themselves off as transsexual/transgendered. Does this happen regularly?

I was dismayed to learn that even vitamin supplements are banned in prison. Why is that? I agree that hormone therapy is most important, but I don't understand why vitamins are banned. Does this extend to vitamins given or sent to the prisoner by loved ones?

I'm very interested in working on trans prisoners issues and look forward to talking more with you about this. If you know them, please tell me a few good times when I can call you on the phone to speak about this in person.

--jill