

SPEECH FOR THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

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We, as homosexuals, demand our right to live and love as we choose. We no longer intend to sit idly by while our rights, our lives, and even our bodies are violated. We are here to question your authority to call us sick or mentally disordered.

Yes, we are sick---we are sick of your manipulation and exploitation of us. We stand here before you to make you aware that we are equal human beings and not your guinea pigs.

Our rights have been violated, and we DEMAND change.

1. WE DEMAND that psychiatrists accept us as homosexuals and not try to convert us to heterosexuality as a cure. This type of treatment persecutes and instills guilt and inadequacy in us as human beings, when we are normal, well-adjusted, happy people.

2. WE DEMAND that Military psychiatrists do not violate trust placed in them by Military Personnel.

3. WE DEMAND the immediate release from all asylums and prisons, of the thousands of homosexuals who are being wrongly and illegally held and persecuted for being homosexual.

4. WE DEMAND that in the event a homosexual must undergo psychiatric treatment, he be protected from the hostility of latent homosexuals and other sexually oppressed people within the establishment.

5. WE DEMAND the end of barbaric and inhuman therapy of homosexuals by means of electro-shock, involuntary therapy and imprisonment.

6. WE DEMAND that homosexuals not be exploited by psychiatrists in therapy sessions, and the charging of such exorbitant prices for these sessions.

7. WE DEMAND that homosexuality be removed permanently from the psychiatric list of diseases.

8. WE DEMAND that homosexuals not be discussed at this type of convention unless homosexuals comprise the membership on all panels.

You may think these demands, of which only a few are listed, are too strong, but the violation is to us, not to you, and we demand change.

We disavow psychiatrists and psychiatry as our spokesmen or authorities on our behavior and problems.

We demand the treatment of the oppressing society instead of the attempted treatment of us, the oppressed homosexual.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your time, ladies, gentlemen and honored speakers.