

## Breaking the Silence: Ideas For Concluding Your Day of Silence Campaign

After the Day of Silence, some schools, community groups or GLSEN Chapters hold a "Breaking the Silence" event. During a Breaking the Silence event, Day of Silence participants gather to make noise together for the first time all day. Here are a few ideas for putting on a Breaking the Silence event to conclude your Day of Silence campaign.

### **Breaking the Silence together: Have participants meet after school and stand in a circle.**

➤ **NEW YEAR'S EVE MODEL:**

Silent participants assemble at the end of the day and an organizer gives a silent countdown. When the designated finish time is reached, everyone screams, yells, sings, rings bells, blows whistles, beats drums, shakes noisemakers and so on.

➤ **DAYBREAK MODEL:**

Silent participants assemble at the end of the day, there's a silent countdown to the designated finish time and when the clock strikes, people begin to slowly make noise or speak as the feeling comes to them.

➤ **ONE VOICE MODEL:**

Silent participants assemble at the end of the day and one by one each participant begins speaking by addressing the entire group. You can ask attendees to talk about their experiences, share why they participated or give a message of thanks.

### **Breaking the Silence rally: Have participants gather for a dynamic, action-focused rally.**

Secure a large public space, indoors or outdoors. Coordinate a few people to speak to attendees, such as your GSA president, students who have had particularly meaningful Day of Silence experiences, a local LGBT activist, and/or a local LGBT or allied public official. End the rally with a call to action for attendees, such as joining your school's GSA, volunteering with a local LGBT group, or publicly supporting a pro-LGBT bill (or opposing an anti-LGBT bill) in your area.

### **Breaking the Silence open mic: Create a space for participants to perform and connect.**

Secure a semi-private space and create a makeshift stage, with or without sound equipment, where people can share performances about their identities, their Day of Silence experiences, or other topics for attendees. Schedule a few people who will appear, like student musicians, poets, dancers or other performers, and bring a sign-up sheet for attendees to perform on the spot.

### **Breaking the Silence support group: Create a space for reflection and support.**

A support group is more intimate and allows participants to share experiences they may have had during the Day of Silence that they would not feel comfortable talking about in public. Secure a private space and create a calm environment where participants can feel comfortable unwinding. Consider asking a supportive school counselor or social worker to join you.