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## Nationwide effort to combat bullying grows

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Nationwide effort to combat anti-LGBT bullying grows Trevor Project is latest to endorse Gay-Straight Alliance Network?s [MAKE IT BETTER PROJECT](#)<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup>  
San Francisco, October 13, 2010 ? **More than 70 organizations have now endorsed the Make It Better Project, a new initiative launched by Gay-Straight Alliance Network in response to recent LGBT youth suicides.** The Trevor Project is the latest group to join The Make It Better Project, following GLSEN, HRC, and many more of the nation?s largest LGBT organizations.

Members of the 70+ organizations joined forces on Tuesday in a nationwide effort to call Congress, urging lawmakers to pass the federal Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act.

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. Columnist Dan Savage?s ?It Gets Better,? video campaign, inspired the project.

**The Make It Better Project includes a [website](#)<sup>[1]</sup> and [YouTube channel](#)<sup>[2]</sup>** where students and adults can upload video messages to share what they are doing to combat bullying and make schools safer. New videos are being added every day. The website offers a collection of resources and action steps for youth and adults who want to address bullying and prevent suicide. You can follow the project on [Twitter](#)<sup>[3]</sup> and [Facebook](#).<sup>[4]</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 month. ?Schools should be safe for every student. Please don?t wait until another LGBT youth dies to do your part to Make It Better.?

?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.** 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:**

ACLU of Northern California  
Add Verb Productions  
Advocates For Youth  
Billy DeFrank Center  
Break the Cycle  
Broward Human Rights Initiative  
California NOW  
Californians for Justice  
Campus Progress  
COLAGE  
Courage Campaign  
Deaf Queer Resource Center  
Diversity Center  
Equality California  
Equality Federation  
Family Equality Council  
FIERCE  
Friends of Project 10  
Gay City Health Project  
Gender Justice LA  
GLAAD  
GLBTQ Online High School  
GLSEN  
Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA)

GroundSpark  
GSA for Safe Schools  
Harmony Cafe  
HRC  
Illinois Safe Schools Alliance  
Ingersoll Gender Center  
Jer's Vision  
Keshet  
LA Gay & Lesbian Center - Family Services Program  
Lambda Legal  
LIGALY  
Marriage Equality USA  
Mass Equality  
Mazzoni Center  
No H8  
NYAC  
One Colorado  
One Iowa  
Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition  
Our Family Coalition  
Out Media  
Outright Vermont  
Pacific Center  
People for the American Way  
PFLAG  
Queers for Economic Justice  
Rainbow Health Initiative  
Safe Schools Coalition  
Safe Schools South Florida  
Scarleteen  
Scenarios USA  
SF LGBT Center  
SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US)  
SMYRC  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Stonewall Democratic Club of Southern Nevada  
Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition  
Trans Mentors  
TransActive  
Transgender Law Center  
Trevor Project  
University of Washington Q Center  
Utah QSA Network  
We Are The Youth  
Welcoming Schools/HRC Family Project

Youth Leadership Institute  
Youth Pride, Inc.  
Youth Suicide Prevention Program

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Oct. 13, 2010  
Press Release

<http://www.makeitbetterproject.org> <sup>[1]</sup>

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**Source URL:** <https://gsanetwork.org/news/nationwide-effort-combat-bullying-grows/101310#comment-0>

#### **Links**

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

[2] <http://www.youtube.com/makeitbetterproject>

[3] <http://twitter.com/makeitbetterGSA>

[4] <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Make-It-Better-Project/151446444894778>

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