



## **Our Stories, Our Voices**

### **Trans and Queer Youth Power: Right to Self-Determination and Control of Our Destinies**

GSA Network's National Gathering is an annual event that brings together LGBTQ+ youth and social justice organizers from across the country to develop a national movement for racial and gender justice.

National Gathering 2019 will take place on July 25-28 in Albuquerque, NM and will be co-hosted with The Mountain Center, a member of the National Association of GSA Networks.

This year, GSA Network has chosen to follow the TRUTH Nine-Point Platform to develop this year's theme. The focus will be TRUTH's first point: we call for the right to self-determination and control of our destinies.

As young queer and transgender organizers, we know our power; it was the same power Sylvia Rivera embodied at 17 years old and Marsha P. Johnson at 24 years old during the Stonewall Riots. We also contain the magic and ancestral knowledge to be leaders in the movement for liberation. In calling for the right to self-determination and control of our destinies, we demand respect, trust, support, resources, and grace in our journeys toward the futures we choose for ourselves. Together, self-determination for our communities means a future without borders and without limits. Self-determination looks like telling our own stories and uplifting the narratives that have been historically silenced. We embody that today in our work and we will embody this every day until we see justice.

### **Request for Workshop Proposals**

We are seeking workshop proposals that are centered on this year's theme as well as other topics that support our conference goals, including youth organizing and leadership, LGBTQ+ justice and advocacy, and organizational development.

*If you are interested in leading a workshop, please submit a proposal to GSA Network by **July 1, 2019**. Selected workshops will be notified by **July 10th, 2019**.*

### Conference Goals:

- Give trans, queer and allied young people the necessary knowledge to create and sustain GSA clubs and organize for safe schools and healthier communities
- Support organizational staff in their development as leaders and activists by sharing best practices from their communities
- Network, share resources, identify movement trends, and strengthen ties between member groups
- Provide a space in which the multiple oppressions faced by youth are addressed
- Help staff and/or volunteers of the National Association member organizations to create and strengthen partnerships with trans and queer youth
- Empower youth through leadership development, community organizing, and movement building

### Workshop Guidelines:

We strive to make National Gathering an inclusive space that adapts to the various ways that young people learn best. **Young people are strongly encouraged to present and lead workshops.** We will give priority to workshop proposals that are youth-led, youth-focused, youth-friendly, interactive, and intergenerational. Workshops should also address different aspects of this year's theme, the right to self-determination and control of our destinies. The workshop should last for approximately 60 minutes. Workshops should also accommodate up to 30 participants. Markers and butcher paper will be provided. Presenters should be prepared to provide additional materials for their workshops as needed.

Some examples of workshop topics include:

#### Identities and School Push-Out

- Undocumented Youth
- Systems of Faith and Religious Power
- Ableism
- Decolonization and Indigenous Identities
- Asian Pacific Islanders and Push Out

#### Organizational/GSA Development

- Fundraising for your GSA/Organization
- GSA Leadership Transition
- GSAs Vision for Social Justice

#### Organizing Strategies

- Arts Activism and GSA Organizing
- Rural Organizing
- Creating Coalitions
- Intergenerational Collaboration

#### Campaigns and Education

- Safe & Supportive Schools Policy
- Working on Policy Implementation
- Educational Campaigns
- Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

**I want to lead a workshop at National Gathering 2019!**

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Role in organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Presenters:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit your proposal in a separate document and be sure to include the following information:**

- Workshop title
- Workshop topic(s) to be addressed
- Materials Needed
- Length: 60 minutes
- 50-word description of your workshop to be included in Conference Program
- An outline of the content of your workshop. Please describe how your workshop will be interactive and inclusive. Please also indicate whether your workshop will be youth-led or adult-led.

- My workshop is (select **one**): \_\_\_\_\_ **Youth-led** \_\_\_\_\_ **Adult-led**

Return this form to: **LuzMarina Serrano, Associate Director**  
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