

Welcome, this web conference will begin soon



Creating Protective Environments for

LGBTQ+ YOUTH

Within Schools and Communities to Prevent
Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence

Tuesday, March 30
11 AM-12:30 PM PT
2 PM-3:30 PM ET



Meet the PreventConnect Team



Ashleigh Klein-Jimenez
Director of Prevention
she/her/hers



Tori VandeLinde
Project Coordinator
she/her/hers



prevent
connect
A ValorUS PROJECT

PreventConnect.org

info@PreventConnect.org

PreventConnect.org/email – email group

Learn.PreventConnect.org – eLearning

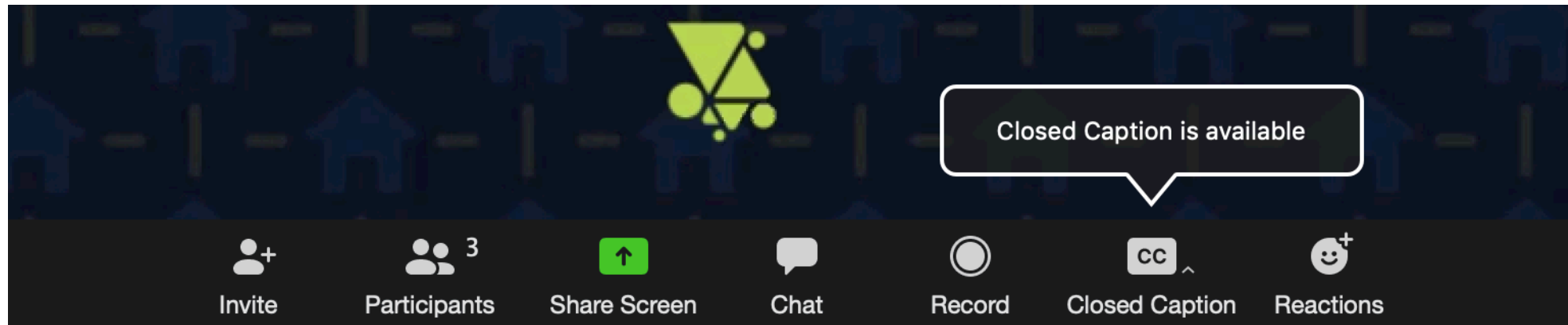
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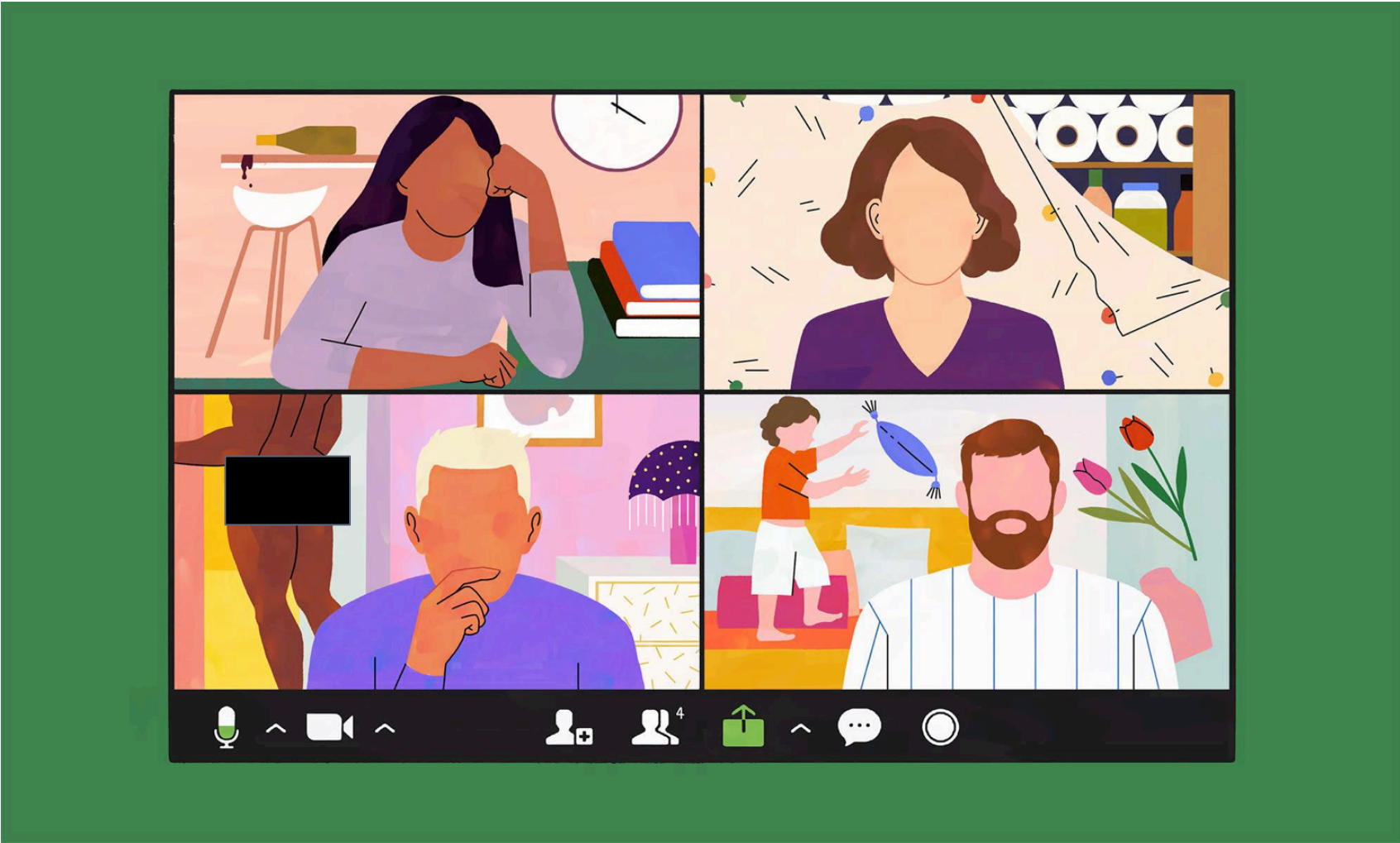
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How to use Zoom

- ▶ Text chat
- ▶ PowerPoint Slides
- ▶ Polling Questions
- ▶ Phone
- ▶ Closed Captioning
- ▶ Web Conference Guidelines



How this landscape is impacting us



PreventConnect

- ▶ Domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- ▶ Sexual violence
- ▶ Violence across the lifespan, including child sexual abuse
- ▶ Prevent before violence starts
- ▶ Connect to other forms of violence and oppression
- ▶ Connect to other prevention practitioners

Past conferences/resources



<http://www.preventconnect.org/2019/11/prevention-beyond-the-binary-from-inclusive-language-to-inclusive-sexual-and-intimate-partner-violence-prevention-for-lgbtq-communities/>



Harmful Gender Norms: How can alliances be built with queer (LGBTQ) movements to help prevent sexual and domestic violence more effectively?

