

How to Organize Your School's Day of Silence

STEP 1: Register your participation.

- › Tell us you're participating at dayofsilence.org.
- › Follow National Day of Silence on Facebook and @dayofsilence on Twitter for campaign updates.

STEP 2: Find support.

- › Encourage your peers to participate in the Day of Silence by hanging up flyers, holding an open GSA meeting as a Day of Silence info session, or simply by telling others.
- › Locate a teacher, like your GSA advisor, who can help you plan and support you throughout the process. Make sure to ask them first if they'd like to get involved.
- › Inform your school administration that you will be participating. See "Addressing the Resistance" or the sample ACLU letter for guidance on talking to school officials.

STEP 3: Make a plan.

- › Hold a planning meeting with participants.
- › Set group goals for your Day of Silence. What do you want to accomplish? How many students or teachers do you hope will get involved? Are there any other changes you hope to see as a result of your participation, such as more visibility for your GSA?
- › Decide how you'll advertise your event and gather the supplies you'll need, like GLSEN's free speaking cards.

STEP 4: Promote, promote, promote.

- › Hang up posters, distribute flyers, set up a table at lunch, or make an announcement over the PA system to get others involved. Make sure to get permission for all promotional activities.
- › Share your stories online by using the hashtag #dayofsilence on social media to connect with other student organizers.

STEP 5: Be silent!

- › On the Day of Silence, participate in whatever way feels right to you.
- › Consider holding a Breaking the Silence event where participants gather to make noise for the first time at the end of the day.

STEP 6: Reflect and evaluate.

- › Once the day of action is complete, it's important to discuss how it went.
 - › How did participants feel about it?
 - › How did your school community respond?
 - › What organizing methods were successful?
 - › What would you like to change to make next year better?

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- › No two Day of Silence events are exactly the same; yours should fit your school!
- › Above all, make sure you are safe.
- › Contact GLSEN if you need any help.