



Ready-Made Events for '09-'10

Not sure what to do with your GSA or student club? Here are some “days of action” that can be used to organize an event, campaign, or festival at your school.

★ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender History Month – *October 2009*

Did you know that October is LGBT History Month? LGBT people have made significant contributions to history, and there are tons of things that you and your GSA can do to uplift LGBT history at your school and create greater awareness about significant LGBT people and events.

For tons of resources on LGBT history or ideas on how you can organize an “LGBT Day of History” at your school, visit: http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org/lgbt_history.html

★ National Coming Out Day – *October 11th, 2009*

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is celebrated every October 11th. The day was born out of the 1987 LGBT March on Washington, D.C., when hundreds of thousands of Americans rallied to support equal rights. Today, NCOD events are held in hundreds of cities across the country and around the world. There are lots of things you can do to celebrate NCOD, including:

- Inviting speakers to come talk to your school/club about their coming out experiences
- Designing a poster campaign to explain that everyone comes out – even straight people
- Holding an event that allows people to “come out” as allies to the LGBT community

★ Ally Week – *October 19th to 23rd, 2009*

And speaking of allies...

Who can help us *the most* to end anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in our schools? Allies! Ally Week will be taking place from October 19th to the 23rd this year. What better way to kick off the school year than to have student clubs and GSAs identify and support allies in their school? Ally Week can be simple (passing out stickers to students who sign the ally pledge) or more advanced (planning an event or series of events throughout the week).

For more information about what you and your club can do to organize Ally Week in your school, visit: <http://www.allyweek.org>.

★ Transgender Day of Remembrance – November 20th, 2009

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is held on November 20th every year and was established to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 kicked off the “Remembering Our Dead” web project (www.rememberingourdead.org) and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999.

Please note that while this day was set aside to remember those who have been killed, it’s equally important to honor those who are still living and fighting for gender equality today. For ideas on how to organize a TDOR event in your school, check out:

www.gender.org/remember/day/index.html

★ World AIDS Day – December 1st, 2009

World AIDS day is held on December 1st every year, and began in 1988 to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education about the AIDS pandemic and its impact on the world stage.

To find out more information about HIV/AIDS or to get resources on how to organize events for World AIDS Day at your school, visit www.worldaidsday.org

To download resources on how to talk to your GSA about HIV/AIDS and related topics, download “Teaching it Back” on the resources page of the GSA for Safe Schools website at www.gsaforsafeschools.org

★ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Organizing Weekend – January 15th to 18th, 2010

For many years now, the National Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has been encouraging students to collaborate with other groups to organize events around the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Last year, GLSEN National dedicated asked organizers to remember the work of Bayard Rustin and continue his tradition of reaching out to different communities to galvanize a movement comprised of people of different races, ethnicities, religious beliefs, ages, and abilities.

To download free resources on planning events for Dr. MLK Jr. Organizing Weekend, visit: <http://www.dayofsilence.org/mlk.html>

★ Day of Pink – February 19th, 2010

Day of Pink is a day of action that was born when a high school student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school. His fellow students decided to stand up for him and stand up to bullying: Hundreds of students came to school wearing pink to show support for diversity and stopping discrimination, bullying and homophobia. Participation is easy. Just wear pink on February 19th and help spread the message.

To download free resources and information about the Day of Pink, visit:

www.dayofpink.org

★ TransAction! – February 26th, 2010

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, in collaboration with other national partners, has introduced a new day of action: TransAction Day. This is a day for education and celebration of transgender and gender non-conforming people and experiences; a day to begin having dialogues about gender and to advocate for inclusive schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

For great TransAction! resources, visit: <http://www.dayofsilence.org/transaction.html>

★ Day of Silence – April 16th, 2010

The Day of Silence is a student-led day of action on which those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies. Day of Silence has been around for more than ten years, and has become one of the largest student-lead days of action in the country.

Many great ideas on how you can organize a Day of Silence (or something similar) in your school can found at www.dayofsilence.org. You can also download an informational sheet of frequently asked questions about the Day of Silence (great for school administrators!) on the resources page of the GSA for Safe Schools website at www.gsaforsafeschools.org.
