

TEXT OF A LETTER SENT BY THE COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS CONCERNS OF THE MATTACHINE
SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON TO APPROXIMATELY 1000 CLERGYMEN OF ALL FAITHS AND
DENOMINATIONS IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON AREA.

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Dear :

The Mattachine Society of Washington is an organization dedicated to the improvement of the status of the homosexual by the elimination of the prejudice and discrimination which exist and which are brought to bear against him. A formal statement of our Society's purposes is enclosed herewith.

At present, one of our committees is engaged in making a systematic approach to the clergy and leaders of all denominations in the greater Washington area, in an attempt to enlist their aid, singly, and, perhaps, jointly, in an effort to assist this large group of people badly in need of assistance. We enclose herewith the formal statement of purpose of our Committee on Religious Concerns.

That this is a matter of no small importance is demonstrated by the fact that the most reliable studies (those by Kinsey) indicate that the homosexual comprises 10% of our population, and is thus our country's largest minority group after the Negro. Thus this is your problem since it involves many members of your congregation.

As indicated by our Committee's statement of purpose, our primary reasons for approaching you are two-fold:

1. The homosexual feels himself unjustly rejected, condemned, and despised by most religious groups. Feeling himself cast out, he becomes an outcast, to the loss and detriment both of himself and of organized religion. We would like to see this situation remedied. There is no good reason for the homosexual not to play an active role in the religious life of the community. Many would like to do so if allowed.

2. The homosexual finds himself discriminated against and denied basic civil liberties and social rights to a degree which, in many respects, far exceeds that encountered by the Negro. This is true not only as a matter of private attitude, but of official Federal Government policy as well. We feel that such prejudice and discrimination are as immoral, as unreasonable, and as harmful, when directed against members of the homosexual minority, as when directed against members of other minorities. We should like to enlist your aid in eliminating it.

We will do our part in helping to solve these problems which have too long been "swopt under the rug". Will you participate in aiding us to find a solution? Would you be interested in attending a conference involving clergymen and religious leaders and representatives of the homosexual community?

We will be pleased to answer any questions which you might have, and to meet with you personally, if you wish, to discuss those matters.

We look forward to your reply. Thank you.

Very truly yours,