<http://www.preventconnect.org/2016/02/harmful-gender-norms-how-can-alliances-be-built-between-with-queer-lgbtqi2s-movements-to-help-prevent-sexual-and-domestic-violence-more-effectively/>



<http://www.preventconnect.org/2016/03/harmful-gender-norms-moving-beyond-binary-and-heteronormative-approaches-to-preventing-sexual-and-domestic-violence/>



<http://www.preventconnect.org/2016/04/partners-in-prevention-connecting-sexual-violence-prevention-and-lgbtq-inclusive-campus-culture/>



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PreventConnect is a national project of ValorUS, formerly known as the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views and information provided in this web conference do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. government, CDC or VALOR.

Objectives

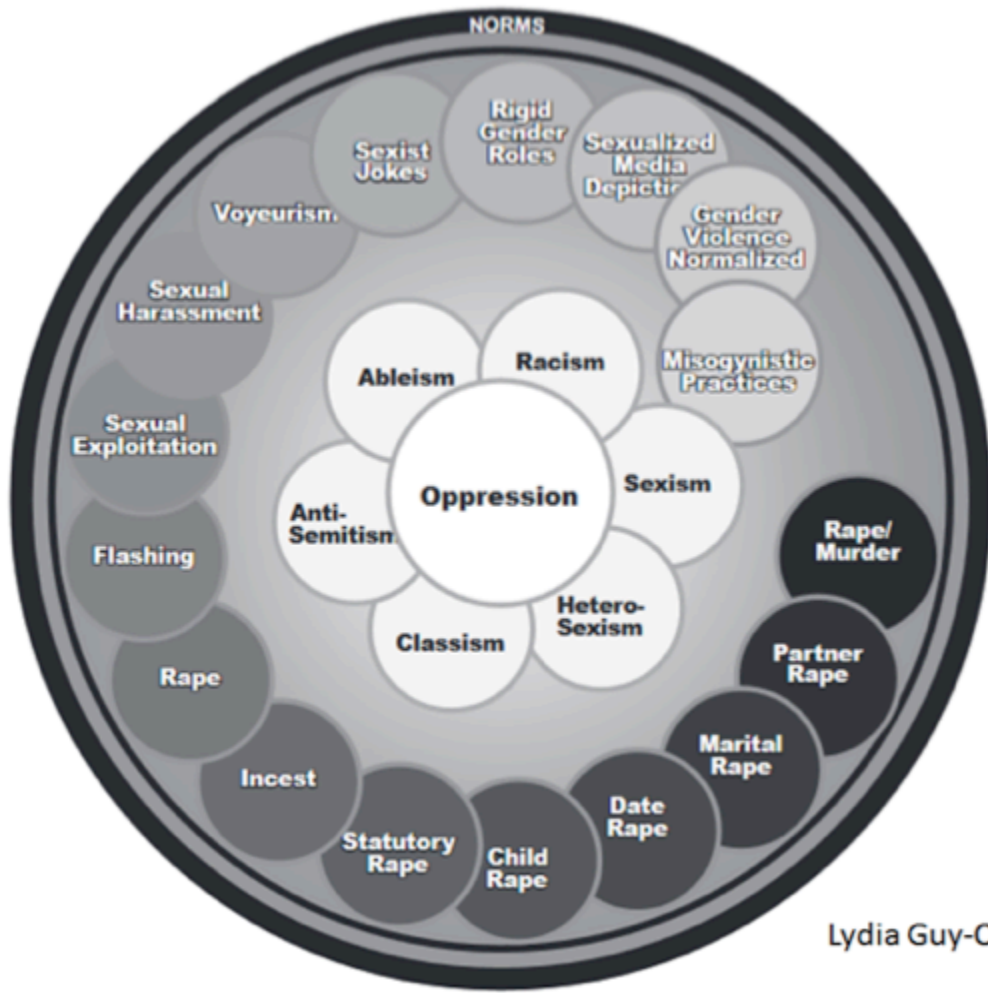
- ▶ Describe the opportunities and challenges when adapting and creating sexual and intimate partner violence prevention programs by and for LGBTQ+ youth and adults
- ▶ Identify ways sexual and intimate partner violence prevention programming can prioritize the prevention needs of LGBTQ+ youth
- ▶ Describe ways adults can be better allies and role models for LGBTQ+ youth to promote social norms that protect against violence
- ▶ Engage in a discussion about ways to bridge the gap between gender transformative work, meeting audience where they're at, and advancing prevention work that does not reinforce the gender binary

