



# The Pride Justice Resource Center Newsletter



## 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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## The Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and LGBTQ2S+ Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

As discussions around social justice continue to evolve, the experiences of LGBTQ2S+ youth within the juvenile justice system have emerged as a critical area of concern. This population faces unique challenges that are often compounded by their race and ethnicity. Understanding these intersecting identities is crucial for creating effective policies and support systems. In a 2017 study, researchers found that 20% of the youth in seven juvenile detention centers identified as LGBT/GNCT, and of those who identified as LGBT/GNCT, 85% of those youth are youth of color. “Previous research found that while 4-6% of youth in the general population identify as LGBT, yet 15% of youth in the juvenile justice system across the country disclosed being LGBTQ/GNCT.”<sup>[1]</sup>

### Unique Challenges Faced by LGBTQ2S+ Youth of Color

transphobia. This intersectionality can lead to increased vulnerability to policing and criminalization.

2. Lack of Representation: Many LGBTQ2S+ youth of color do not see themselves reflected in the narratives presented about LGBTQ2S+ issues or racial justice. This lack of representation can lead to feelings of isolation and deter them from seeking help.

3. Inadequate Support Systems: The juvenile justice system often lacks culturally competent resources for LGBTQ2S+ youth. This is particularly true for youth of color, who may encounter further marginalization in environments that do not understand or address their unique needs.

### Pathways to Change

1. Culturally Competent Training: Law enforcement and juvenile justice personnel should receive training on the unique experiences of LGBTQ2S+ youth, particularly those of color. This training can help reduce bias and improve interactions with these vulnerable populations.

2. Policy Reform: Advocating for policy changes that recognize and address the specific needs of LGBTQ2S+ youth of color is essential. This includes implementing restorative justice practices and creating supportive diversion programs.

3. Community Support Networks: Building strong community networks can provide LGBTQ2S+ youth of color with the resources and support they need. Organizations that focus on intersectional advocacy can play a crucial role in fostering resilience and empowerment.

Addressing the intersection of race, ethnicity, and LGBTQ2S+ identity in the juvenile justice system requires a comprehensive approach that acknowledges the unique challenges faced by these youth. By fostering understanding, advocating for policy changes, and creating supportive environments, we can work towards a more equitable system that uplifts and protects all youth, regardless of their identity.

[1] Citation: Irvine, Angela, Ph.D. and Canfield, Aisha M.P.P. (2016) "The Overrepresentation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Questioning, Gender Nonconforming and Transgender Youth Within the Child Welfare to Juvenile Justice Crossover Population," *Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law*: Vol. 24: Iss. 2, Article 2. Available at <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/jgspl/vol24/iss2/2> (pg. 6)

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## Upcoming Events

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### Webinar:

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

September 25, 2024  
90-minute duration

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

During the webinar, we will examine the systemic challenges that LGBTQ2S+ youth of color encounter, ranging from higher rates of homelessness and mental health issues to limited access to healthcare and educational resources. Through insightful discussions and personal narratives, we aim to shed light on the barriers these young individuals confront in their pursuit of acceptance, equality, and well-being. Moreover, we will explore the importance of creating safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ youth of color, both within their communities and society at large. This webinar seeks to inspire action and foster understanding, ultimately striving for a more equitable experience of LGBTQ2S+ youth of color.

[Register Here](#)

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## ***PJRC Community Collaboration Call***

This call will focus on safe and affirming practices for nonbinary and gender-nonconforming youth in the juvenile justice system

### ***Save The Date***

October 16, 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.

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Please share this announcement with your team members and others leading the work to support justice-involved LGBTQ2S+ youth.

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

[Register Here](#)

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Webinar:

***Safe and Affirming Data Collection About  
Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ Youth Part 2***

October 24, 2024

90-minute duration

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

Youth who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system and have unique needs and challenges, yet many juvenile justice professionals are unsure of whether there are any LGBTQ2S+ youth in their system. Ensuring all youth in the juvenile justice system feel safe, affirmed, and supported requires juvenile justice professionals to ask youth about all aspects of their identity. This webinar will share with programs what data points they should be collecting along with how to effectively use that data to improve their programming and yield better outcomes for the youth that they serve.

[Register Here](#)

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Webinar:

***Race/Ethnicity and LGBTQ2S+ Youth Part 2:  
Discussion of Black Girls***

December 11, 2024

90-minute duration

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

Participants will develop a comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges and experiences faced by LGBTQ2S+ youth from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. They will learn about the specific ways in which race, ethnicity, and gender intersect with LGBTQ2S+ identity, and how these intersections impact the lives of LGBTQ2S+ youth. Participants will gain knowledge about the specific barriers and disparities that LGBTQ2S+ girls of color face in various aspects of their lives, including juvenile justice systems. They will explore the root causes of these disparities and learn strategies to address and mitigate them. Participants will focus on the experiences and needs of LGBTQ2S+ girls of color. They will learn about the unique challenges faced by this group, such as double discrimination based on both race/ethnicity and sexual orientation/gender identity. Through case studies and interactive discussions, participants will develop practical strategies to create inclusive and supportive environments for LGBTQ2S+ girls of color, both in juvenile justice systems and community settings.

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[Register Here](#)

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*Points of view/opinions expressed and resources/news/highlights shared in this newsletter are those of the organization(s) and author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention or the U.S. Department of Justice.*



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