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Mar. 25, 2014 ? Carolyn

**Stop the
#School2Prison
Pipeline.**

**Start a
#GSAs4Justice
Campaign.**

unite.gsanetwork.org



[1]

In November 2013, Jewlyes Gutierrez, a transgender student from California, was charged with assault for defending herself against bullying at school. A year earlier, Dynasty Young in Indiana was expelled for bringing a stun gun to school after enduring months of harassment based on his sexual orientation and gender expression.

These high-profile cases ? and the countless others happening across the country ? never should have gone so far.

Today, [GSA Network launched a #GSAs4Justice campaign](#) [2] so that your GSA can demand that restorative justice, not jail, is the FIRST approach your district uses to resolve incidents of bias-based bullying.

We often hear about bullying in schools, but the anti-bullying and zero tolerance policies adopted in response pose just as much of a danger for LGBTQ youth of color. Together, hostile school environments and extreme disciplinary policies create a school-to-prison pipeline for youth of color, youth with disabilities, and LGBTQ youth, telling them that their lives are disposable and that simply trying to get an education carries a risk of jail time. LGBTQ youth make up just 5-7% of the youth population, but represent 15% of those in the juvenile justice system.

Last Thursday, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the Opportunity to Learn Campaign, and the Advancement Project jointly released a toolkit highlighting restorative approaches as a best practice and providing guidance to administrators and educators on implementing them.

Today, you can [start a campaign](http://unite.gsanetwork.org/efforts/push-for-restorative-justice) ^[1] demanding that restorative approaches, as outlined in the toolkit, be implemented in your school. Go to: <http://unite.gsanetwork.org/efforts/push-for-restorative-justice> ^[1]

[Share the campaign on Facebook](#) ^[3] or [share the campaign on Twitter](#) ^[4]!

Source URL: <https://gsanetwork.org/news/blog/GSAs4Justice-Campaign>

Links

[1] <http://unite.gsanetwork.org/efforts/push-for-restorative-justice>

[2] <https://gsanetwork.org/news/GSAs4Justice-Campaign>

[3] <http://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http://www.gsanetwork.org/news/blog/GSAs4Justice-Campaign>

[4] <http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=%23GSAs4Justice+demand+an+end+to+the+%23school2prison+pipeline!+Join+the>
<http://bit.ly/1hWIMMf>