CDC Technical Packages

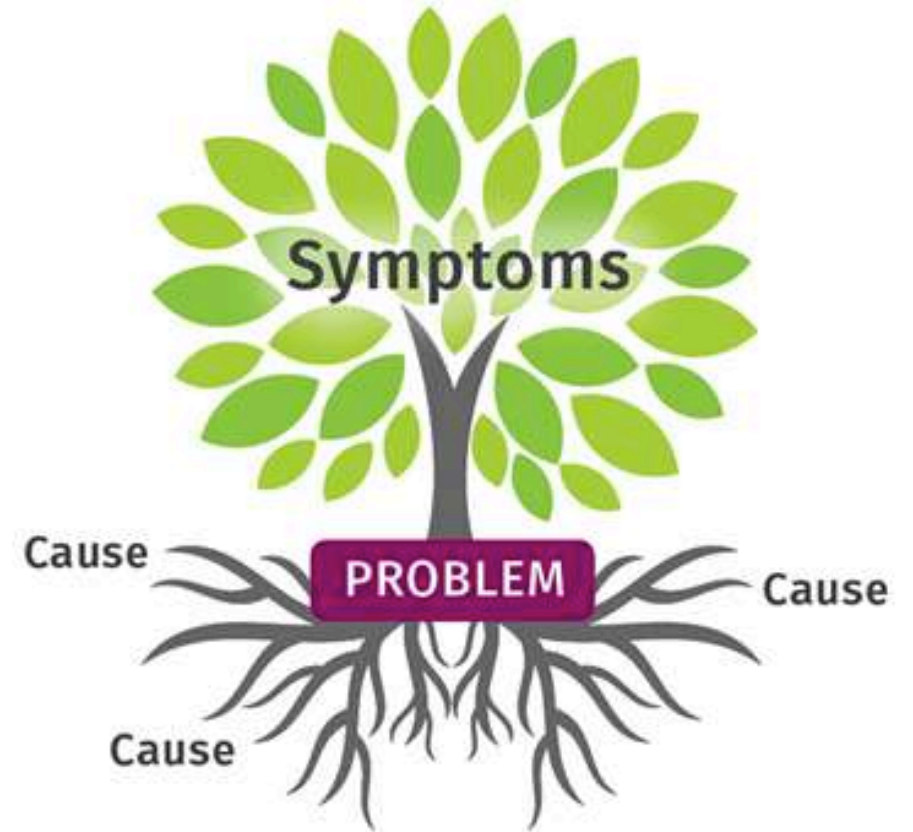
| STOP SV | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| | Strategy | Approach |
| S | Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bystander approaches • Mobilizing men and boys as allies |
| T | Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social-emotional learning • Teaching healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to adolescents • Promoting healthy sexuality • Empowerment-based training |
| O | Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening economic supports for women and families • Strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls |
| P | Create Protective Environments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving safety and monitoring in schools • Establishing and consistently applying workplace policies • Addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches |
| SV | Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim-centered services • Treatment for victims of SV • Treatment for at-risk children and families to prevent problem behavior including sex offending |

| Preventing IPV | |
|---|---|
| Strategy | Approach |
| Teach safe and healthy relationship skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social-emotional learning programs for youth • Healthy relationship programs for couples |
| Engage influential adults and peers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men and boys as allies in prevention • Bystander empowerment and education • Family-based programs |
| Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood home visitation • Preschool enrichment with family engagement • Parenting skill and family relationship programs • Treatment for at-risk children, youth and families |
| Create protective environments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve school climate and safety • Improve organizational policies and workplace climate • Modify the physical and social environments of neighborhoods |
| Strengthen economic supports for families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen household financial security • Strengthen work-family supports |
| Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim-centered services • Housing programs • First responder and civil legal protections • Patient-centered approaches • Treatment and support for survivors of IPV, including TDV |

Root Causes and Shared Risk/Protective Factors



Lydia Guy-Ortiz, 2006

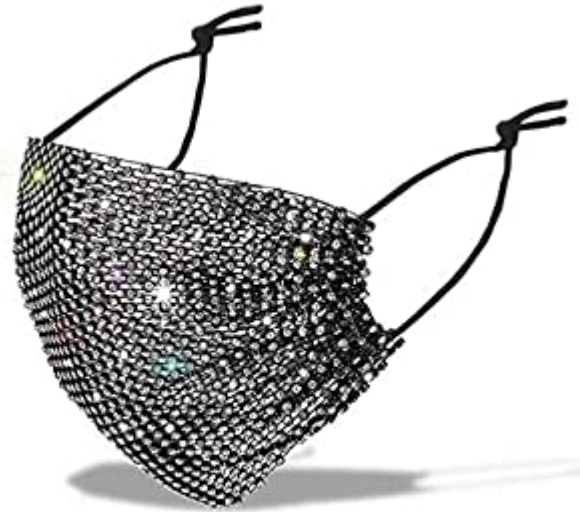


Green Dot Study

From the abstract: “This intervention was also associated with reductions in both perpetration and victimization of sexual violence, sexual harassment, and physical dating violence among sexual majority yet not sexual minority youth. Both sexual minority and majority youth experienced reductions in stalking victimization and perpetration associated with the intervention. In this large cluster randomized controlled trial, the bystander intervention appears to work best to reduce violence for sexual majority youth. **Bystander programs may benefit from explicitly engaging sexual minority youth in intervention efforts or adapting intervention programs to include attitudes that shape the experience of sexual minority high school youth (e.g., homophobic teasing, homonegativity).**”

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31907755/>

How we've done the work isn't necessarily doing the work



Doing the work differently



How are you currently preventing violence against LGBTQ+ communities?

Text Chat Question



Chat

From Me to **Everyone**:

Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!

To: **Everyone** ▼

Type message here...

Meet Our Guests



Re Gupta

Sexual Violence Prevention Program Coordinator,
Colorado Department of Public Health &
Environment

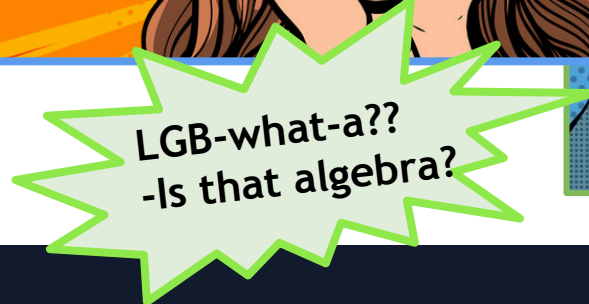
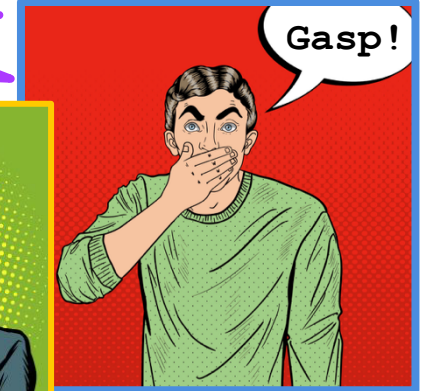
My name = my pronouns



