



Notes From Beyond The Margins

Vol. 1, No. 2, August 2024

Mapping Our Course



Message from the editor

Greetings from MEDAL, and welcome to our second newsletter – *Mapping Our Course*.

Doing something for the second time is always both easier and harder than the first time. Some guidelines are already set, and there's a temptation to lean into the pattern instead of changing anything, but isn't change the reason why we're here to begin with?

A lot has changed for us as an organization during these three months. We radically changed how we organize our meetings and went through a hard period of adaptation for the sake of making sure all our board members are heard equally. We learned new skills, we became more strategic about our work, and we started engaging with our community more actively.

Change is good. Even if it seems hard at first, it pays off in the end.

Cheers,

Lecter

Welcoming new members

This time we have two new people on our board – say hello to Quinn and Arden. Both of them have been active participants in MAP social spaces over the past few years and have knowledge of the needs of genderqueer MAPs, young MAPs, and other frequently erased groups.

The Reporting Project

We are proud to say that we have launched our first campaign that involves the participation of volunteers – people like you, the reader. Have you ever wanted to clean the Internet of violent anti-MAP speech? The day when it is legally recognized as a form of discrimination may not be here yet, but you still can make a difference by mass reporting hate speech as a part of a group of activists.

We are meeting via Matrix/Element to share experiences and coordinate our efforts, and you can join us if you email us.

How to be an activist on your own? Our tips

While activism initiatives are more impactful in a group, there are still things you can do on your own. If you're active on social media, you may share articles and infographics with truthful and humanely presented information about MAPs (possible to obtain [here](#)). Gain a habit of objecting to hateful

statements about MAPs when you see them, and do not get upset if the opponent does not end up persuaded – people who silently view your conversation are your audience too. Sharing informative MAP sites is helpful too, and one of our board members has [a short list of them on her blog](#). If you have a passion for writing, you may even consider starting your own blog too and sharing your experiences living as a MAP.

If you are less inclined towards online activism, you may consider reaching out to your local elected officials or newspapers on the subject of MAP rights and humane treatment of MAPs (we have a list of rights on [our site's main page](#)). Another thing you can do is leaving MAP stickers in public places to signal to other MAPs that they are not alone (the stickers may be purchased [here](#)).

Happy Para Pride month!

August is the Pride month for paraphilias, which includes minor attraction and much more. The MAP communities on fediverse celebrated it with diverse artwork (some examples pictured below) and thoughtful conversations about their experiences. We are hoping something nice happened to you this August, regardless of whether you knew this celebration exists or are just learning about it now.



In conclusion

We're eagerly looking forward to what we'll be able to share with you in the next 3 months. There are so many exciting things we can do together, as a community.