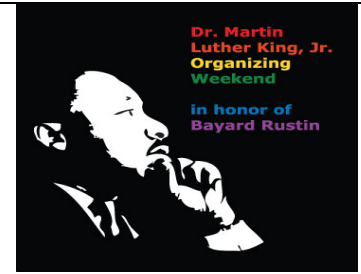


Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Organizing Weekend

In honor of Bayard Rustin



Vocabulary

Coalition: a diverse group of individuals and organizations that work together to reach a common goal.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: an African-American activist and prominent leader in the American civil rights movement. His main legacy was to secure progress on civil rights in the United States, and he is frequently referenced as a human rights icon today. He gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to over 200,000 people at the 1963 March on Washington.

Bayard Rustin: a close adviser to Martin Luther King, Jr., and he was the chief organizer of the famous March on Washington. In 1964 he directed a one-day student boycott of New York City's public schools in protest against racial imbalances in that system.

Together their work led to many different communities coming together and forming broad-based coalitions that supported the Civil Rights Movement.

For more great information about

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Organizing Weekend
In Honor of
Bayard Rustin**

And to REGISTER
In order to receive
Resources, information
and products, check out:

www.dayofsilence.org/mlk

What is it?

Purpose:

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Organizing Weekend in honor of Bayard Rustin is a chance for students and student clubs to co-organize activities or trainings on coalition building, networking, organizing and social justice. This action is a powerful weekend bringing the experiences and work of people with varying identities together to form coalitions. A master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard Rustin is best remembered as the organizer of the famous 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest nonviolent protests ever held in the United States. We hope that you, your Gay-Straight Alliance or other student club(s), and/or community groups will utilize this Day of Action to further your understanding of how other social justice movements can be in concert with the safe schools movement.

Principles:

Here are some of the guiding principles you can use to help frame your message, tone and goals for the weekend.

- "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." (King)
- Develop a coalition to increase communication between groups, break down stereotypes, plan and launch school/community-wide efforts, and create social change.
- Develop a coalition when disturbing or dramatic events occur in a community, when new information becomes known, when a group wishes to create broad, significant community change or to respond to outside threats to a community.

Making a Difference:

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Organizing Weekend in honor of Bayard Rustin is an opportunity for you to stand up for the rights of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Based on the coalition-building model that Bayard Rustin and Dr. King used, student clubs can take part in this Day of Action to commemorate the Civil Rights Movement while also organizing for safer schools for all students. From having a viewing of "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" film, to hosting a panel discussion on issues regarding people of color, there are several different types of events that you can organize in your school and local community.

Helpful stats from to GLSEN's 2007 National School Climate Survey:

48.2% of youth of color reported that they had experienced verbal harassment based on both their sexual orientation and race/ethnicity.

43.6% of female youth of color reported that they had experienced verbal harassment based on their race/ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.

14.3% of youth of color reported that they felt unsafe in school based on their race/ethnicity compared to 3.0% of white youth.

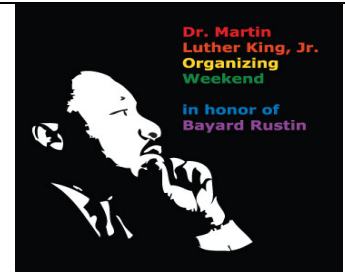
35.1% of youth of color reported that they were more likely to miss school in the past month because they felt unsafe compared to 26.2% of white youth.

See the 2007 National School Climate Survey, www.glsen.org/research.



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Who will you work with?

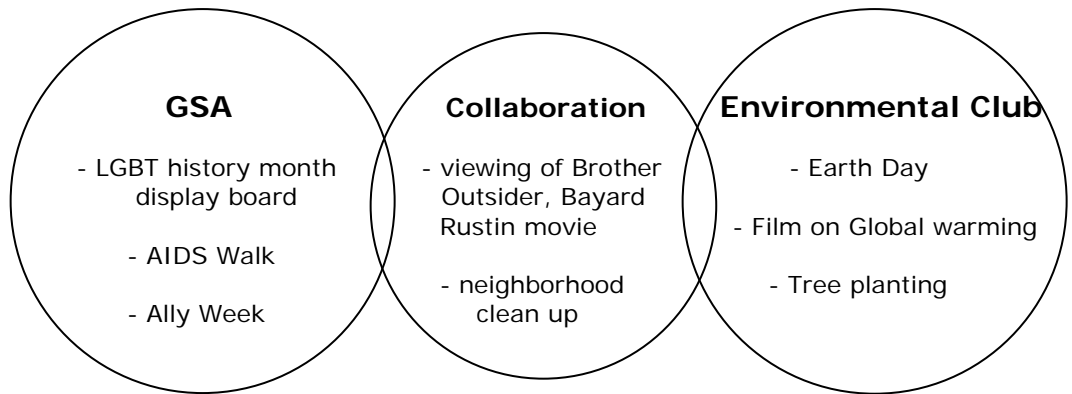
- GLSEN Chapters
- Groups of People with Disabilities
- Jump-Start National Student Leadership Team
- Labor Organizing Groups
- Local Community Groups
 - People of Color Community Groups
 - PFLAG Chapters
- Local Spiritual Groups
- Groups for Retired Citizens
- Other Safer Schools Groups
- Other School Clubs (from your school or other schools including Amnesty Clubs, Diversity Clubs, other identity based clubs)

What can you do?

What have students done in their own school?

Below you will find examples of ways your student club can organize with another group in or outside of the school. If you have any questions, check out: www.dayofsilence.org/mlk for more information. If you would like to get in touch with a student in your region that might be able to help you organize your event, check out www.studentorganizing.org for a list of Jump-Start Student Organizers who can provide many types of support. Also, if you are interested in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Organizing Weekend in honor of Bayard Rustin materials like stickers or buttons, check www.dayofsilence.org/mlk.

GSA & Environmental club



GSA & Spanish Club

