

Prioritizing the Needs of People of Color and Poor People

All low-income people, and particularly communities of color, are suffering from severe cutbacks to anti-poverty programs, increasing militarization of the police, and expanding incarceration. Low-income people and people of color who experience discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression are especially vulnerable in this climate.

Low income people and people of color are over-represented in systems such as prisons, group homes, shelters and detention facilities. Because so many of the systems are sex-segregated, many people face serious problems of inaccessibility, harassment, or violence if their gender identities or expressions do not conform to their birth sexes. Many are turned away outright from essential services like homeless shelters, drug treatment programs or mental health services, while others experience discrimination or violence in these settings because of their gender identities or expressions. Members of our community experience extreme levels of harassment, violence, and mistreatment in juvenile and adult justice systems.

Furthermore, those who seek legal and social services often encounter ignorance or discrimination by the very agencies that are meant to provide them with support. The result is that transgender, transsexual, intersex, and gender non-conforming people are disproportionately poor, homeless, and incarcerated, and are 7-10 times more likely to be victims of murder.

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project strives to serve our community by filling the gaps left by other service agencies, while facilitating systemic change. We can only reach our organizational goals if community members are willing to volunteer and/or donate to our cause.

Please show your support! To find out how, visit our website:

www.srlp.org

SRLP provides free legal services to low-income people and people of color who are facing gender identity discrimination.

If you have been discriminated against:

- in **employment**,
 - while trying to access a **shelter** or other **housing**,
 - in **foster care** or **juvenile justice**,
 - at your **school**,
 - at the hands of **police** or **corrections**,
- or in any other context, please contact us.

If you need assistance in obtaining **identification** that shows your correct name and gender, we may be able to help you.

**Please call to make an appointment:
212.337.8550**

147 W 24th Street, 5th Floor
New York NY 10011

fax 212.337.1972

www.srlp.org

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project
is located in an elevator building.

working to guarantee that all people are free
to self-determine gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race,
without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence.

Support

Thank you to everyone that supports our work. We were supported by the following foundations during the 2009 fiscal year: Arcus Foundation, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, The Calamus Foundation, Gill Foundation, Kicking Assets Fund of Tides Foundation, The Miller-Wehrle Family Foundation, The New Prospect Foundation, The New York Women's Foundation, Open Society Institute, Paul Rapoport Foundation, Queer Youth Fund of the Liberty Hill Foundation, The Rainbow Endowment, Stonewall Community Foundation, and the Union Square Awards, a project of the Tides Center.

Yes!

I support the Sylvia Rivera Law Project's vital work protecting the rights of people facing gender identity discrimination.

- Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible gift of:
 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____
- I/We have included
- A check payable to Sylvia Rivera Law Project
- Matching gifts from my employer
- Please charge my contribution to
- American Express MasterCard Visa
- Card Number _____
- Exp. Date _____
- Signature _____
- I wish this gift to be anonymous
- Please call me with information about planned giving opportunities.
- I would like to be contacted about hosting an SRLP event.
- Please send me SRLP's newsletter
- I am unable to contribute at this time, but please put me on your mailing list.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt./Suite _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ (if not U.S.)

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Please mail gifts to:
147 W 24th Street, 5th Floor · New York NY 10011
tel 212.337.8550 · fax 212.337.1972
You can also donate online at www.srlp.org

MISSION

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination or violence. SRLP is a collective organization founded on the understanding that gender self-determination is inextricably intertwined with racial, social and economic justice. Therefore, we seek to increase the political voice and visibility of low-income people and people of color who are transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming. SRLP works to improve access to respectful and affirming social, health, and legal services for our communities. We believe that in order to create meaningful political participation and leadership, we must have access to basic means of survival and safety from violence.

Direct Representation and Precedent-Setting Lawsuits

SRLP provides free legal assistance to low-income people of color facing gender identity discrimination. SRLP represents clients in a variety of contexts including public benefits, family law, identity document change, and discrimination cases. For most clients, the opportunity to access legal services in an environment where gender identity self-determination is valued and respected is a new and often transforming experience. We also work on precedent-setting lawsuits to strengthen the rights of all people against gender identity discrimination. Our January 2002 victory in *Jean Doe v. Bell* established that transgender youth in New York foster care have the right to dress in clothing appropriate to their gender identities. Our December 2006 victory in *Rodriguez v. Johnson* provided a monetary settlement for one of our clients, and established ongoing obligations on the part of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The OCFS's new responsibilities include a policy that prohibits OCFS and contract agencies from discriminating against youth on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. These agencies must now allow youth to go by their preferred names, to choose to wear "male" or "female" undergarments, and to be free from discipline for refusing to meet gender stereotypes.

Policy Work

SRLP works to change policies that create obstacles to full inclusion and equal access for transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming people. We work in the realms of adult and juvenile justice, housing and homeless services, health care provision and insurance, police practices, employment, and education. We participated in the January 2006 New York City Department of Homeless Shelters policy revision. The policy now places transgender homeless shelter residents in shelters and shelter programs according to their gender identities rather than their birth genders.

Trainings

SRLP trains legal and social service providers on how to make their services welcoming and accessible to transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming people, and how to identify and properly address gender identity related issues in legal and social services cases. We also create training materials that can be distributed more broadly in order to raise awareness amongst service providers, schools, and other institutions. For further information on our trainings or our DVD documentary, *Toilet Training*, which focuses on access to bathrooms for transgender and gender non conforming people, please visit our website at www.srlp.org.

