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## Youth Across the Country to Remember Slain Teen Lawrence King

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

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### YOUTH ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO REMEMBER SLAIN TEEN LAWRENCE KING

**Vigils will take place in Los Angeles and around the country on February 12**

Register online for vigils in your area

February 12th, 2010 marks the second anniversary of the murder of Lawrence King, an eighth-grader from Ventura, CA, who in 2008 was shot and killed by a classmate because of his perceived sexual orientation and gender expression.

**WHAT:** Local organizations, youth, and community groups are holding vigils and other events to remember Lawrence King, honor his life, and raise awareness about preventing violence and bullying in our schools.

**WHERE & WHEN:** GSA Network will be holding a vigil in Los Angeles on February 12. See [www.gsanetwork.org/lawrenceking](http://www.gsanetwork.org/lawrenceking) [2] for details about this vigil. For information on vigils taking place around the country, visit [www.rememberinglawrence.org](http://www.rememberinglawrence.org) [3].

**WHY:** King's tragic story highlights the need for strong laws, policies, and programs to keep our young people safe. His death is not an isolated incident and it underscores a broader problem of bullying and harassment in our schools based on actual and perceived sexual orientation and gender expression.

A 2007 study conducted by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) found

that more than 9 out of 10 LGBT middle school students surveyed (91%) said they experienced harassment at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation, 59% experienced physical harassment and a startling 39% said they had been physically assaulted, nearly twice as many as in high school (20%). That same study found that more than 8 out of 10 LGBT middle school students (82%) reported hearing homophobic epithets frequently or often from other students in school -- a higher percentage than high school students (73%). Perhaps most shocking, 63% of LGBT middle school students had heard school staff make homophobic remarks.??

Support provided by:

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, ([GLAAD](#) [4]); [GSA Network](#) [5]; Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network ([GLSEN](#) [6]); [Ventura County Rainbow Alliance](#) [7]; Human Rights Campaign ([HRC](#) [8]); National Center for Lesbian Rights ([NCLR](#) [9]); [Equality California](#) [10]

Press Release

<http://www.gsanetwork.org/lawrenceking> [11]

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#### Links

- [1] <mailto:carolyn@gsanetwork.org>
- [2] <http://gsanetwork.org/lawrenceking>
- [3] <http://www.rememberinglawrence.org>
- [4] <http://www.glaad.org>
- [5] <http://gsanetwork.org/>
- [6] <http://www.glsen.org>
- [7] <http://www.lgbtventura.org>
- [8] <http://www.hrc.org>
- [9] <http://www.nclrights.org>
- [10] <http://www.eqca.org>
- [11] <http://www.gsanetwork.org/lawrenceking>