



CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL-WIDE ACTIVITIES
ABOUT DIVERSITY



A number of community organizations, government agencies, school boards and professional associations have created classroom activities to help students become aware of prejudice, discrimination and the impact of homophobic bullying. There are also certain days of the year that can be celebrated to raise awareness about these issues. This section focuses on easily accessible activities, often from Québec and elsewhere in Canada, which can be used by educators to promote diversity. There is a highlighted section about “Days to Celebrate and Remember”.



✿ A FAMILY WITH TWO MOMS (FOR 3-8 YEAR OLDS) AND LEARNING RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY (FOR 8-12 YEAR OLDS) (LGBT FAMILY COALITION).

Two teachers' guides, available on-line or in print, for teachers of elementary school age children. The folders include a number of classroom activities on family diversity, name-calling, bullying, safe-spaces, and how to answer children's and parents' questions about sexual diversity.

www.familleshomoparentales.org/youth.php?lang=en

ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

Established in 1980 as the Center for Population Options, Advocates for Youth champions efforts to help teenagers make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates believes it can best serve the field by boldly advocating for a more positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health. Lesson plans to help break the ice on LGBT issues are included on the site.

www.advocatesforyouth.org/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-lessons

ANTI-HOMOPHOBIA EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE (K-12) (TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD)

This resource guide on anti-homophobia education and sexual orientation equity offers instructional strategies, curriculum connections, titles of print and video resources, and websites to educators and administrators. Free on-line.

www.tdsb.on.ca (Follow links for curriculum, equity education and inclusive education)

CHALLENGING HOMOPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS

This resource guide, which can be ordered from the Pride Education Network, includes many practical lesson plans from K-12 as well as a rationale on why schools need to teach about sexual orientation. A comprehensive background section on homophobia and heterosexism includes information on: negative myths perpetuated against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, coming out issues, counseling ideas, violence prevention strategies, dealing with anti-gay slurs and how to support students by starting gay-straight alliances in schools.

www.pridenet.ca

EGALE-CANADA'S MYGSA.CA

Egale Canada's national LGBTQ safer schools and inclusive education website is a good place to find anti-heterosexism, anti-homophobia, anti-biphobia, anti-transphobia, and intersectionality lesson plans and current events for youth of all ages.

<http://mygsa.ca/educators>

GRIS PRIZE/SIMPLE PLAN FOUNDATION

Created by the organisations GRIS-Montréal and GRIS-Québec, this \$2000 bursary, offered each year by the Simple Plan Foundation, is awarded to the best student project about openness and inclusion toward sexual diversity, in the school setting (both elementary and high schools). The prize is a great way to encourage students to create an authentic project to promote diversity.

www.gris.ca/lesgrisduquebec/prix_gris_simple-plan.html

 **IMAGINE A WORLD THAT IS FREE FROM FEAR
(ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' FEDERATION OF ONTARIO)**

A kindergarten-to-grade-8 resource addressing issues relating to homophobia and heterosexism through four themes: pride and self-respect, safe schools and safe communities, anti-bullying and conflict resolution, and relationships. This resource uses stories to address issues that are sometimes difficult to discuss. Each lesson in this text has a focus book and is linked through the suggested activities to curriculum expectations. The text also includes sections from other relevant resources to assist with learning definitions, dispelling myths, and building a class library.

www.etfo.ca/shopETFO/Documents/ResourceCatalogue.pdf

 **QUEBEC HUMAN RIGHTS AND YOUTH RIGHTS COMMISSION**

A series of on-line activities available for teachers of secondary cycle 1 high school students. As they take part in various activities, the students will have to consider questions such as homophobia, self-respect, respect for others, unequal relationships between various groups, exclusion, discrimination, prejudice, stereotypes and the *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*.

www.cdpcj.qc.ca/en/formation/situations/Pages/homophobie_presentation.html

 **RAINBOWS AND TRIANGLES: A CURRICULUM DOCUMENT FOR CHALLENGING HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM
IN THE K-6 CLASSROOM) (TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD)**

This joint publication between the TDSB Equity Department and the Elementary Teachers of Toronto is a compilation of lesson plans and support materials, including definitions, FAQs, and text, video, and community contact information. This free on-line resource guide provides teachers with a variety of age-appropriate teaching strategies. The document introduces students to the concepts of diverse family structures, human rights, discrimination, homophobia, and strategies for challenging discrimination in all its forms.

www.tdsb.on.ca (Follow links for curriculum, equity education and inclusive education)

STANCE

STANCE Against Homophobic Bullying is a comprehensive resource pack, full of the materials schools need to address homophobic bullying in the manner in which the guidance suggests: a whole school approach. STANCE includes Staff training materials (Book 4), Information for pupils (Book 5), Curriculum resources (Book 6), Policy guidance (Book 2), materials to promote a positive social environment and much more.

www.stance.org.uk

UNHEARD VOICES

Unheard Voices is an oral history and curriculum project that seeks to integrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) history, people and events into classroom curricula. At the core of the program are brief audio interviews with individuals who bore witness to or helped to shape LGBT history in some way. Each interview is accompanied by background information with discussion questions and activities for educators, and a student reading with biographical information about the interview subject and historical background on the topic. (For high school students)

www.adl.org/unheard-voices

DAYS TO CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER

DAY OF PINK

The International Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia when two straight high school students saw a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more to prevent homophobic & transphobic bullying. They decided to purchase pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to arrive wearing pink, standing in solidarity. The result was that an entire school stopped homophobic & transphobic bullying. Each year, on the second Wednesday of April, millions of people wear pink to remember that positive actions make a difference. And that the change starts with each one of us.

www.dayofpink.org

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

Held on May 17 every year, the International Day Against Homophobia is a rallying event offering an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another. *Fondation Émergence* promotes, mainly on a pan-Canadian level, the International Day Against Homophobia, and encourages organizations and individuals to highlight this event in their environment. Many interesting resources to fight homophobia are available on the site.

www.homophobie.org

INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held each year in November and is celebrated internationally.

www.transgenderdor.org

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

Another event sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, on the National Day of Silence hundreds of thousands of students take some form of a vow of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools. Through their activities, students can speak out against harassment and organize for change for their schools and communities.

www.dayofsilence.org

NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

No Name-Calling Week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled “The Misfits” by popular author, James Howe. The book tells the story of four best friends trying to survive the seventh grade in the face of all too frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, and sexual orientation/gender expression. Motivated by the inequities they see around them, they create a new political party during student council elections and run on a platform aimed at wiping out name-calling of all kinds. Though they lose the election, they win the support of the school’s principal for their cause and their idea for a “No Name-Calling Day” at school. The event, piloted by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of New York, is targeted at grades K through 12. The project includes resource guides, tips for organizing a No Name-Calling Week, lesson plans, a video about name-calling targeting grades 5-8. In addition to these resource materials, stickers and posters are also available to support the program.

www.nonamecallingweek.org

SPIRIT DAY

This is a special day when students and school staff wear purple as a sign of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth and to speak out against bullying. Spirit Day was started in 2010 by teenager Brittany McMillan as a response to the young people who had taken their own lives. Observed annually on October 20, individuals, schools, organizations, corporations, media professionals and celebrities wear purple, which symbolizes spirit on the rainbow flag. Getting involved is easy—participants are asked to simply “go purple” on October 20 as we work to create a world in which LGBT teens are celebrated and accepted for who they are.

www.glaad.org/spiritday



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