





ELLER

WE'RE PARTIAL TO
BLACKS BUT
WE ALSO BEAT
HOMOS,
HOBOS & WHORES.

Who is TRANSACTION?

What We Do: We're a group of Transgender and Transsexual (TG/TS) activists and our friends who got together in the Fall of 1998 to expose and end the police misconduct and violence that our community experiences.

Why We Do It: TG/TS people are regularly subjected to verbal, physical, and sexual abuse; we are often assumed to be sex workers when we are not; and for those of us who are sex workers, we are more likely to be brutalized, assaulted, blackmailed, or arrested by the SFPD. In the name of maintaining "public safety," the SFPD enforces gender "norms" and sexual "morality." We demand the right to live our lives in the gender of our choice without interference from agents of the state.

How We Do It: We know that ending these abuses will require the work of TG/TS people of all colors, cultures, and backgrounds. Our tools for struggle are public education, community dialogue, fierce humor, and militant direct action. We know that our commitment to making common cause with all communities facing harassment by the state is the key to winning dignity, respect, and lives free from police violence for all oppressed people.

How do I contact TRANSACTION?

You can reach us care of CUAV at:
(415) 777-5500 or checkout our website at
www.TRANSACTIONSF.ORG

Coming soon: "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" pamphlets and

Unsafe in the City

In the Tenderloin last year, a Latina male-to-female transsexual was walking into a neighborhood bar which is considered a "safe space" for MTFs. Unknown to her, a police officer had followed her in and surprisingly accused her of solicitation.

Without giving her a chance to respond, he roughly handcuffed her and took her out of the bar. He referred to her by the masculine pronoun and asked her repeatedly, "What do you have between your legs?"

Once the officer had gotten her to the police station, he and several other cops subjected her to a strip search for no reason other than to check her genitals. During the course of the search at least one officer pulled on her hair several times to see if it was "real." She was humiliated and abused. After this she was forced to spend the night in jail even though she had no prior record and the officer had no proof she had committed any crime.

Incidents like this happen on a regular basis to women in the Tenderloin and Mission who are, or are perceived to be, sex workers. And, as in the rest of society, these abuses are disproportionately targeted to low-income women of color.

The SFPD Abuses Trannies Everyday!

The stories in this pamphlet are not isolated incidents. They represent **patterns and practices of abuse** that are part of our daily experiences with cops and sheriffs. **Fear of retaliation and prior bad experiences with social service and non-profit agencies** means that TG/TS folks often do not report hate crimes. But the stories and statistics gathered by Community United Against Violence (CUAV) are nonetheless shocking:

- 38 of the 563 incidents of violence against LGBT people reported in 1997 were perpetrated by law enforcement personnel. 15 of these incidents were reported by TG/TS folk.
- Those 15 incidents account for almost half of all incidents reported by the TG/TS community.
- Nation-wide reports show an *increase* in the number of cases where the offenders are law enforcement officers.

TRANSACTION

SAYS: "STOP POLLING GENDER!!"

Usually only the most flagrant examples of abuse (illegal strip searches, physical abuse, and egregious verbal harassment) are reported. **Everyday police misconduct** is so common for some of us that it's a fact of life.

In the Tenderloin and Mission, MTFs are routinely stopped without cause and casually accused of prostitution. If a group of women is smoking outside a bar, they are often "moved along" by police who have orders to "**clean up the streets.**" In SF, our community is supposed to be protected from these types of abuses by both City and Police Codes, but cops cite citizen complaints and public safety issues as reasons for **blatantly violating their own procedures and our human rights!**

Gendered Jail

When Robert Haaland, a white female-to-male transsexual, was arrested last year for participating in a political action, he came face-to-face with SFPD discrimination. At the police station, Haaland was originally grouped in a holding pen with the other male activists until one cop got curious about his gender status.

Haaland had already produced his driver's license which identified him as legally male, but the cop still didn't believe him. He came into Haaland's cell, pushed him around, dragged him out, and then belligerently accused him of having a fraudulent identification. A second cop asked him if he had a dick and then groped Haaland's crotch and chest to "verify his gender;"

To prevent further humiliation and abuse, Haaland allowed himself to be put in the women's lockup until his release.

Haaland, like a growing number of others, has decided to file a lawsuit against the SFPD. A similar lawsuit was recently won by a woman who had been illegally strip searched for no reason other than to "verify her gender." She was awarded \$755,000 by a jury in April.