

ENVISION CONFERENCE: TDSB SECONDARY SCHOOL FORUM FOR LGBTQI2S STUDENTS AND THEIR ALLIES

8:00-9:00 **Registration – (Auditorium, 2nd floor)**

9:00-9:15 **Welcome**

9:15-9:45 **MORNING KEYNOTE: Ill Nana (Auditorium, 2nd floor)**

Ill Nana is a queer positive multiracial dance company that has worked collaboratively with culturally diverse communities, youth and various community groups in order to increase equitable access to dance, movement and performance spaces in the city of Toronto. They are fearlessly out and proud, sexy, masculine, feminine, and all that is in between, representing the super queeroes and real humans in all of us.

9:45-10:00 **Travel Time**

10:00-11:30 **Student Workshops, Staff workshops, Plenary (2nd floor)**

11:30-12:30 **LUNCH, (Cafeteria, 1st floor)**

12:30-12:45 **Travel Time**

12:45-2:15 **Student Workshops, Staff workshops, Plenary (2nd floor)**

2:15-2:25 **Travel**

2:25-3:00 **CLOSING KEYNOTE: Students Talking Back to School Dress Codes, Body Policing and Lookism (Auditorium, 2nd floor)**

In the past couple of years, young women across North America have begun speaking out against school dress codes as a form of sanctioned slut-shaming. Adults often say that students should dress appropriately for the school environment, however students are rarely given the space to talk about how these policies affect them. Moreover, students also participate in policing each other, by punishing those that don't meet the expectations of what's considered desirable or cool, often based on gender, sexuality, race and class. This panel of speakers will explore how they have experienced gender policing, classism, racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia in their schools and communities and what we need to change in order to create inclusive spaces for all.

SESSION A: STUDENT ONLY WORKSHOPS - 10:00-11:30

A1. Trans and Two Spirit History

Theola Ross, Griffin Centre

This engaging and interactive workshop about two spirit history will give participants the opportunity to learn more about two spirit identities and will incorporate dancing.

A2. Identity, Power and Privilege

Amina Farah and Elvia Penate, ReachOUT Program, Griffin Centre

This workshop will explore the relationship between our identities (who we are in society). It will look particularly the intersection of LGBTQ identities, newcomer identities, and disability. How do our identities influence how we belong or how we are excluded and what are the consequences of both. How can we challenge discrimination in our everyday lives?

A3. Anti-Oppression

SOY H.E.A.T. (Supporting Our Youth Human Rights Equity Access Team), Sherbourne Health Centre

This brand new project works to bring emerging youth leaders to work together as ambassadors in a group called SOY H.E.A.T. The goal of this project is to address race relations and the human rights climate in Toronto, and will focus specifically on the existing barriers and hate activity each faction of the queer and trans community faces. Project activities include: Connect many youth who access the programs at SOY to larger discussions beyond what the current program is able to offer; increase awareness and understanding of oppression experienced by a variety of diverse groups; public presentation of findings (report, press release, or event) that will be determined by the youth participants.

A4. Social Media Makes My Relationships Awesome (until it doesn't)

B.K Chan and Jennifer Patterson, Sexual Health Promotion, Toronto Public Health

A fun, interesting and high energy interactive workshop. For the first half of the workshop: Youth who identify on the LGBTQ2SQ spectrum will share their stories. There will be a video whose theme is Be Our Ally. For the second half of the workshop: Youth presenters will work with participants in small groups to delve into issues such as the Power of Language;

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Dealing with Bullying; How to be an Ally; Living in the Intersections of Identity (i.e. LGBTQ2SQ and First Nations, Deaf, etc.). We will then come together and share what they learned. There will be opportunities to ask questions and throughout and dedicated time for Q and A.

A5. Reteaching Gender and Sexuality: From Reflection to Action

Ainsley Brittain, Springtide Resources

The goal of this workshop is to support participants to think critically about the mainstream ways that we are taught to understand gender and sexuality and the impacts of those understanding on all of us – especially queer and trans spectrum youth. Together we are going to unlearn and relearn so that we can relearn ourselves, our peers, our families, our communities, and our schools. We will make action plans with our friends that move us towards a world where our understandings and expressions of gender and sexuality are expansive, affirming, and full of play and possibility. This workshop will include a screening and discussion of the short film Put This On The Map. To view the trailer, click here: <https://vimeo.com/14017398>

A6. Coming Out or Inviting In

Respect in Action (ReAct) Peer Program, METRAC

This workshop offers an interactive conversation and dialogue on the process of "Coming out or Inviting in" to your chosen community. This workshop will offer space for participants to have safer dialogues on what coming out means and looks like to many people. In this conversation we will also have conversations about gender and inclusivity.

A7. Consent

Effy Min and Vanessa Stirling, Bad Subject

This workshop will explore the issue of consent within an LGBTQIA framework. Sexual violence does not happen in a vacuum; the ideas in our head inform the way we behave. This workshop will explore sex, consent, intimacy, desire and rejection in survivor centred framework. through interactive activities, case scenarios and discussions. During the workshop, we will integrate an exploration of how sexual assault and rape are rape culture and our every day attitudes, language, and actions.

