

Rights Of Transsexuals

A committee to fight discrimination against transsexuals is being formed. It includes Margo St. James of Coyote and Jo Daly of the Human Rights Commission and is the brainchild of Ginger Coleman, a former Iowa farm boy now living in Diamond Heights, who had a sex change operation three years ago.

Ms. Coleman was stung into action by the firing of another transsexual, Carol Voyes, from the Ralph K. Davis Center of Franklin Hospital in San Francisco, allegedly as a result of her sex change operation. Ms. Voyes had worked at the Center for five years as a man.

According to Ms. Coleman, 750 people have signed a petition demanding the rehiring of Ms. Voyes. Supporting leaflets and posters have been drawn up and a picket of the hospital is planned should the decision in a court hearing next month go against Ms. Voyes.

Ms. Coleman says that San Francisco transsexuals suffer a great deal more discrimination than in many other major cities and simply do not enjoy the acceptance as such prominent transsexuals as British model Amanda Low, April Ashley, Christine Jorgensen and the late actress, Candy Darling.

"The majority of San Franciscans aren't aware of transsexuals," says Ms. Coleman. "But I'm always being hassled in gay bars, never in straight ones."

-- A.P.