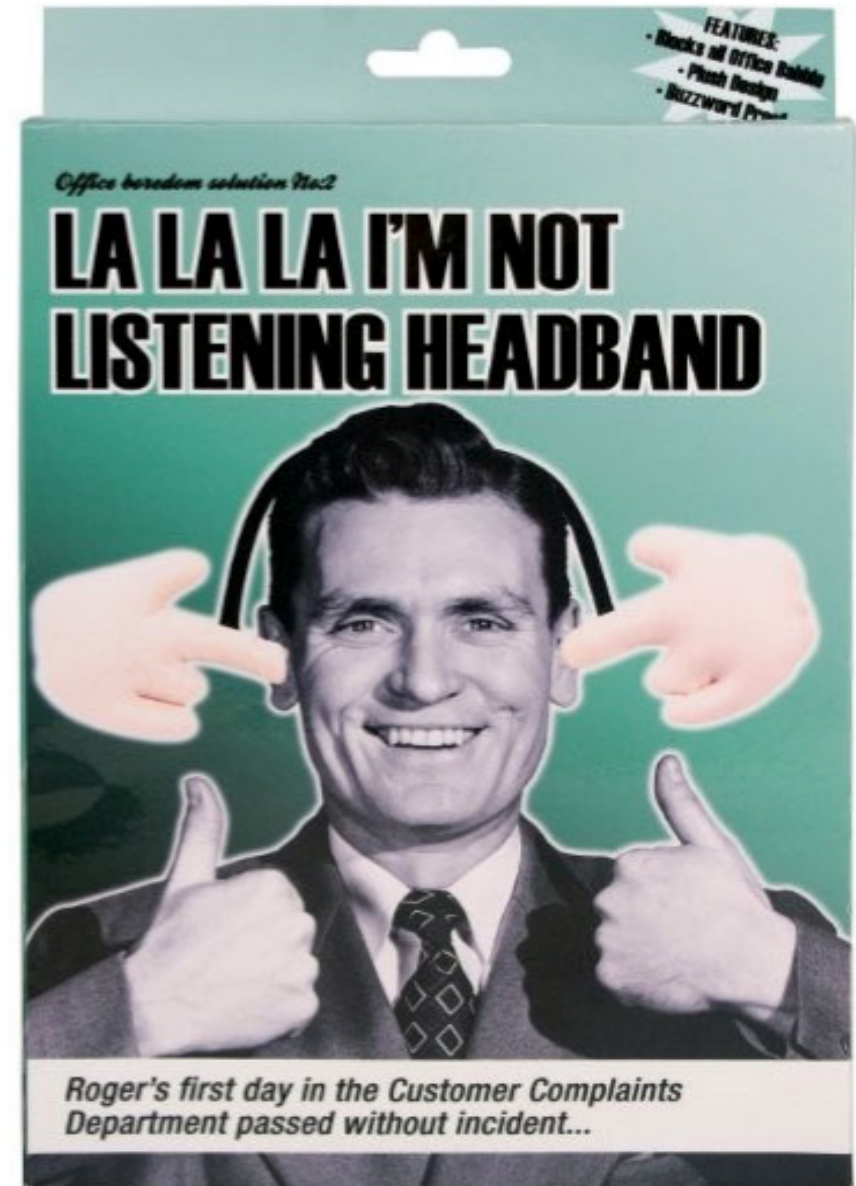
Goddess Tyescha

Amplifier of Health Advocacy,
Inside/Out Youth Services
Colorado Springs, CO
they/she

Trigger Warning: Different Approaches Ahead!



Why are conversations about LGBTQ+ safety and Sexual Violence prevention avoided? Or ignored?





COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

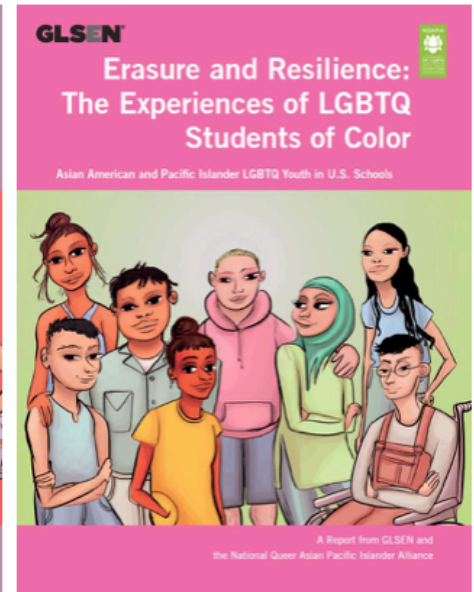
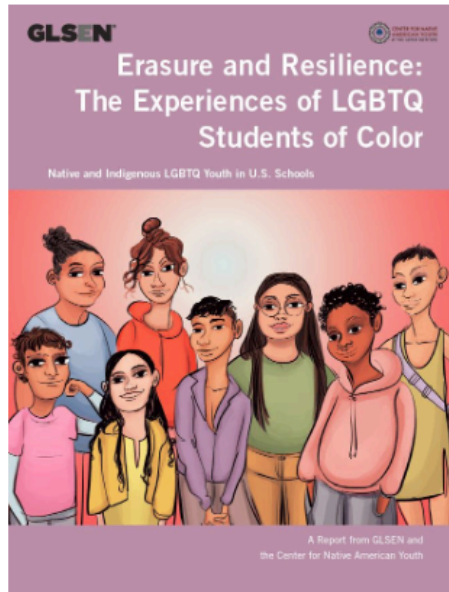
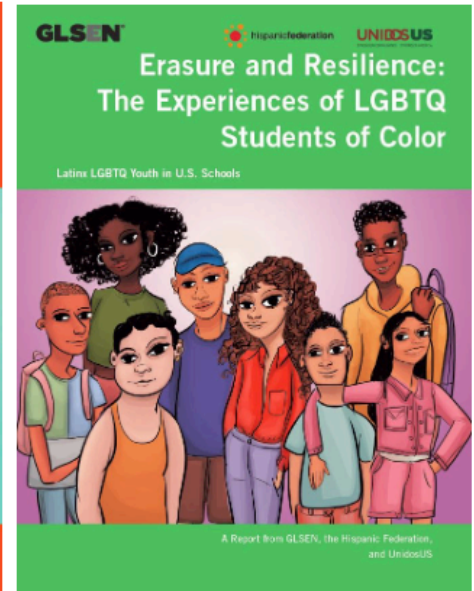
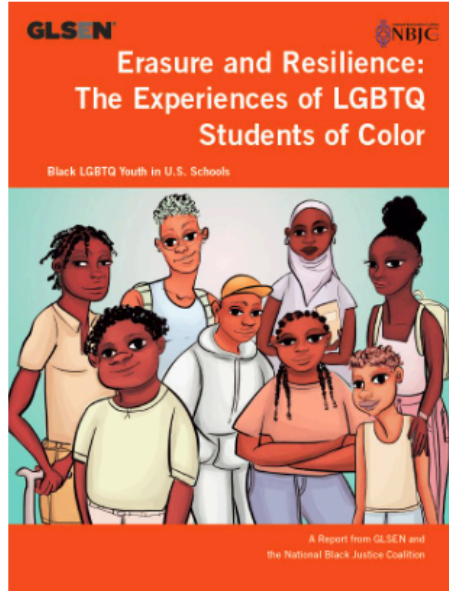
Risk and Protective Factors impact everyone



