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Make it Real

GSA Network's Make It Real Campaign is where students take action to ensure your school or school district actually follows and fully implements the state non-discrimination law prohibiting harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. It's not enough to have the law on the books. We need to Make It Real!

Get educated about your rights

First, learn about your rights [1] under the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000.

Learn how to file a complaint [2] about harassment or discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Is the law being followed at your school?
If your answer is no, then launch GSA Network's Make It Real campaign.

- Download our Make It Real Campaign Guide [3] (4 pages)
- Download our complete Make It Real Student Organizing Manual [4] (71 pages)

Get your campaign started:

1. **Do your homework (research).** If you think there's a pattern of discrimination or harassment at your school, you will likely have to prove it.
2. **Poster & flyer campaign:** Educate through art! Plaster the hallways with educational posters and pass out flyers during lunch that explain what students' rights are at school.

3. **Organize peer-to-peer trainings** about the law and what the school can do to protect students from discrimination and harassment. Ask your teacher if you can hold these trainings during class or hold them during GSA meetings and invite everyone to attend.
4. **Organize or advocate for a teacher/staff training.** Educate the adults in your school on issues important to LGBTQ and ally youth and train them how to intervene when they see harassment taking place.
5. **Change your school district's policy.** Fight for your school district to pass and commit to carrying out a non-discrimination policy that includes actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.
6. **Circulate a petition.** Gather student and staff signatures and show your principal how many people want your schools to be safer.
7. **Organize a speak-out.** Host an open mic where students can talk about their experiences and discuss what needs to happen on your campus for them to feel safer.
8. **Cast a wider net with media activism.** Media coverage can help you reach more people. Work with your campus newspaper and get them to write an article about what you're doing.

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Source URL: http://www.gsanetwork.org/get-involved/change-your-school/campaigns/make-it-real

Links:
[1] http://www.gsanetwork.org/resources/legal-resources
[2] http://www.gsanetwork.org/resources/legal-resources/what-do-if-you-are-harassed
[3] http://www.gsanetwork.org/files/getinvolved/MakeItReal-CampaignGuide.pdf
[4] http://www.gsanetwork.org/files/getinvolved/MakeItReal-Manual.pdf