

Battered Women's Services of Washington County

Carla S.

Battered Women's Services (BWS) was founded in February 1990, to provide services to battered women in Central Vermont. BWS offers emotional support, information and referral, advocacy, and safe homes, including one safe home specifically for lesbians. All volunteers complete a training program which includes education about lesbian battering. Although few Abuse Prevention Orders have been granted to lesbians in Vermont, BWS provides advocacy to anyone seeking an APO.

Executive Director Naomi Dean emphasizes the need for strong lobbying to pass bill H.462 during the coming legislative session. Among the amendments this bill would provide is one to modify the Abuse Prevention Act to include all potential victims of abuse. H.462 would redefine "household members" as "former spouses, persons living together or sharing occupancy now or in the past, intimate partners, or persons related by blood, adoption or marriage now or in the past." The current definition excludes gay men and lesbians.

While BWS's primary aim is to provide services for battered women, several battered men have also been assisted. The BWS 24-hour hotline number is (802) 223-0855.

Formerly Battered Lesbian Network Forming

Survivors of lesbian battering are uniting to form a statewide network in Vermont. The main goal of the network is to connect lesbians who have experienced and worked their way out of abusive relationships, since we are the ones who can most empathetically support one another in the ongoing healing process.

Additional goals for the future may include: education of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community about battering, lobbying for Abuse Prevention Act amendments which would legally entitle us to restraining orders against batterers, and support and role modeling for currently battered lesbians.

The first meeting will be held in Montpelier during January 1992. Interested women may write to Carla, at PO Box 322, Montpelier, VT 05601, and will be contacted by phone regarding the date and location of meetings. Start the new year by sharing your experiences and ideas for this important network. Come to talk, come to listen, be as political or nonpolitical as you choose. Take your own next step to break the silence around lesbian battering.

Read
Out In The Mountains
Monthly

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Out in the Mountains* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *OITM* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of the staff. This paper cannot and will not endorse any candidates and actions of public officials on issues of importance to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals.

We will not publish any material which is overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, or homophobic.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the author should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newspaper, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit materials for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. This paper is here for you. The deadline for submitting material for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Materials should be sent to:
Out in the Mountains
PO Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402

How to Advertise

If you would like to run an ad in *OITM*, please contact us for rates, sizes, and information. Ad copy must be received by the 1st of the month to be included in the next month's issue. Copy can be mailed to: *OITM*, P.O. Box 177, Burlington, VT 05402, or call Ellen at (802) 860-1922.

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