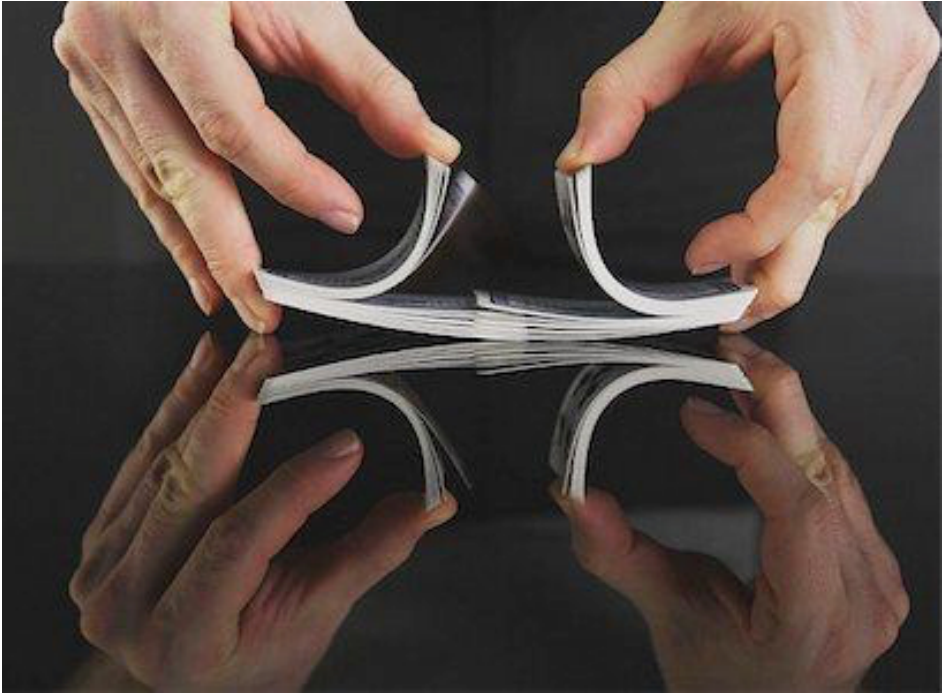
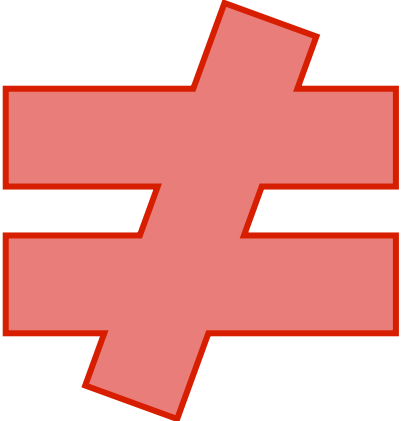
Adapted from: Healthy People 2020



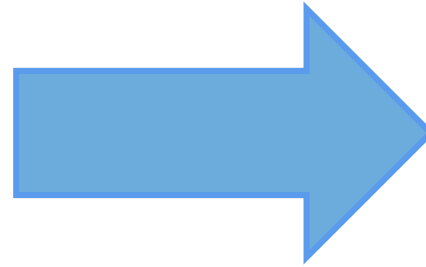
Oppression is accumulative



Intersectionality is not intersection



Intersectionality, like you, is 3D



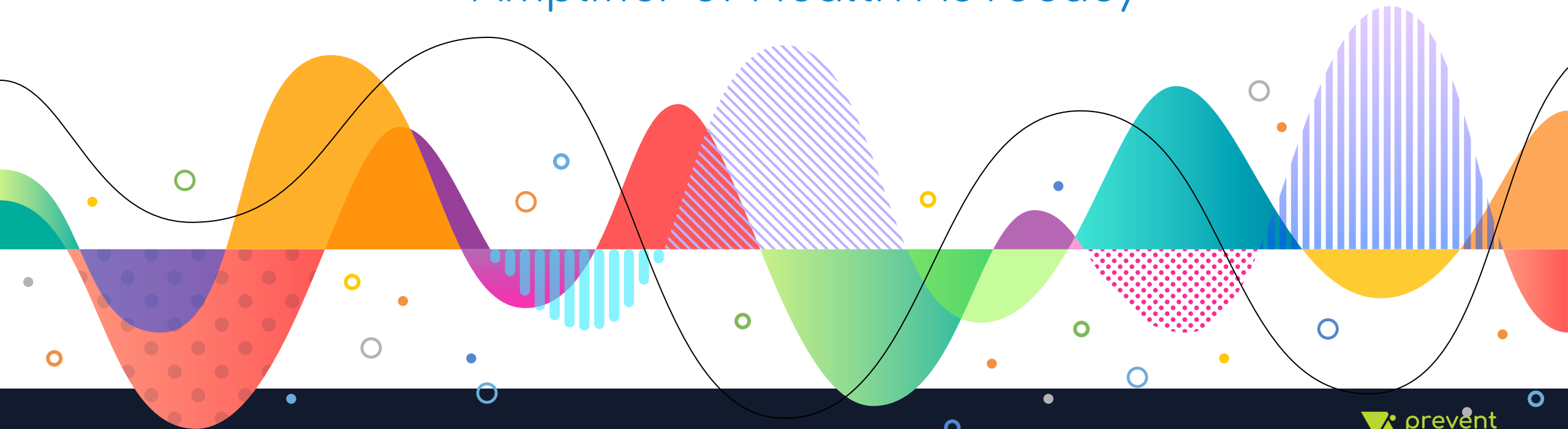
Changes made by Colorado Sexual Violence Prevention grantees:



