Formal sex education is one of the few sources of reliable information on sexuality and sexual health for youth. Hundreds of studies have shown that well-designed and well-implemented sex education can reduce risk behavior and support positive sexual health outcomes among teens, such as reducing unintended teen pregnancy and STI rates.

In order for LGBTQ youth to experience comparable health benefits to their non-LGBTQ peers, sex education programs must be LGBTQ-inclusive. Inclusive programs are those that help youth understand gender identity and sexual orientation with age appropriate and medically accurate information; incorporate positive examples of LGBTQ individuals, romantic relationships and families; emphasize the need for protection during sex for people of all identities; and dispel common myths and stereotypes about behavior and identity.

A new issue brief by Advocates for Youth, Answer, GLSEN, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) highlights the dearth of inclusive sex education programs and the missed opportunities to make a difference for LGBTQ youth.

A Call to Action: LGBTQ Youth Need Inclusive Sex Education urges educators, advocates, and policymakers to take immediate, concrete steps to provide LGBTQ-inclusive sex education for all youth, by:

1. Becoming advocates for LGBTQ-inclusive sex education
2. Ensuring that school is a safe and accepting space for LGBTQ students
3. Implementing LGBTQ-inclusive sex education in schools, community settings and online
4. Talking to their own children and teens about sex and sexuality
5. Working to remove state-level legal and policy barriers to LGBTQ-inclusive sex education in schools and require inclusive programs

This call to action for inclusive sex education comes at a critical time, when different groups within the LGBTQ youth community experience a number of health disparities, including higher rates of HIV, other STIs and unintended teen pregnancy. Many LGBTQ youth also experience stigma, rejection, or even violence in their schools and communities that negatively impacts their health. Research has shown that inclusive sex education can be a powerful tool that helps reduce the stigma and health disparities LGBTQ youth face and create safe, supportive schools.

In acknowledgement of the needs of LGBTQ youth, we, the undersigned organizations, support the Call to Action and ask educators, advocates, and policymakers to make LGBTQ-inclusive sex education the standard for all youth.
1. AIDS Action Baltimore  
2. AIDS Alabama  
3. AIDS Alabama South  
4. AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
5. AIDS Project Los Angeles  
6. AIDS United  
7. American Psychological Association  
8. American School Health Association  
9. American Sexual Health Association  
10. APLA Health & Wellness  
11. Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center  
12. Asian Pride Project  
13. Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
14. Campus Pride  
15. Cascade AIDS Project  
16. Center for Culture, Sexuality and Spirituality  
17. CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
18. Family Equality Council  
19. FORGE, Inc.  
20. Forward Together  
21. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)  
22. Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)  
23. GLAAD  
24. Global Justice Institute  
25. GSA Network  
26. Harlem United  
27. Healthy Teen Network  
28. HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
29. Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health  
30. Lambda Legal  
31. Latino Commission on AIDS  
32. Legacy Community Health  
33. Marriage Equality USA  
34. Mazzoni Center  
35. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
36. National Black Justice Coalition  
37. National Center for Lesbian Rights  
38. National Center for Transgender Equality  
39. National Coalition for LGBT Health  
40. National Coalition of STD Directors  
41. National Council of Jewish Women
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<td>URGE: Unite for Reproductive &amp; Gender Equity</td>
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