

Fast Facts & Talking Pts *About GLSEN's Day of Silence*

- The Day of Silence is an annual event for public school students organized by one of the nation's largest homosexual advocacy groups—GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.
- GLSEN is dedicated to promoting homosexuality to public school kids all the way down to the kindergarten level and was founded by controversial “Safe Schools Czar” Kevin Jennings.
- Several U.S. Congressmen have asked the Obama administration for Jennings’ removal from public office because of his controversial statements and history as GLSEN’s leader. To read more about Jennings and GLSEN, click [here](#).
- This year’s Day of Silence will be celebrated in thousands of middle and high schools on Friday, April 16, 2010. Participating students take a “vow of silence” and distribute cards proclaiming they are a part of a “national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies ... My deliberate silence echoes that silence ...”
- GLSEN publicly claims its Day of Silence is just about making schools “safer” and preventing bullying. But when you look at the actual materials that GLSEN gives students and educators participating in this event, it’s clear there is a much more radical agenda at play.
- Basically, the Day of Silence turns participants into political lobbyists for GLSEN’s adult-driven agenda.
- For instance, in its “How to Get What you Want—*With an Ask!*” sheet, GLSEN encourages students to use the Day of Silence as a “tool” to get a “queer-friendly prom,” in addition to [homosexual-themed books](#) and teacher trainings. (To examine excerpts from this sheet, click [here](#).)
- “The Day of Silence is a call to action. Students can use this day, as well as other GLSEN Days of Action, as a means of achieving an ‘ask.’ An ask is a very specific action that calls for a change in school policies, climate and culture...” explains the Day of Silence student organizing manual.
- During the Day of Silence, students are encouraged not to speak during classroom time, directly interfering with public schools’ instruction schedule— which, as we all know, is already crunched for time just to cover the academic basics.
- The Day of Silence unnecessarily politicizes and sexualizes the school environment, paving the way for classroom lessons that advocate and normalize things like same-sex marriage and cross-dressing.
- For instance, GLSEN tells teachers to “Discuss the Day of Silence with your students!” “No matter what subject you teach or what role you play in school, you can explore lessons or activities that can be conducted in silence and cover topics related to the Day of Silence,” explains the Day of Silence Educators’ Guide. “You can also begin or end your class with five minutes of silence to show support and solidarity ...”
- Teachers are also encouraged to “create a special display in your classroom or library of books, posters and other materials that explore LGBT topics...” [LGBT=lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender].

- Several of the books that GLSEN recommends on its Web site not only promote things like gay marriage to elementary-age kids, but they also contain extremely graphic content in reading material intended for kids as young as middle-school age. Learn more about that [here](#).
- We agree that every student should be protected from bullying and harassment—and that no student should be hurt or ridiculed no matter who they are or what they believe.
- However, it’s risky and irresponsible for public schools to allow students to be pushed by outside national groups to embrace a sexual lifestyle. They should at least allow students to make informed decisions by letting them hear both sides of the story.
- This kind of one-sided presentation puts students with deeply held religious convictions in danger of having their beliefs discriminated against, or worse, ridiculed. (See [excerpts from GLSEN materials](#) that illustrate this bias.)
- It may also cause students who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction to feel hopeless—because they are not given an opportunity to hear the perspective of people who say it’s possible to change if you want to do so.
- So we’d like to see an atmosphere of true tolerance for *all* viewpoints related to this issue, not just the politically correct ones.
- One option for students who want to present a different viewpoint in a compassionate way that expresses both truth and love is to participate in the [Day of Truth](#).
- As opposed to emphasizing silence, the Day of Truth encourages a free-speech “conversation” where students can “freely exchange ideas,” including honest conversations “about the biblical truth for sexuality.”
- This year’s Day of Truth will be celebrated in thousands of schools on Thursday, April 15, 2010 (the day before GLSEN’s Day of Silence). It is sponsored by [Exodus International](#), the largest worldwide ministry addressing homosexual and gender issues. More than 13,000 students have participated in Day of Truth events.
- This year, the theme for Day of Truth is “Get the Conversation Started.” Participating students can wear T-shirts and pass out cards (not during class time) with the following message: *People with differing, even opposing, viewpoints can freely exchange ideas and respectfully listen to each other. It's time for an honest conversation about the biblical truth for sexuality. Let's get the conversation started!*
- If schools are opening their doors to the Day of Silence, then students’ with deeply held religious convictions can make the case that their views should be equally respected—and also be given a place at the table. The bottom line is that freedom of speech should apply to everyone, not just selected groups of students. If you need information about your legal rights concerning the Day of Truth, contact the [Alliance Defense Fund](#).

For more in-depth information and statistics, read [What the Day of Silence is Really All About](#). For more general information about responding to homosexuality promotion in your public school, visit [TrueTolerance.org](#)