- ★ Bilingual public signage
- ★ Transportation safety
- ★ Shelter and Human Services supports & increased access
- ★ Pronoun policies and practices in schools and businesses
- ★ GSAs and Affinity school clubs
- ★ Virtual Hot Spot Mapping and safety enhancements in social media
- ★ Comprehensive Sexual Education and Socioemotional Literacy Education
- ★ LGBTQ+ inclusivity in YRBS instrument (Healthy Kids Colorado Survey)

Creating Safe Spaces Outside Inside Out

Goddess Tyescha (they.she.he.ella.el)
Amplifier of Health Advocacy



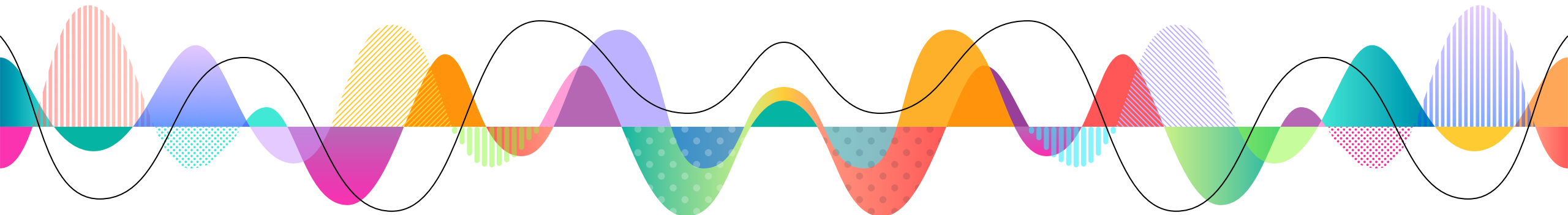
Who We Are: Inside Out Youth Services

- ❖ Inside Out Youth Services (est. 1990) is the only non-profit organization in El Paso County, Colorado that serves lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) youth.
- ❖ We provide a safe accepting space for young adults between 13-24 years of age, offering mental-health resiliency and suicide-prevention programs, safe dating and comprehensive sexuality education classes, support groups for trans* and gender non-binary youth and parents, and social opportunities.
- ❖ All of our groups and services are provided free of charge with the hope that any aid we provide will further the happiness and health of LGBTQ+ kids in the El Paso County area.

Intolerance Kills

- School, local, city, and state policy all have been shown to have an impact of LGBTQ+ students' risks of suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts ⁶
- Anti-LBGTQ+ discrimination in a community has been linked to higher risks of suicide for LGBTQ+ people ² as well as poor mental health and substance-use disorders generally ⁷
- 76% of LBGTQ+ youth report that the current political environment has negatively impacted their mental health and/or sense of self ⁸

“Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world” – Nelson
Mandela



Building Trusted Adults

Young People Need Trusted Adults

- Having a positive relationship with a trusted adult at home or school is associated with a decreased risk of suicide attempt for young people⁹
- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth who face family rejection are over 8 times more likely to have attempted suicide than their LGB peers who report low or no family rejection¹⁰
- Chosen family is an immensely important concept and practice in the LGBTQ+ community¹¹; however, in our experience, few young people find this term useful with where they are at in their life experience



Sexual Violence

- 1 in every 2 LGBTQ+ young people has experience sexual violence; 1 in 4 cis-heterosexual women and 1 in 8 cis-heterosexual men have as well ¹⁴
- One in three victims of rape experiences suicidal ideation, and victims of sexual violence have the highest rates of trauma of victims of any crime ¹⁵
- Youth who receive comprehensive sexuality education that includes sex-refusal skills before the age of 18 have been shown to be 50% less likely of experiencing sexual assault in college¹⁶; this means sex ed is a more effective vaccine against experiencing rape than many vaccinations against infectious disease!
- School curricula that address the specific needs and experiences of LGBTQ+ students, of which comprehensive sexuality education is an important part, are part of what researchers have identified as 'protective school environments,' which have been linked to reduced rates of suicidal ideation among all students ¹⁷
- As of 2014, only half of all high schools and 20% of middle schools nationwide provided sexuality education that covered all of the topics the Centers for Disease Control recommends ¹⁸

Building Inclusive Policy



All Gender Restrooms. Recommendations for GSA's and from Hotspotting. Gender expansive inclusion in policy. Comprehensive Sexual Education. Building policy around names and preferred pronouns. More comprehensive policy on topic in Sexual Violence and Houseless.

CPE Data on Total Impact and Policy

Total impacted: 5.699 (state population)



- ▶ **School provided with resources on bus safety and reducing hate speech following hot spot mapping activity (February 25, 2020).**
- ▶ **GSAs started or reinitiated.**
- ▶ **One school district added a consent module to existing sex ed curriculum.**
- ▶ **Commitment to implementation of all-gender restroom availabilities in all school buildings for one district (February-April 2020 timeframe).**
- ▶ **GSAs approved district-wide for middle and high schools.**
- ▶ **Testimony against the passage of HB20-1114, HB20-1144, and HB20-1063. All bills were voted down (February 2020).**

CPE Data on Total Impact and Policy

Total impacted: 5.699 (state population)



- ▶ SB20-106 was passed, making youth ages 15+ able to sign into shelters for those experiencing homelessness without parental consent (March 11, 2020)
- ▶ Changes to housing policy to create all-gender cabin and designate all single-use restrooms as all-gender. Changes to policy language to center trans* experiences and indicate individuals opposed can opt out by using single-use facilities. Gave best practices guides for eliciting pronouns and evaluating camp experience for all youth (February-April 2020 timeframe).
- ▶ Continuity of care for graduating seniors in two school districts allowing free mental-health care following graduation in 2020 due to increased risks of suicide (May-July 2020 timeframe).
- ▶ Changes in how arrested suspects who are trans* are described in arrest public notices (May-July 2020 timeframe).
- ▶ Implemented policy on credit requirements for swimming to include non-binary and trans students in one school district.
- ▶ Implemented policy on pronouns.

