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[Home](#) > 40+ organizations join GSA Network's Make It Better Project

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## 40+ organizations join GSA Network's Make It Better Project

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LGBT and ally organizations across the country unite under GSA Network's**

## **MAKE IT BETTER PROJECT**

**A nationwide effort to combat anti-LGBT bullying and prevent suicide**

San Francisco, October 8, 2010 - [The Make It Better Project](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, launched by Gay-Straight Alliance Network in response to recent LGBT youth suicides, is gaining momentum across the country as **more than 40 organizations endorse**. Actions are planned in 29 locations to remember the youth who have died and call on Congress to pass the federal Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act.

Inspired by columnist Dan Savage's *It Gets Better* video campaign, GSA Network launched the Make It Better Project to give youth and adults the tools they need to combat anti-LGBT bullying and make schools safer for LGBT youth right now. The Make It Better Project includes a [website](#) <sup>[2]</sup> and [YouTube](#) <sup>[3]</sup> channel where students and adults can upload video messages to share what they are doing to Make It Better. You can also follow the project on [Twitter](#) <sup>[4]</sup> and [Facebook](#) <sup>[5]</sup>.

"As a gay youth who has been bullied at school, I am calling on youth and adults around the country to join the Make It Better Project and put a stop to anti-LGBT bullying," said Isaiah Baiseri, 17, a GSA Network youth activist who spoke out about bullying and suicide on the Dr. Phil show this Wednesday. "Schools should be safe for every student. Please don't wait until another LGBT youth dies to do your part to Make It Better."

The Make It Better Project includes a Week of Action, with **29 events planned so far around the country**. Visit the Make It Better Project website for a list of events.

On Tuesday, October 12th, members of the 40+ endorsing organizations will unite to call Congress, urging their representatives to pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act. October 12th is the anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old who was tortured and killed in Laramie, Wyoming on October 12, 1998.

"Our community has suffered a terrible loss in the past month, as numerous LGBT young people have taken their own lives after relentless bullying, including Raymond Chase, Seth Walsh, Asher Brown, Billy Lucas, and Tyler Clementi, to name just a few. These tragic and preventable deaths have made headlines across the country, serving as a wake up call to people everywhere," said Carolyn Laub, Executive Director of GSA Network, who launched the Make It Better Project. "We can't afford to wait another day, and lose another life, to the epidemic of anti-LGBT bullying in our schools. This is the moment for all of us -- students, parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and elected officials to do everything in our power to make schools safer for LGBT youth."

**The Make It Better Project is sponsored by [GSA Network](#)**<sup>[6]</sup>. GSA Network empowers youth to fight homophobia and transphobia in school by training youth activists and supporting student-led Gay-Straight Alliance clubs in California and throughout the country.

**The Make It Better Project is endorsed by:**

GLSEN  
GLAAD  
PFLAG  
Lambda Legal  
COLAGE  
ACLU of Northern California  
Marriage Equality USA  
Transgender Law Center  
GroundSpark  
Safe Schools Coalition  
Equality California  
Equality Federation  
LA Gay & Lesbian Center - Family Services Program  
Advocates For Youth  
NYAC  
Gender Justice LA  
GLBTQ Online High School  
Californians for Justice  
Youth Pride, Inc.  
Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition  
Gay City Health Project

SMYRC  
Scenarios USA  
Safe Schools South Florida  
SF LGBT Center  
Our Family Coalition  
Outright Vermont  
GSA for Safe Schools  
Pacific Center  
Billy DeFrank Center  
Rainbow Health Initiative  
TransActive  
LIGALY  
Youth Suicide Prevention Program  
University of Washington Q Center  
Mass Equality  
Campus Progress  
Jer's Vision  
Youth Leadership Institute  
Friends of Project 10  
Break the Cycle  
Illinois Safe Schools Alliance  
Courage Campaign  
Family Equality Council  
Harmony Cafe  
Diversity Center  
Mazzoni Center  
People for the American Way  
Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA)

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<http://www.makeitbetterproject.org> <sup>[7]</sup>

Press Release  
GSA Network

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#### Links

- [1] <mailto:carolyn@gsanetwork.org>
- [2] <http://makeitbetterproject.org/>
- [3] <http://www.youtube.com/makeitbetterproject>
- [4] <http://twitter.com/makeitbetterGSA>
- [5] <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Make-It-Better-Project/151446444894778>
- [6] <https://gsanetwork.org/>

[7] <http://www.makeitbetterproject.org>