



GSA Day 4 Gender Justice 2020

Discussion Guide

Hi there! Welcome to our discussion guide for this year's GSA Day 4 GJ. Please use this as you prepare to host a virtual GSA club meeting and discussion; we're excited for you to join our conversation about abolition. We've included a letter to prepare yourself, example discussion questions and prompts, TRUTH's Nine-Point Platform, and other resources we have compiled.

Content includes:

- I. Letter to GSA Leaders
- II. Discussion Topics and Questions
- III. National Trans Youth Council Nine-Point Platform Text
- IV. Abolition Resources



To the leaders of the movement,

In November 2018, our members launched, drafted, and published the National Trans Youth Council's Nine-Point Platform, outlining the nine social justice areas that our work for trans liberation is led and informed by. You are able to read and hear more about our thought process for the platform at ourtranstruth.org/gsaday4gj18.

This GSA Day for Gender Justice, we uplift and center our second point which reads: **We call for the abolition of police, ICE, borders, and the judicial system.** This day of action is about calling for the abolition of the police, the abolition of borders and ICE, the abolition of the current punishment-based justice system. We demand our communities to be empowered to take care of themselves, for no borders, for transformative and healing justice.

This discussion guide is offered to GSA clubs and similar organizations who are interested in holding space and conversation on GSA Day for Gender Justice. This guide outlines various discussion points to kick off and sustain a conversation with your community addressing some important questions like *What is abolition? What does this topic have to do with trans liberation?* This guide is not meant to follow question by question, but to offer a reference point for leaders who want to shape the best and most productive conversation for your organization.

We believe in your power to hold space and conversation and we know that it is young leaders like us who are changing this world.

Happy GSA Day for Gender Justice!

In solidarity,
National Trans Youth Council

Discussion Guide

Opening the space (5-10 minutes)

Notes for facilitator: Be sure to open the space with these questions. It offers folks the chance to name the state of their heart, mind, and body it encourages participants to either share out loud or in the chat box. We recognize there are a lot of outside worldly conditions that are impacting folks at this moment. The world has an impact on us and how we navigate potentially heavy conversations. Remember to thank everyone for sharing!

Ask folks to share “What is your name and pronouns?”

What is in your heart, mind, and body? Or One word how are you feeling?

Share the theme of this year’s day of action + Community Agreements (5 minutes)

Notes for facilitator: Remind folks that because of the nature of the theme some conversations might be a lot. Let folks know to make space for themselves if needed. It would be good to come up with community agreements you all would like to follow as you share space together. We included some examples as a good starting point!

This year the theme of the year is **We Call for the abolition of the police, ICE, borders, and the judicial system.** [TRUTH’s website reads](#): We demand abolition! Abolition of the police, the abolition of borders and ICE, the abolition of the current punishment-based justice system. We demand our communities to be empowered to take care of themselves, for no borders, for rehabilitation and healing justice. Abolition is a process that we are committed to fighting for

What Community Agreements do we want to have in this space?

- **Make Space, Take Space** (Make sure everyone is mindful of the space they take up and allow for others to share)
- **Speak from “I”** (We want to make sure we are all speaking from “I” to not make generalizations about people)
- **Consider Power** (We all come from different walks of life and want to ensure we recognize the privileges we hold)
- **Put up a “v” or say “vocab check”** (For vocabulary check! People might say words others do not know and this would be a good practice to make sure everyone is on the same page)

Discussion Questions (30 minutes)

1. What does abolition mean to you?
2. Why is abolition a queer and trans issue?
3. How can staff and faculty at y(our) school best support trans students to end the school to prison pipeline? What resources should they offer?
4. Do you live near a detention center, jail, prison? Who is funding? How much funding are they being provided with?
5. Are there alternatives that exist in your community instead of calling the police? If not, what resources need to exist?
6. What does it mean to be in the community? How do we build community with our neighbors to take action if harm happens?
7. In lieu of police, how can we build a world in which every individual of every community preemptively and proactively participates in the safety and wellbeing of everyone within their community?
8. How can we support folks that are currently in prisons and or detention centers?

Feel free to think of more questions to add below

9.

10.

