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## History and Accomplishments



**GSA Network was founded in 1998 to empower youth activists to start GSA clubs to fight homophobia and transphobia in schools.**

GSA Network founder Carolyn Laub began working with 40 GSA clubs in the San Francisco Bay Area during the 1998-99 school year. The organization quickly expanded and by 2001 GSA Network became a statewide organization. By 2005, GSA Network began operating programs nationally.

In 2008, GSA Network became incorporated as its own independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Prior to that, GSA Network was a fiscally sponsored project of The Tides Center.

In 2015, GSA Network's Board of Directors, hired two long time staff to serve as Co-Executive Directors to replace outgoing founder and Executive Director Carolyn Laub. In 2016, Gay-Straight Alliance Network formally changed its name to Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network, and continues to network organizations representing over 4000 GSA clubs across the nation.

# Key Accomplishments

Since our founding in 1998, GSA Network has:

- Grown the network of GSA clubs in California from 40 clubs to over 900 clubs.
- Brought GSA clubs to over 61% of all California public high schools and a growing number of middle schools, impacting more than 1.1 million students.
- Provided training and support to over 10,000 youth activists and organizers across the state.
- Served over 30,000 student members.
- Played a leadership role in grassroots organizing for the passage of ground-breaking, statewide legislation, [AB 537](#) <sup>[1]</sup>: The California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Achieved a critical victory as plaintiff in the first lawsuit filed under AB 537; the three-year settlement agreement required the Visalia schools to enact sweeping reforms including mandatory teacher and student trainings.
- Helped to pass 11 [key laws](#) <sup>[2]</sup> to protect LGBT youth and create safer schools.
- Launched the [National Association of GSA Networks](#) <sup>[3]</sup> in 2005 to unite statewide organizations supporting GSAs and accelerate the growth and impact of the GSA movement nationwide. To date, 40 states have joined the National Association.
- Developed a unique, replicable model of youth-led social justice organizing to end homophobia and transphobia in schools that groups in New Mexico, Texas, and other states are using.
- Currently GSA clubs are uniting trans and queer youth to fight for racial and gender justice

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## Links

[1] <http://gsanetwork.org/resources/legal-resources/ab-537-fact-sheet>

[2] <http://gsanetwork.org/get-involved/change-california/change-law>

[3] <http://gsanetwork.org/national-directory>