2020 Stats



- ▶ 49 LGBTQ101/102 or Trusted Adult trainings reaching 1,239 adults
- ▶ 31 presentations about LGBTQ+ youth reaching 2,460 adults
- ▶ Relaunched Safe at Schools Coalition to build more support for schools and parents
- ▶ Advocated and supported D11 in policy recommendation for All Gender restrooms
- ▶ Support and organize events in Transvisibility and Black Lives Matter



Moving Forward Upstream Prevention

Being Complicit



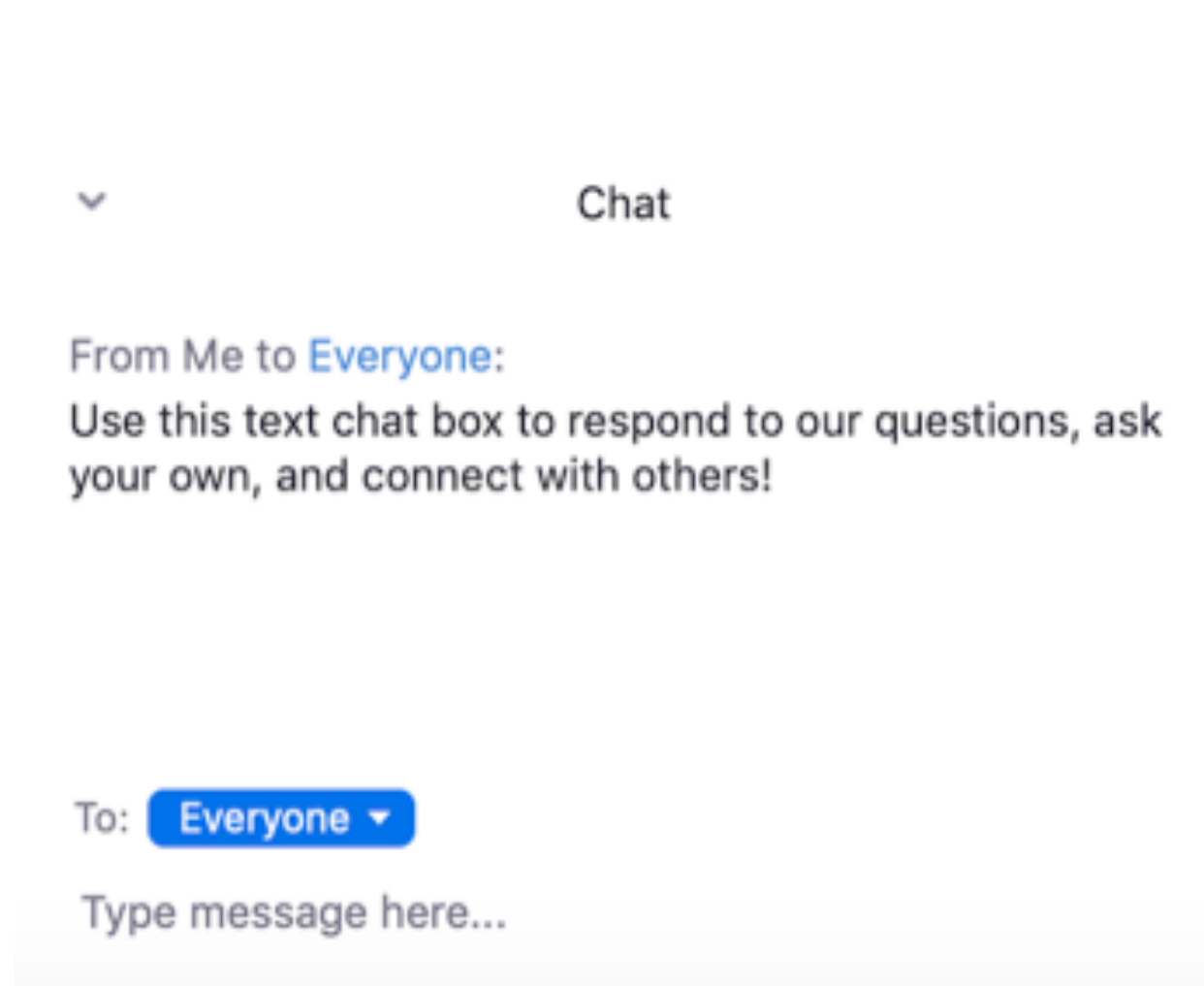
Allyship

Advocacy

Accomplice

How can you prioritize opportunities to expand and/or enhance centering LGBTQ+ communities in your work to prevent violence?

Text Chat Question



Meet Our Guests



Connor Hegel
LGBTQ Services Navigator,
SMYAL, MoCo Reconnect
he/him/his



Mariana Velazquez
Youth Housing Case Manager ETH,
SMYAL
she/her/hers

Safe Spaces

Healing

Awareness of
intersectionality

Education

Intentionality

Knowledge

Collaboration

Prevention beyond education

- ▶ 66% of Transgender youth have experienced sexual violence. (OVC)
- ▶ 40-60% of black women experience some form of sexual coercion before age 18. (National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community)
- ▶ Latinx LGBTQ youth were 30% more likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year compared to non-Latinx LGBTQ youth. (Trevor Project 2020)

Awareness

- ▶ Intersectionality and awareness of higher vulnerability in underserved populations
- ▶ Toxic masculinity within specific populations, understanding colonization ingrained stereotypes and behaviors.
- ▶ “Going above and beyond”

Gender Transformative Lens

- ▶ Gender Unaware
- ▶ Gender Defensive
- ▶ Gender Aware
- ▶ Gender Inclusive
- ▶ Gender Transformative

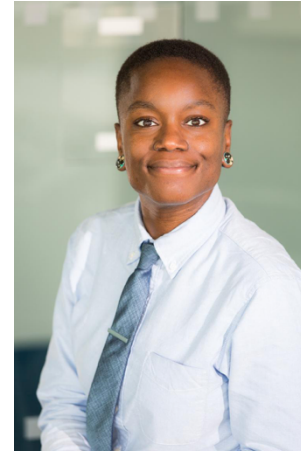
Healing trauma and prevention practices

- ▶ Services where independence and empowerment are created by providing safety and highlighting a sense of community
- ▶ Awareness of each individual's identities and awareness of own personal biases
- ▶ Comprehensive education about healthy sexuality
- ▶ Proactive community collaboration and advocacy

“THIS FEELS DIFFERENT, THIS FEELS SAFE”
-LGBTQ+ homeless youth-



What is



MASCULINITY?



| What are examples of masculinity? | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Strength | Dominance | Aggression | Sexual Experience |
| Size: Being Tall, Muscular | Stoicism | Lack of Empathy | Homophobia |

How Are These Traits Toxic?

