



# RACIAL JUSTICE



[www.gsanetwork.org/gsaday](http://www.gsanetwork.org/gsaday)

## Overview

National GSA Day for Racial Justice [Feb. 23] is an annual Day of Action to mobilize GSAs for racial justice. This year the National Youth Council is highlighting the impacts of the prison industrial complex (PIC) on trans and queer youth of color.

Across the country, young people will be using **ART & SOLIDARITY** to shine a light on the prison industrial complex, and its horrific, unfair, and intentional impact on trans and queer youth of color. They'll be sharing this art via social media using the hashtags:

**#FreeOurFolks**  
**#GSADay4RJ**

## Background

The Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) is the overlapping, inter-connected system of incarceration, including state and federal prisons, county jails, military prisons, Native American jails, immigrant detention facilities that benefit economically from society's ill-gotten belief that imprisonment is the best way to rehabilitate people who exist or engage outside of "legal" social, economic and political norms. LGBTQ youth, particularly LGBTQ youth of color, face discrimination and stigma that lead to criminalization and increased interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Youth of color, in particular black youth, are disproportionately more likely to be in the juvenile justice system; black youth are four times as likely as white youth to be incarcerated, Latino youth are 1.5 times as likely to be incarcerated, and Native American youth were nearly three times as likely to be incarcerated—with even greater disparities in some states. Additionally, transgender and gender nonconforming youth are frequently placed in facilities that do not match their gender identity, placing them at greater risk for harassment, violence, and sexual assault.

## The Impact of the PIC is real!

- 85-90% of incarcerated LGBTQ youth are youth of color
- Nearly 40% of incarcerated girls identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual
- In a survey of seven juvenile detention & correctional facilities across the United States, 20% of incarcerated youth identified as LGBT or gender nonconforming.
- Of all youth incarcerated in juvenile detention & correctional facilities in the juvenile justice system, half of those reporting sexual assault identified facility staff as their assailant.
- Research finds that a majority of juvenile justice professionals do not understand the medical needs of transgender youth.



## Resources



- **LGBTQ Youth of Color: Discipline Disparities, School Push-Out, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline** - A research brief for schools, youth, and organizations to use when engaging others on issues affecting LGBTQ Youth of Color in schools. Strategies were developed and compiled by youth experts and researchers in the field of educational justice. [gsanetwork.org/Pushout-Report](http://gsanetwork.org/Pushout-Report)
- **Gender Nonconforming Youth: Discipline Disparities, School Push-Out, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline** - A research brief for schools, youth, and organizations to use when engaging others on issues affecting Gender Nonconforming Youth in schools. Strategies were developed and compiled by youth experts and researchers in the field of educational justice. [gsanetwork.org/Pushout-Report](http://gsanetwork.org/Pushout-Report)
- **School Discipline Disparities Recommendations** - Recommendations based on new research from GSA Network and Crossroads Collaborative that found lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, gender nonconforming youth, and youth of color not only face bullying and harassment from peers, but also harsh and disparate discipline from school staff, relatively higher levels of policing and surveillance, and blame for their own victimization. [gsanetwork.org/Pushout-Report](http://gsanetwork.org/Pushout-Report)

## Organizations

- **Black & Pink** is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing. [www.blackandpink.org](http://www.blackandpink.org)
- **BreakOUT!** seeks to end the criminalization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth to build a safer and more just New Orleans. BreakOUT! envisions a city where transgender, gender non-conforming, and queer youth of color can live without fear of harassment and discrimination. [www.youthbreakout.org](http://www.youthbreakout.org)
- **Critical Resistance** seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe. We believe that basic necessities such as food, shelter, and freedom are what really make our communities secure. [criticalresistance.org](http://criticalresistance.org)
- **Freeing Ky** seeks to support Ky Peterson's fight for freedom. Justice for Ky Peterson, a Black transgender man sentenced to 20 years in prison for defending himself against sexual assault. [freeingky.com](http://freeingky.com)
- **The New Narrative Project** aims to be a bridge between incarcerated young people and self-determination. The New Narrative Project was developed in partnership with Proud Theater, the Madison Public School District, GSAFE, The JVN Project and the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center. [www.gsafewi.org/the-new-narrative](http://www.gsafewi.org/the-new-narrative)
- **Rise for Youth** is a nonpartisan campaign in support of community alternatives to youth incarceration. [www.riseforyouth.org](http://www.riseforyouth.org)

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