

Take Action!

Advocacy and legal assistance:

ACLU - Lesbian & Gay Rights Project

www.aclu.org/getequal | 212-549-2627

Student and GSA resources:

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network

www.glsen.org | 212-727-0135

Know
 **Your** 
Rights

You Have The Right To

BE

YOURSELF

You Have Rights

If you experience any problems at school, first talk to your principal or another official. If nothing happens, it's time to take action.

HARASSMENT

If you are being harassed, or witness harassment, report it to the principal, a counselor, or another official immediately, and keep notes with dates and descriptions of all incidents and when you reported them. Being silent may seem easier, but it will not end the abuse, and you have the right to be yourself and safe.

PRIVACY

Teachers and other school officials do NOT have the right to “out” you to anyone without your permission or use your sexual orientation to manipulate you in any way.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Sometimes schools try to silence students who are open about their sexual orientation. If you go to a public school, you have a Constitutional right to be out of the closet and to express your opinions.

GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES

Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) are non-curricular student clubs, just like Chess Clubs or Key Clubs, that allow students with a common interest to get together and have discussions and activities. The law says public schools must allow GSAs if other student clubs exist.

PROM

Public schools cannot stop you from bringing a same-sex date to prom. Federal law protects this as freedom of expression, and you cannot be barred from prom because of your date's gender.