

THIS POEM WAS WRITTEN FOR ALL THE WOMEN WHO HAVE SPENT  
THEIR LIVES FIGHTING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS. ON JUNE 30th,  
1982, AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLE, THE E.R.A. WAS DEFEATED.  
THOUSANDS OF WOMEN HAD FOUGHT IN THIS BATTLE FOR EQUALITY.  
ON JULY 1st, 1982, "A GROUP OF WOMEN" HELD A NON-VIOLENT  
CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE ACTION ON THE STEPS OF THE ARCHIVES  
BUILDING IN WASHINGTON D.C., WHICH HOUSES THE CONSTITUTION.  
AS OUR BLOOD, (WOMEN'S BLOOD), WAS POURED ON A COPY OF THE  
CONSTITUTION AND ON THE STEPS AND PILLARS OF THE ARCHIVES  
BUILDING-----THIS POEM WAS READ.

THIS POEM WAS WRITTEN AND THIS ACTION TOOK PLACE AS  
SYMBOLS OF THE FACT THAT OUR HISTORY, OUR LAWS, OUR VERY  
LAND ARE STAINED WITH THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN, BUT ALSO  
KNOWING THAT ONE DAY-----JUSTICE WILL BE OURS.

Amy Caffrey  
poet



For years we bled  
with open, festering wounds  
with little direction.

Led only by our pain and blood  
(women's blood)  
we fought.  
we built circles of women ~ together  
circles built on dreams of fairness  
on rainbows of truth.

We had bled too long

We fought bitterly, courageously  
and struck back  
against those groping, crushing hands  
which tried to push us  
into further submission.

But the hands were everywhere  
in front of us, in back  
on all sides, pushing  
yet, still our brave warriors fought

We had bled too long

Despite our fight  
despite our dreams  
our circles were broken  
by the hands of our oppressors.

But we have learned and grown  
and our dreams do continue  
our rainbows remain in sight  
our circles have been rebuilt  
and we will fight on

Stronger than before! alc