

בביסוד שחורה

טרנסג'נדרים, לסביות, הומואים, ביסקסואליות ואחרים נגד הכיבוש ולמען צדק חברתי
غسيل اسود — ترانسجندرس، مثليات، مثليون، ثنائيي
الجنسية ضد الأحتلال ومن أجل العدل الأجتماعي

**Black Laundry - Transgenders, Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals
and Others Against The Occupation and for Social Justice**

Tel Aviv Pride June 2003

Recently in the press, we've heard of two cases of transgendered people oppressed by a system which considers "man" and "woman" as binary and stable identities. **Chen Alkoby** was convicted of being an impostor and attempting rape, since the young women he was dating did not know he was a biological female. The way the press dealt with this case proved yet again how much hatred and contempt are aimed at anyone whose gender is viewed as "other". **Tal Isaac** asked the army to recognize him as a male soldier and not a female soldier, even though he was born as a biological female, and to allow him to serve full army reserve duty. Isaac suffered from the same dumb institutions which kept treating him as a woman, but on the other hand received wide support from the public and the press, which proved yet again that the "other" is allowed into the Israeli society only through serving in the army of occupation and proving to be a loyal citizen.

The identity card which the law requires us to carry does not reflect our real identity. The state uses it to divide us into groups of worthy and unworthy citizens, on the basis of sex, nationality, citizenship and personal status.

If you also think that the identity cards are a part of a system which oppresses transgenders, the intersexed, migrant workers, Palestinians, lesbians, gays and other groups, come march with us at the Tel Aviv pride parade.

We will meet on Friday, June 27th, at 14:00 by the Tomarkin statue at Rabin Square. Come with the gender appearance you find suitable for that morning, and bring a hat.

Our flyer is an orange identity card (the kind the Israeli government issues to Palestinians, to separate between them and the Israelis with blue identity cards), with different categories. The text on the card is sort of translated below:

Misrad Al Ha'panim [Fucked up Ministry, instead of "Misrad Ha'pnim" Ministry of Interior.

Te'udat Hit'hazut [Impostor Card, instead of "Te'udat Ze'hut" - Identity Card]

Last Name: It's my father's name, not my name

First Name: If I'm a transgender but I didn't have sex-change surgery, the Ministry of Interior will not allow me to change my name from Ya'akov to Esti

Father's Name, Mother's Name: The parents I was born to are not always my chosen family

Sex: Yes, please. And I'll choose my gender for myself, and change it when I feel like it

Nationality: Palestinian/Israeli/Anarchist/Immigrant/Betraying the borders of nationality

Citizenship: I don't need to prove I'm a good citizen to get the rights I deserve

Personal Status: Not glamorous

Open your Identity card for a moment. What's in it? What's not in it? The state cages us within restricting categories, which only the state is allowed to decide when to change and under which terms. Do these categories define you? Are they you?

The Ministry of Interior decides when someone can change the "sex" in their ID from "female" to "male" Only after going through old-fashioned psychiatric committees and being able to afford an expensive surgery, you will be able to receive a signed permission from the state that your name is Jawad and not Ah'lam.

Lesbians and gay couples, and other forms of relationships, are not acknowledged, since only marriage is considered under the category of "personal status".

Recently the "nationality" was removed from the identity cards, but if you don't have a "Jewish" nationality you're still considered a second-class citizen. If you're a migrant worker without an Israeli citizenship, you can forget about rights such as health insurance and unemployment payments.

The state decides who is "female" and who is "male", excluding all others. In the same manner, the state decides who is a good and worthy citizen, excluding all others. Your identity card is part of a system which oppresses and excludes transgenders, intersexuals, migrant workers, Palestinians, lesbians, gays and other groups. The next time you're leaving home - don't take it with you.

Kvis Shachor [too odd to explain the pun] - Transgenders and Others Against Identity Cards