



The International
Foundation for
Gender Education

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November 18, 1997

Scott Cozza
Judy Greenspan

Dear Scott and Judy,

I am pleased to see and hear of your work on behalf of transgendered prisoners. It is a well-known fact that transgender people suffer extraordinary punishment within our prison system. They are choice targets for abuse, both from other inmates and from their captors. Their rights and needs are regularly trampled, and their plight is ignored by our system of justice. Reform of the treatment of transgender prisoners is long overdue.

May I suggest that you undertake a survey of TG prisoners, documenting the problem? Such an approach is proving effective in other areas. GenderPAC's survey of violence against transpeople has been instrumental in gaining the attention of legislators and the Department of Justice in Washington DC. There is a survey underway of violence against sexual minorities, with the same goal of documenting the problem. A survey demonstrating the pattern of violence against transgender prisoners would probably help in gaining sympathetic audience with those in a position to do something about it. I realize that such a task may be more than you wish to take on; perhaps you can solicit help from others in doing this. In particular, GenderPAC or TOPS may be helpful in this regard.

I congratulate you on your courage in undertaking the difficult task of changing this situation, and wish you the best of luck in your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Nangeroni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Nangeroni
Executive Director