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# The Pride Justice Resource Center Newsletter

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## THE PRIDE JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER

The National Resource Center on Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ Youth

The Resource Center on Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ youth is a hub of information and resources to address the specific challenges faced by justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth. The Pride Justice Resource Center and its collaborators provide professionals working in the juvenile justice system with the skills to collect data, assess their practices, reform the courts, and affirm the sexual orientation and gender identity of LGBTQ2S+ youth, along with increasing the ease of accessibility to evidence-based practices and current data. The Pride Justice Resource Center advocates for the fair and equitable treatment of LGBTQ2S+ youth arrested and referred to juvenile justice agencies.

For training and technical assistance requests, [contact us](#).

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In our last [newsletter](#), we introduced the topic of the impacts of federal guidelines and the Bostock Ruling. On March 27, 2024, **Elana Redfield**, Federal Policy Director from UCLA Law, and **Ariel Bustamante**, Senior Manager for Capacity Building from Los Angeles LGBTQ Center, facilitated a webinar providing an overview and the impacts of different federal guidelines LGBTQ2S+ youth are navigating. If you missed the webinar, you can view it here: [Federal Nondiscrimination Requirements and their Application to LGBTQ2S+ Youth in the Juvenile Justice System - Pride Justice Resource Center \(ncjfcj.org\)](#)

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## Q&A with Nakiya Lynch, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Youth Ambassador

This month we draw inspiration from the empowering message of Nakiya Lynch, HRC Youth Ambassador, as shared in the following ["Time to Thrive 2020"](#) video. Nakiya's insights remind us of the importance of fostering supportive environments for LGBTQ2S+ youth and

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**Q1: How can I become a better ally to LGBTQ2S+ youth in my community?**

**A1:** Becoming a better ally starts with education and active listening. Take the time to educate yourself about LGBTQ2S+ identities, experiences, and issues. Listen to the voices of LGBTQ2S+ individuals and be open to learning from their perspectives. Speak up against discrimination and support LGBTQ2S+ youth in their journey towards self-acceptance and empowerment.

**Q2: I work in a foster care agency. What steps can we take to better support LGBTQ2S+ youth in our care?**

**A2:** Foster care agencies can take several steps to support LGBTQ2S+ youth in their care. This includes providing LGBTQ2S+ sensitivity training to staff and caregivers, ensuring that placements are affirming of LGBTQ2S+ identities, and offering access to LGBTQ2S+ competent mental health support services. For instance, [the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's All Children - All Families](#) offers expert training, capacity building, and coaching on a diverse range of LGBTQ+ topics for child welfare professionals and caregivers as well as professionals in social and human services. Additionally, creating safe spaces and peer-support networks for LGBTQ2S+ youth within the agency can help foster a sense of belonging and acceptance.

**Q3: Are there alternative forms of healing that can benefit LGBTQ2S+ youth in hostile environments?**

**A3:** Yes, alternative forms of healing such as animal-assisted therapy and nature therapy can be highly beneficial for LGBTQ2S+ youth. These approaches provide opportunities for connection, self-expression, and emotional healing in environments where traditional therapeutic interventions may not resonate as strongly. Incorporating these modalities into mental health support programs can offer additional avenues for LGBTQ2S+ youth to explore their identities and navigate their experiences.

**Q4: How can schools create safer spaces for LGBTQ2S+ youth?**

**A4:** Schools can create safer spaces for LGBTQ2S+ youth by implementing inclusive policies, providing comprehensive LGBTQ2S+ education, and fostering supportive environments. This may include establishing LGBTQ2S+ support groups, implementing non-discrimination policies, and ensuring that LGBTQ2S+ representation is visible in curricula and school programming. Additionally, offering allyship training to staff and students can help create a culture of acceptance and respect within the school community.

**Q5: What can I do to support LGBTQ2S+ youth who may be struggling with their mental health?**

**A5:** Supporting LGBTQ2S+ youth who are struggling with their mental health starts with being a compassionate and understanding listener. Let them know that you are there for them and willing to provide support without judgment. Encourage them to seek professional help if needed and offer to help them connect with LGBTQ2S+ competent mental health support services. Additionally, creating safe and affirming spaces where LGBTQ2S+ youth feel comfortable expressing themselves can go a long way in supporting their mental well-being.

Have a question about supporting LGBTQ2S+ youth in hostile environments? Join the following webinar facilitated by LGBTQ2S+ lived experts and allies.

# Upcoming Events

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Webinar:

## ***Supporting LGBTQ2S+ Youth in Hostile Environments***

June 26, 2024

90-minute duration

9:00 a.m. PDT / 10:00 a.m. MDT / 11:00 a.m. CDT /  
12:00 p.m. EDT

“Supporting Youth in Hostile Environments,” is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ2S+ youth in hostile environments. This thought-provoking event aims to shed light on the experiences of youth and explore strategies to support their well-being. Our panel of esteemed experts, including advocates for LGBTQ2S+ youth and young people with lived experience, will delve into the realities faced by LGBTQ2S+ youth in hostile environments such as unsupportive families, schools, or communities. Through insightful discussions and personal narratives, we will explore the impact of hostility on their mental health, self-esteem, and overall development. During the webinar, we will examine effective approaches and practical tools to create safe spaces for LGBTQ2S+ youth, fostering inclusivity, affirmation, and promoting acceptance. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the unique needs of LGBTQ2S+ youth in hostile environments, allowing them to be better allies and advocates for change.

[Register Here](#)

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## ***PJRC Quarterly Collaborative Call***

This call will focus on mental health  
and LGBTQ2S+ Youth

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July 17, 2024

60-minute duration

9:00 a.m. PDT / 10:00 a.m. MDT / 11:00 a.m. CDT /  
12:00 p.m. EDT

The PJRC Community Collaboration Call is a unique opportunity for individuals and teams across the nation to share information, ask questions, and learn about innovative practices that enhance the experience of LGBTQ2S+ youth in the justice system. The call is an open forum to discuss what is working in your community, areas where you need further guidance, and/or to seek support from the community. The call can be a great way for teams to seek solutions in partnership with others working to support justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth. Please share this save-the-date announcement with your team members and others leading the work to support justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth.

The July Quarterly Community Collaboration call will focus on Mental Health and LGBTQ2S+ Youth.

We look forward to learning and giving light to the needs of justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth in community with you!

[Register Here](#)

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We invite you to share your perspectives on the gaps and the best practices to respond to the needs of justice-involved youth who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Two-Spirit, or other diverse sexual orientation and gender identities. The NCJFCJ and the Pride Justice Resource Center are conducting an assessment of the field to better understand the best practices and gaps in services for justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth. The purpose of this assessment is to understand the new and emerging issues in the field. The assessment covers issues such as barriers to access, current needs, funding sources, evidence-based practices, and training needs. Your response will remain confidential. The information gathered will be used in the development of training and technical assistance curriculums and resources. To complete this assessment

[Click Here](#)

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