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HOUSTON IWY TARGETED

"Houston in November will be the target of the Anita Bryant and Phyllis Shafley forces in another of their attempts to squelch all human rights. The feminist, minority and lesbian communities must be there as an organized coalition to ensure their defeat," stated Gladys Benjamin, co-chair of the International Womens Year Support Coalition of California.

Across the country results from the government funded IWY conferences are being compiled. Defeats and victories both were reached by the minority, feminist and lesbian communities. One of the most alarming defeats came in Mississippi where the man heading the Mississippi Nazi party was elected as a delegate for Houston.

"The IWY is being used by the government to ascertain the will of American women. If the resolutions passed in Houston come out against equal rights for women, against gay rights, for the denial of each woman's control of her own reproductive system and support a halt to the drive to meet the needs of minority women, we will all have real problems. The resolutions will be used to support us or to beat us over the head for decades to come," commented Jenny Tipton, co-chair of the IWY Support Coalition of California.

"We won all the delegate seats in California," she continued, "and passed all positive resolutions for women. It was possible because we united against a united enemy and turned out by the thousands."

The IWY Support Coalition started in California for that

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states' conference and is planning now for the Houston effort. Part of this effort has led to the establishment of a nation wide wats telephone line at the coalition headquarters.

Members of the coalition believe that communication is the key to a Houston success. That women must organize nationwide support groups to Houston and must know who all the players will be and the strategy will be for BOTH sides. The coalition sees itself as a vital communication link to support groups across the country.

Ratification of the ERA, ABORTION on demand for all women, legislative protection for GAYS and CHILDCARE CENTERS financially accessible to poor as well as middle class women are the four non-negotiable unifying points supported by the coalition.

The following task forces are in operation in the California support effort: Political Strategy, Fundraising, Transportation, Media-Information Dissemination, Research (developing and gathering information to share) and Coalition Work (outreach to all other concerned groups.

Lesbian caucases played an important part in most of the states with successful IWY conferences. It is especially important that these women reach Houston so that a strong united voice speak against the attacks they have been subjected to and that the final resolutions reflect concern for their human rights.

The IWY support in California asks that all elected delegates send their names and addresses, copies of their top priority resolutions and the names of their coaliton support leaders with addresses. This information will be added to the mailing list for receiving information as it becomes available. (No personal addresses will be given out to anyone without obtaining permission first.)

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