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my name is Madeline Davis.

I am an elected ~~delegate~~ ~~§~~ from
the 37th Cong. Dist. in Buffalo, N.Y.

^{woman}
I am a lesbian.

The reformed structure of the Democratic Party, concerned as it is with the rights of all people makes ^{it} possible ^{for} the first major National Convention in history to hear representatives of 20 million American gays. 20 million citizens who live in a political exile because, up to now, no major political party has seen fit to address itself to our needs. For this historic opportunity to speak to you, 20 million Americans are grateful and proud of the Democratic Party.

(2)

We are the minority of minorities.
We belong to every race and Creed,
both sexes, every economic and
social level, every nationality
and religion. We live in large
cities and in small towns.

But we are the untouchables
in American society. We have
suffered the gamut of oppression
from being totally ignored ~~and~~ or
ridiculed, to having our heads
smashed and our blood spilled
in the streets. Even today in Miami Beach,
while all other minorities were
freely passing out their literature, gays were
harrassed and prevented from doing so.
Now we are coming out of our
closets and on to the convention

floor to tell you the delegates,
and to tell all gay people
throughout America that we are
here to put an end to our fears.

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Our fears that people will know us for who we are, that they will shun and revile us, fire us from our jobs, reject us from our families, evict us from our homes, beat us and jail us and for what!? because we have chosen to love each other.

I am asking that you vote "YES" for the inclusion of this minority report into the Democratic platform for two major reasons;

First we must speak to the basic civil rights of all human beings. It is inherent in the American tradition that the private lives ~~of~~ and lifestyles

(4)

of citizens should be both
allowed and insured so long as
they do not infringe upon the
~~rights~~^{rights} of others. A government that
interferes with the private lives
of ~~individuals~~^{its people} is a government
that is alien to the American
tradition and the American
Dream. You have before you
a chance to reaffirm that
tradition and that dream. As a
matter of practicality you also
have the opportunity to gain the
votes of 20 million Americans
that will help in November to put
a Democrat in the White House.

(5)

But I say to you
~~And~~ secondly ^ I am someone's
neighbor, someone's sister,
someone's daughter. A vote for
this plank is ~~a~~ a vote, not only
for me but it is a vote for all
homosexual women & men
across the country to peacefully
live their own lives. I wish to
remind you that a vote for this
plank may now, or some day
be a vote for your neighbor,
your sister or brother, your
daughter or your son.

In these times of deviousness,
~~host~~ hostility and violence, we bring
to you the opportunity to encourage
freedom and love. We are not
only gay, we are people.

(6)

We are people who have
Suffered long and hard. We
ask you now to help us end that
suffering. We ask for your
vote, and we ask that you
re-affirm for every human
being the right to love.