

SUPPORT THE MINERS

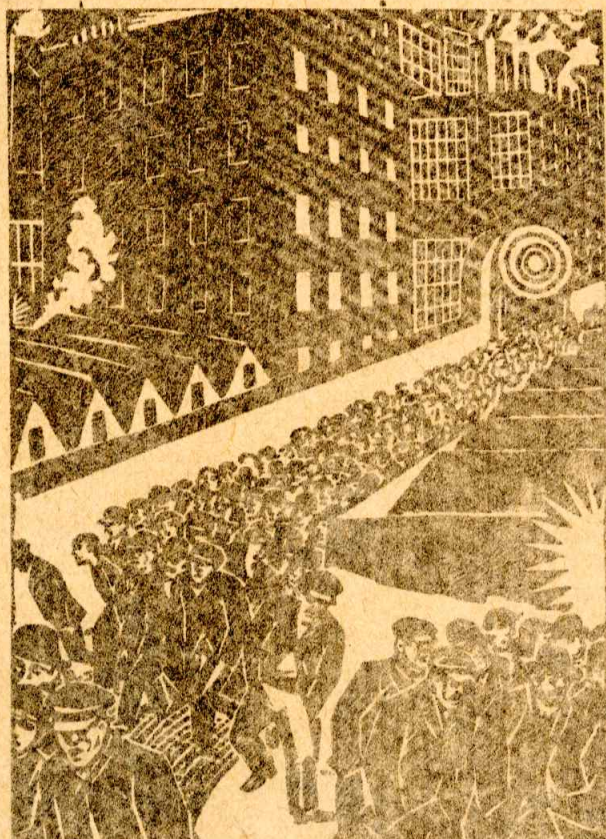
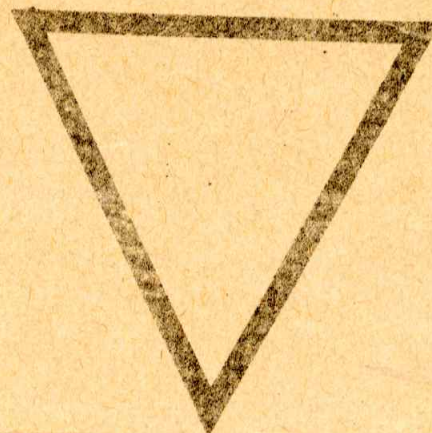
Tom Brown

As you will be aware, the miners are currently on strike in defence of their jobs and the future livelihood of whole communities. Whilst the strike goes on they and their families depend entirely on donations of food and money from people and organisations who support them and wish to show solidarity with them.

We are a newly formed group of lesbians and gay men who want to take part in that show of solidarity. We want to demonstrate to the lesbian and gay community the vital importance of supporting the strike and the reasons why a victory for the miners will be our victory also.

Over the past year a number of significant things have happened to our community. We have seen increased police harassment, the use of agents provocateurs, the raid on Gay's the Word bookshop and proposed new police powers. All of these are part of a determined effort to smash and isolate our community and drive us back into invisibility. If the state succeeds in defeating the miners, strong and organised as they are, what chance will we have? We believe the miners are in the forefront of the struggle by working people and oppressed groups against the Tories and state repression.

They are the ones who are currently challenging and fighting the Tories and the brutality of their police. The outcome of this struggle will set the political climate for a long time to come. It could be a victory for the miners and



a consequent upsurge in the confidence of all those who dare to organise against the state in defence of the right to work and freedom from oppression. But a defeat for the miners would bring on a new tide of repression from a stronger and arrogant Tory government. This strike is not just about pit closures and jobs — it is about the quality of life and aspirations of whole sections of society. That's why we, as lesbians and gay men, have a vested interest in a miners' victory.

Many will say that miners are notoriously anti-gay, but if they see us actively supporting them, showing solidarity with them, their attitudes will change. The Lesbian and Gay Men Support the Miners Group is determined to achieve this. There may soon come a day when people like the miners will come to our aid, the more so for the support we will have given them.

It is vital that lesbians and gay men are visible in their support for the miners. We hope you will help us organise this solidarity.

For more information contact 39 Chippenham Road, London W9 or phone 263 9484.

LESBIANS AND GAYS SUPPORT THE MINERS