Manifesto Text

National Trans Youth Council: Nine Point Platform

We, the National TRUTH Council of 2017-18, draft this document in the radical tradition of creating manifests in order to define our revolution and achieve liberation. The manifesto was inspired by and builds upon the Black Panther Party's Ten-Point Program, the Young Lord's 12 Point Program and Platform, and the Third World Gay Revolution. The platform is not a static document, but a living one, so that it may be updated and changed to reflect the council's increasing understanding of the systems of oppression and the changes in the language we use to describe both ourselves and these systems.

We are in a moment that calls for us to bravely and ferociously fight for our communal liberation. At this moment, in the name of our transgender and gender nonconforming ancestors who struggled before us, in our blood, bones, and our spirits, we claim our right to exist and our future victory with these frameworks to guide our own work and the work of future generations on our collective, continuous journey towards liberation.

1. **We Call for the Right to Self-Determination and Control of Our Destinies**

We as trans youth have the right to control our narratives, spaces, and all aspects of our lives. Resources to achieve this trans empowerment must be made more readily accessible and available.

2. **We Call for the Abolition of the Police, ICE, Borders and the Judicial System**

We demand abolition! Abolition of the police, abolition of borders and ICE, abolition of the current punishment-based justice system. We demand for our communities to be empowered to take care of themselves, for no borders, for rehabilitation and healing justice. Abolition is a process that we are committed to fighting for.

3. **We Call for an End to Disposability Politics and a Commitment to Transformative Justice**

We believe in establishing a culture of accountability that is transformative in nature and creates an opportunity for growth. We must take responsibility and hold space for the collective well-being and unity of our people.

4. **We Call for an End of the Cisgender Heterosexual Patriarchy**

We recognize that the current state of the world centralizes the stories of white cisgender heterosexual men. We call for the end of a social structure that separates or determines the value of people on gender expectations from historical Europe. We demand that queer and/or TGNC people no longer be oppressed by these frameworks,

institutions, and their enablers.

5. **We call for Decolonization and Reparations for all Indigenous and Black Peoples**

We call for the payment of reparations that are owed and the reclamation of cultural practices by the communities from which they originated. We call for the active and complacent perpetrators of cultural appropriation and colonization to be held accountable and to recognize the privilege they maintain through the oppression of others.

6. **We Call for Comprehensive Education that Reflects our Histories and Needs**

We call for the use of informed educational practices that provide access to curriculum to help build opportunities for historically erased peoples. We call for free and non-compulsory education for all ages and for all access levels.

7. **We Call for an End to Global White Supremacy**

We call for the end of this racist system that profits off of the devaluing of Black people, Indigenous people and all other people of color. We believe in exposing the history of global white supremacy and its discriminatory practices.

8. **We Call for Land Justice and Environmental Justice**

We call for the recognition and Indigenous reclamation of stolen lands. We call for conscious creation through choosing to stay local and sustainable, remembering that our actions last for generations.

9. **We Invite our Comrades, Accomplices and Allies to Join Us**

We invite our comrades in struggle who align with our principles, including those who have yet to self-determine their relationship to the struggle, to join us in solidarity, coalition, and liberation -- remembering the revolution is a relationship.

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Abolition Resources

We have compiled a list of different resources for you to check out! It is important to continue our political education around abolition. Be sure to check them out! There is also space at the end to add additional resources.

Books

Title: *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color*

By: Andrea J. Ritchie

Title: *Are Prisons Obsolete?*

Author: Angela Davis

Title: *Missing Daddy*

By: Mariame Kaba

Title: *Prison By Any Other Name*

By: Maya Schenwar and Victoria Law

Title: *The New Jims Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

Author: Michelle Alexander

Websites and Organizations

Alternatives to Policing based on Disability Justice

<https://abolitionanddisabilityjustice.com/>

Black and Pink

<https://www.blackandpink.org/>

Critical Resistance



<http://criticalresistance.org/>

Letters to Political Prisoners

<https://www.lettersforfreedom.com/>

LGBTQ Youth and School Pushout resource at GSA Network

<https://gsanetwork.org/resources/lgbtq-youth-and-school-pushout/>

Additional Resources

Type	Name	Notes