

# Day of (No) Silence

April 12, 2024

There are many ways for everyone to participate in DoNS this year! Visit [GLSEN's website](#) for even more ways to get involved.



## Students

- 1 Download the [Student Action Guide](#) for stories from teens and tips for how to get involved
- 2 Take the [National School Climate Survey](#) to tell us about your day-to-day experience at your school
- 3 Express your creativity in the [Rainbow Writes contest](#)

## Educators & Youth Development Professionals

- 1 Create an inclusive classroom with the Rainbow Library, and learn how to [get free books](#) for your school
- 2 Use [Rainbow Library curriculum](#) in your classroom
- 3 Explore our Action Guides for educators in [hostile](#) and [supportive](#) environments

## Everyone

- 1 Send a [message to your representative](#) telling them that Title IX needs to protect LGBTQ+ youth
- 2 [Donate](#) to or [start a fundraiser](#) for a GLSEN Chapter
- 3 Watch the DoNS event live from Capitol Hill at 9:15am ET on GLSEN's [Instagram Live](#)

## WHY IS THE DAY OF (NO) SILENCE IMPORTANT?

**Day of Silence:** The Day of Silence began as an effort to draw attention to the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ+ students in schools. Originating in the mid-'90s, it has grown to involve youth and adults across the country who engage in activities at school and in their communities to draw attention to the injustices faced by LGBTQ+ youth and communities.

**2024 Focus: Day of NO Silence:** This year, we're emphasizing proactive engagement with the theme "Rise Up, Take Action." While historically participants have taken a vow of silence, we are now also encouraging active advocacy and dialogue to combat the surge in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and to foster inclusivity in educational spaces.



**Why the Shift:** With over 800 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced last year, the urgency to mobilize around for LGBTQ+ rights and inclusivity has never been greater. The evolution of DoNS reflects our commitment to not just highlight issues but to be part of the solution through direct action.

**Silent Remains a Powerful Tool:** Recognizing the diverse needs and safety concerns within our community, the option to participate through silence is still available. This allows everyone, regardless of their situation, to contribute to the movement in a way that feels right for them.

**Importance for Educators and Students:** DoNS serves as a powerful reminder of the work still needed to ensure all students, especially intersectional LGBTQ+ youth, can learn and thrive in a safe, affirming, and inclusive environment. It's a day for educators, students, and communities to unite in a commitment to making schools a better place for everyone.

## HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE DoNS?



### Share the History and Purpose

Tell others about the history of the Day of Silence and why it has evolved to speaking out, rising up, and taking action.

### Share 6 Ways Students and Adults Can Get Involved

- Youth: Complete and share the [National School Climate Survey](#)
- Youth: Participate in the [Rainbow Writes Writing](#) contest
- Youth: Check out the [DoNS Student Action Guide](#) for more ideas on how to participate
- Share [student stories](#) and Day of (No) Silence information via social media to spread the word and increase the impact
- [Write to your state representative](#) to call for Title IX changes
- [Donate](#) to or [start a fundraiser](#) for GLSEN and/ or a GLSEN Chapter to support our fight to create safer and more inclusive schools

Go to [www.glsen.org/dayofnosilence](http://www.glsen.org/dayofnosilence) for a full list of ways to participate.

### Explain Why We Cannot Be Silent

- Our research shows that over 80% of LGBTQ+ students report feeling unsafe at school.
- We're just 4 months into the year and already over 475 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced.
- More than 1,500 books were banned from school libraries in the 2022-2023 school year. In Collier County, FL, over 300 books were banned in November 2023 alone.
- Although the estimated number of trans teens is roughly .07%, transgender identify has become political dynamite for groups looking to erode our education system.
- Every student deserves a safe, supportive, inclusive education.