- Men feel they must “prove” their masculinity, through misogyny, bullying, fighting, etc.
- Men are encouraged to not share their feelings, as a result, they don’t learn to communicate on an emotional level, and are unable to process feelings such as trauma or depression.
- Contributes to feelings and expectations of superiority, which can manifest as violence, discrimination, or resentment of groups they feel superior to, which can be women, the LGBTQ+ community, other racial or ethnic minority groups.
- “Boys will be boys,” means no consequences for actions, or teaching understanding and compassion

These societal norms pervade the LGBTQ+ community

- Gay men perpetuate misogynistic views of women and feel they are excluded from being misogynists because they are gay.
- LGBTQ+ youth see these stereotypes and it can create internal homophobia, disdain for effeminate gay men, transphobia and more.
- Children may be punished or shamed for acting in ways contrary to their gender assigned at birth, leading to stress, depression, and fear of coming out.
- Butch and trans youth are exploring their identities and often feel they must display these traits, and even over-exaggerate them to fit in and prove their masculinity.

How do we do better?

- Read and learn more about toxic masculinity, and how to identify these attitudes and behaviors.
- Lean into your discomfort. The things that bother us and we are most resistant to are often things we actually don't want to identify in ourselves.
- Call out (or in) toxic, sexist, misogynistic, homo/trans phobic displays when you see them. If you see something on TV, call it out. If you see a post online, make a comment.
- Let people know that it is okay to call you out if you say or do something offensive
- Have hard conversation about bullying, especially of LGBTQ+ youth. Just punishing someone for bullying an LGBTQ+ person, doesn't actually teach them why it is wrong.

How can you promote positive social norms and support LGBTQ+ youth resilience?

Text Chat Question



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To: **Everyone** ▼

Type message here...

Gender Transformative Work Beyond the Binary



Re Gupta
Sexual Violence Prevention
Program Coordinator,
Colorado Dept. Public Health
name - pronoun



Goddess Tyescha
Amplifier of Health Advocacy,
Inside Out Youth Services
they/she



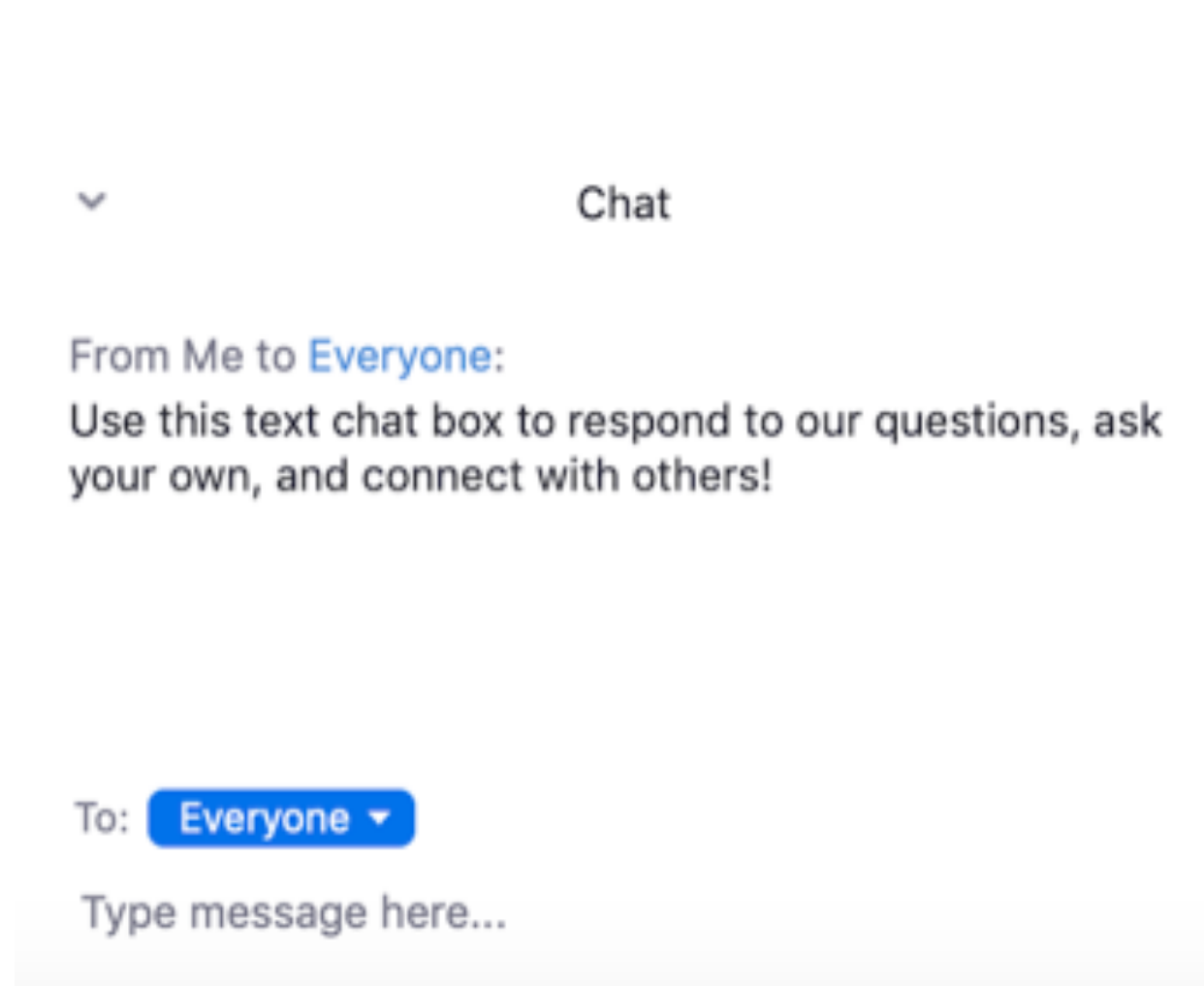
Connor Hegel
LGBTQ Services Navigator,
SMYAL, MoCo Reconnect
he/him/his



Mariana Velazquez
Youth Housing Case
Manager ETH,
SMYAL
she/her/hers

How can you influence systems change to create protective environments for LGBTQ+ youth?

Text Chat Question



March 31st - Trans Day of Visibility #TDOV



For more resources on healing and preventing trauma for trans/nonbinary communities, visit <https://forge-forward.org/>



prevent
connect
A ValorUS PROJECT

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PreventConnect.org/email – email group

Learn.PreventConnect.org – eLearning

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