GAY INFORMATION CORK

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Cork.

~~copy for~~ copy sent to NEC Youth + ICTU Youth committee

24.6.85.

President
National Youth Council.

Dear Siobhan Doyle,

Recently it was reported that your organisation took a policy decision to exclude information relating to lesbians and gay men from the worker-funded book "Stepping Out". We are dismayed by this type of discrimination coming from a body whose responsibility it is to represent the intrests of all youth.

As you are aware there is a lot of prejudice and misinformation about gay people and this causes serious hardship and inequality for our community and, as young people, we are particularly vulnerable. We would expect a National Youth Council to have a positive programme of support for young lesbians/gay men but it seems you refuse us access to even basic information. We strongly believe that young people have the right to know of issues/services which affect their lives. We feel it is anti-democratic for a small group to deprive many others of the means of getting the information they want. We run a telephone service here and we know the great need that our young brothers/sisters have for positive information. We see this as another example of the way young people are denied the resources and information needed for us to be able to organise our own lives.

Tis discriminatory decision is all the more unacceptable because our money as workers was used contrary to Trade Union policy of suppo rt for lesbians/gay men. Also, it is ironic that later this year a European funded international l sbian and gay youth conference is being held in Dublin.

We ask you to recognise the rights and needs of young lesbians and gay men. We recommend that initially you; (1) meet with and listen to the demands of our community and (2) fund young lesbians and gay men to produce an information leaflet to be included in all copies of the book and circulated to youth groups etc.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Martin Lawlor
(aged 21)

(copy to the I.C.T.U. Youth Committee)

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