

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

N.O.W. has been historically committed to inclusion, to the right of all people who are gender oppressed to access to health care, freedom from employment & economic discrimination, and most importantly, to freedom from violence.

BRANDON TEENA was a female-to-male transexual man in Lincoln, Nebraska. Last year, a jealous boyfriend and several of buddies attempted to prove Brandon was "really" a woman and force him to "be" one, by brutally beating and then repeatedly raping him. Afterwards, they warned Brandon if he complained to the police, they would return and kill him. When he went to the local Sheriff ("You can call it IT as far as I'm concerned."), he was told there was insufficient evidence, and they would not investigate. Five days later, the men *did* return: again beating and raping Brandon, and then executing him with a shot to the back of the head. **Brandon's murder was part and parcel of the system of gender oppression.**

MARSHA P. JOHNSON was one of NYC's oldest and best-known drag and transgendered activists. Her work covered 20 years, back to the days of the original Stonewall Rebellion. Three years ago, Marsha was seen being harassed and verbally assaulted by some teenage kids near the Christopher Street piers. Later that same night, she was found floating dead in the river, not far from that location. The police refused to investigate, stating there was no reason to suspect a bias crime, or even any crime at all. **Marsha's murder was part and parcel of the system of gender oppression.**

LESLIE FEINBERG was a self-identified "stone butch" and transgendered person, growing up in the working-class bars of Buffalo, NY. The story of this brave transgender activist is told in Leslie's autobiographical book, Stone Butch Blues: the queerbashing and assaults, the police rousts, the bogus arrests and incarceration, the beatings in the back rooms of the police stationhouse, the economic discrimination. **Leslie's vicious punishment and oppression was part and parcel of the system of gender oppression.**

The system of gender oppression strives to keep all of us in our place. As transgendered people, we have paid with our lives, our loved ones and our blood for daring to contest that system. The same gender hierarchy which says "Biology IS destiny" is willing to go to any lengths to keep all of us enslaved, imprisoned and powerless.

The heart of feminist politics is the struggle against gender oppression.

We Need Your Help. We're Asking Ask N.O.W. to Begin the Process of Addressing the Needs & Concerns of Its Transgender & Transexual Members. Help us generate this dialog. Talk to us. Ask your local chapter about its policies regarding transexual and transgender members. And remember those of us who have fallen in the same struggle.