RECLAIMING SILENCE
ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT
A ZINE BY GLSEN’S 2017-2018 NATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL
INTRODUCTION

Every year in April, students throughout the country lead a day in their schools aimed at highlighting the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ people at school. This event is GLSEN’s Day of Silence and will be held this year on April 27, 2018.

As we, GLSEN’s 2017-2018 National Student Council, reflect on the Day of Silence, we find it essential to highlight the voices so often erased. Throughout history, marginalized groups within the LGBTQ community have repeatedly been silenced, their impact and stories forgotten. We believe that lifting up these voices and providing a platform for them will bring crucial change.

This zine was compiled by queer students as a resource for students, teachers, and GSAs to use for Day of Silence. We hope that the included student-made creations inspire you to continue fighting for those who are silenced and do not have the privilege to speak up.

Together, we can break the silence.

With love and power,
GLSEN’s 2017-2018 National Student Council
TIPS FOR THE DAY OF SILENCE

By Danny Charney

1. Prepare by sharing to your teachers, friends, and coworkers over the course of the day why you’re being silent. Share with your teachers and administration the Day of Silence Educator Guide. You can find all of the materials at glsen.org/dayofsilence.

1. Plan something to Break the Silence, such as using the Breaking the Silence Letter Generator to administration. Host a teach-in, a rally, a dance, a picnic, a little after-school meeting to make some joyous noise. Check to see if your local GLSEN Chapter is hosting an event to attend.

2. Promote why you’re participating in the Day of Silence by distributing flyers, setting up a table at lunch, or even making an announcement over the PA system to get others involved!

3. Don’t use duct tape to cover your mouth. Use GLSEN stickers, buttons, and shirts. Alternatively, design your own swag that visibly shows your support without hurting yourself!

4. Remember you have a right to free speech. If you feel your rights are being violated, submit a form to request help at the bottom of glsen.org/dayofsilence.

5. Use the momentum from Day of Silence to stay involved in making schools safer and more inclusive for LGBTQ youth. Sign up for advocacy alerts at glsen.org/glsenup.

6. Register your school’s GSA at glsen.org to get helpful resources all year long!

7. Don’t forget to be creative, make it your own, and find new ways to end the silence and erasure of LGBTQ students in school. The Day of Silence was created by students, and definitely needs your brilliance to breathe life into it in your schools!
PUZZLE

Breaking the Silence

J S F I H X M G F E I H C S B Y T V P V G G K W M Q Y T Y D
T E A C H I N T U O K A R B P S Z L M W G O G A A X N S R L A
L A X C V T S E U R Y C G T A D Q Z L C Q U D A S M J M G S
E F B O K Y R A Z O A T T P D Z S R L L W G V W T C W U B S
A L S G L P M L D P S Z I B T V O F I E I R O E U T A Y T B
D Y L U I W Z A S U P B F R R R C H R G T C S D V R U Q M
R I Z C H P E I T Q E Z S A N D S L A H D U T M N B C M R L
S Y L M F F D I Y O M A B G S N I I K C J D E E T M K Z I Y
H F W T A K G N W H B C D K I Z M L U I P A I E P S Q E D E
I G L S H X P M G C L T Y S M U K O I R B T D O P Y B E P
P Q A B K J G C Y W A I Y Y V B O T W S S K R N U W M O E R Y
U D A D K W Z E B F M V O T E R X I X U D N F C B M E C W F
K L T G N I Y L L U B I T N A Q G W L S P Y D A R L U N F A
W P B R F C F E G Y N S D D U A B B A I R P U T X P Q E Q N
B G V S J S H B V X H M Q O T N A G P V B V O O Y V B L S M
T Q S P X F Y R K B K E K L I I C C N B T A K R C T J I S F
X K N D Z H W A T L Q E W G F Z D H V D A X T S T C R S E P
U T E B R C E I S O G S A D L M V T C W Y I R W U H O U E V
F Y U O C M G O M K F B C N A T S I S E R N Z Z N O V U R O
Y O J X M F V N A A N T I R E A S U R E X I Q J W C L A J
Y H I T Q S D S H R O O R R U B R D Q O Q Z Q C B B L C W F
N H J C T U Y O W K K M M Z S V A S X I B H J F O U H S A S
L T I J Q H E G K Z N P U O L Y M B B T L K D A Q K X M F D
T N B S T K V E I G O L I L D V P N W S R B D Q F C B L U L
Y Q L U T I O L R O K C Y M W C R U W C L U U T Q S B M O B
P M H I U O V S P Y E N N O I T C A N I P I H S Y L L A I Z
H D Y C Z T R L R C U B A K X W E G H S F K X C I V V M Y
M F R N G E H Y W X C V Q G W Y N Q T N W S V C D W F U S V

RESISTANCE
SILENCE
QUEER
STUDENTPOWER
VOICE
ALLYSHIP\r\nACTION
ASSEMBLY
ACCOUNTABILITY
SUPPORT

ORGANIZE
ANTI-ERASURE
TRANSISBEAUTIFUL
LGBTQPRIDE
ANTIBULLYING
LEADERSHIP
RALLY
ADVOCATE
AWESOMEEDUCATORS

AWARENESS
SPEAKOUT
HISTORY
SOLIDARITY
SAFERSPACES
CELEBRATION
TEACHIN
ACTIVISM
Queer people have existed since the beginning of time. However, our stories, voices, and experiences are often overshadowed, which makes it seem like they don’t actually exist. Thanks to literature, queer stories can be told unapologetically by queer authors. These authors give me hope for the future. Check some of these out to start on your queer literature journey!

1. Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan
2. Way to Go by Tom Ryan
3. Juliet Takes a Breath by Gabby Rivera
4. Fun Home by Alison Bechdel
5. Redefining Realness by Janet Mock
6. Black Lesbian In White America by Anita Cornwell
7. Geography Club by Brent Hartinger
SILENCE IS OURS
BREAK THE

SILENCE!

By Sarah Bunn
where do we belong?
us, the children of those suppressed by silence,
their skin bled to exist, their lungs choked to breathe,
and yet, we still struggle to speak and be seen,
survival is our only form of existence.

in the books,
our words have been erased,
smudged away into streaked lines,
its letters rolled up in thick shavings,
to be forgotten.

in the streets,
our voices have been stifled,
the bricks of our bodies crushed into gravel,
shouts reduced into whispers,
to be forgotten.

even in these spaces to call home,
our stay is still unwelcome,
and so they leave us stranded,
to forever wander until we fade,
to be forgotten.

but on this day of silence,
we will no longer suffer but instead shine,
until every voice heard, every color seen,
because we refuse
to be forgotten.
The National Student Council has been working on sharing action steps that folks can take to confront the silencing and erasure that LGBTQ students face. Here is a list of published pieces that can be a launching point for discussions with your administrators, in your GSAs, and in classrooms.

- 3 Ways Your GSA Can Make Your School More LGBTQ Inclusive
- 9 LGBTQ Students Share What They Need From Their Allies
- These Trans and Gender Nonconforming Folks Share What They Need From Their Allies
- I’m a Gay Chicana High Schooler. Here’s What I Need from My Allies
- I’m a Bi Student in High School. I Should Belong Here, Too
- Why Every Child Should Read Books About Diverse Cultures
- LGBTQ Latinx Students Share 12 Must-Reads
- 4 Ways to Support Trans Students of Color
- I’m a Trans Student of Color. Supporting Me Means Fighting White Supremacy
- Advice on Making Trans-Inclusive Schools, from My Queer School Counselor
- I’m a Trans, Disabled Young Person, Not One or the Other
- What Happened When I Studied a Trans Civil War Soldier for History Class
- Educators Can’t Ignore Trans Students. Our Futures Depend on It
- LGBTQ Youth, Your Identity Should Not Be “Controversial”
- What If Schools Taught About Non-Binary Pronouns?
- I’m a Black Queer Student, and My School Needs to Recognize My Entire Self
The National Student Council also held events that centered and amplified the voices of LGBTQ students. These could be examples of events that you can replicate in your communities to Break the Silence:

- #HereBlackandQueer
- 6 Questions About Allyship Answered by LGBTQ Students
- These Queer and Trans Students of Color Use Poetry to Put #Kindnessinaction
- #ilovebiself

Throughout the year, the National Student Council has been highlighting Black and Brown Queer folks who have been erased from the narrative (in textbooks, history, our conversations). We believe that they belong in curriculum, representing LGBTQ students and the magic that we hold.

- LGBTQ History Month
- This Student Wants Schools to Start #QueeringBlackHistory
- Why These 10 Latinx Icons Are Inspiring to LGBTQ Youth
- LGBTQ Youth Explain Why Schools Should Teach About These 17 Native Icons
OUTSIDE RESOURCES

Here are outside resources that can help you in your student organizing for Day of Silence and beyond.

› Top 10 Nonviolent Protests
› Colin Kaepernick and the Power of Black Silent Protest
› Standing Rock and the Return of the Nonviolent Campaign
› 5 Peaceful Protests That Led to Change
› 10 Silent Protests That Made Major Noise
› The ‘Silent’ Protest That Kick-Started the Civil Rights Movement

Educate:

› Gandhi and the Non-Violent Protest Movement in India - Minnesota Historical Society (Grades 9-12)
› The Civil Rights Movement - The Jackson Sun (Elementary)
› Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Movement 1954-1985 - Facing History
  › LESSON 1 - The Philosophy of Nonviolence
  › LESSON 2 - Tactics of Nonviolence
  › LESSON 3 - Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change
› Nonviolent Resistance - King Institute (Grades 6-12)
› Peaceful Protests - PBS (Grades 9-12)
› Committing to Nonviolence: A Lesson from Viva La Casa and The Mighty Times Children’s March: Teacher’s Guide - Teaching Tolerance (Grade 6-12)
› Non-Violent Resistance - Teachers Without Borders

NEED HELP ORGANIZING?
Are you having issues organizing in your own communities and need advice? There are several places where you can reach out!

› students@glsen.org
› Lambda Legal: Submit for legal assistance, find the form at www.glsen.org/dayofsilence
› Breaking the Silence Letter Generator
RESIST OPPRESSION
UNITE IN SILENCE

facebook.com/GLSEN
@GLSEN
@GLSENofficial
GLSEN.tumblr.com