A8. Gender Mashup

Kathleen O'Connell and David Yeh, Central Toronto Youth Services

In this crafty and playful workshop, we'll examine the many shades and textures of gender expression, and assemble portraits of our dynamic selves. What does it mean to be a girl? What does it mean to be a boy? What does it mean to be trans, fluid, on-the-spectrum? J Through colorful collage and creative conversation, come explore all the multi-faceted images of gender and identity.

A9. Acting Out!

SKETCH. (This workshop is open to teachers and staff.)

We are a group of young people, and an adult ally/facilitator and sometimes a lawyer, that do workshops which address how to increase justice for, and affirm queer and gender diverse young people.

A10. Body Positivity

Carly Boyce, Planned Parenthood of Toronto

Everyone has a body, and well, we are sort of stuck with them for life. Bodies are strong and weak and complicated and imperfect and amazing. Lots of us have really complicated relationships with our bodies. We evaluate and criticize them, compare them to others, sometimes we try to change them. Sometimes we ***do*** change them...

P1. MORNING PLENARY- OPEN TO STAFF AND STUDENTS – 10:00-11:30

THIS WORKSHOP RUNS AT THE SAME TIME AS THE WORKSHOPS.

Breaking the Box: Challenging Mainstream Definitions of the Rainbow.

Speakers: Kyisha Williams, Aerissa Roy-Dupuis, Chase Tam

Who are the famous people that come to mind when we're asked to think of celebrity LGBTQ people? Ellen DeGeneres. Caitlin Jenner. Neil Patrick Harris. Mainstream constructions of what it means to be queer or trans*, often result in a singular story, subsequently resulting in the erasure of many others. This panel will highlight the importance of bringing an intersectional understanding of race, gender, sexuality, class and ability so that we can embrace all identities under the rainbow.

...Let's talk about how we can be a little kinder and gentler with ourselves, and what other sorts of revolution we can unlock if we can shift our relationship with ourselves. This is bigger than body positivity, because beauty will never set us free (credit to Mia Mingus for that concept).

A11. What Positive Spaces Looks Like to You

David Udayasekaran and Shayna Sayers-Wolfe, Planned Parenthood of Toronto

Come make positive space posters, create a list of ways to make school safer for all students and have a conversation about what positive space looks like for you.

A12. Cultivating self-care

mel campbell and Anu Radha Verma

Our session will be exploring how to cultivate care (self care, relationship building, responding to harm, and kindness in queer/trans communities). We'll be using a few different arts activities including guiding participants in creating individual self-care-guide zines based on their own personal access needs and desires.

A13. Trans 101

Inex B Incubury, Asian Community AIDS Services

This workshop is an interactive intro to trans* identities. Inex will share her personal story of transition and experience as a transwoman. Students will be invited to think about how to support trans* people on an individual level and challenge systemic transphobia.

SESSION B: STUDENT ONLY WORKSHOPS - 12:45-2:15

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Supporting Our Youth Human Rights Equity Access Team

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B4. Reteaching Gender and Sexuality: From Reflection to Action

Ainsley Brittain, Springtide Resources

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B9. Disability, Queer and Trans Identities

sprOUT, Griffin Centre

With a focus on disability, queer and trans identities the sprOUT Consultants will facilitate a LGBTQ terminology, definition, picture matching game with the students. The sprOUT Consultants will then perform a forum theatre skit with a focus on intersectional oppressions: i.e. transphobia, homophobia and ableism. The students will then be asked to rewrite the script to show how to be an ally. Finally the sprOUT Consultants will share some of their lived experiences as people with disabilities, queer and trans identities.

B10. Got a Question?

Andrew Townsend, Planned Parenthood of Toronto

Seriously, do you have a question? This workshop is an anonymous space where you can ask all of the nagging questions that you have about sexual health! Can you get pregnant from oral sex? How do you know if you have an STI? Will my doctor tell my parents if I ask about birth control? Come and hear answers to these and more as sexual health educators from Planned Parenthood Toronto work their way through a stack of questions submitted by you!

B11. Asexual Spectrum Identities and Non-normative Relationships

Eriol Stephens, ACE Toronto

This workshop outlines the diverse asexual spectrum and some of the issues that ace people face (including the surprisingly large proportion of aces who are non-binary in terms of gender). We will explore romantic attraction and the aromantic spectrum, as well as different ways of doing relationships outside of the typical "sexual" and "romantic" boxes. We will also get into and try to unpack social expectations and hierarchies about sexuality and relationships. That includes working through how these ideals and pressures affect us all, including how this ties in with issues of consent and healthy relationships. (This workshop is for anyone-- whether you're ace, questioning and/or interested in learning).

B12. Speaking Rights, An Interactive Human Rights Workshop for Youth (based on the Equitas Toolkit).

Kathy Witterick

Speaking Rights is an Equitas (International Centre for Human Rights Education) program that aims to promote youth participation in human rights promotion, non discrimination and peaceful conflict resolution. This workshop will provide an opportunity to get involved in activities, discussion and planning around LGBTQ inclusion, with a particular focus on Ontario Human Rights Code provisions related to gender identity and gender expression.

P2. AFTERNOON PLENARY- OPEN TO STAFF AND STUDENTS – 12:45-2:15

THIS WORKSHOP RUNS AT THE SAME TIME AS THE WORKSHOPS.

Queers Who Pray.

Moderated by Reena Katz. Speakers: Jelani Ade-Lam, Nisha Ahuja, Sam Nashman, Aisha Wahid and Kyisha Williams

This panel will explore the struggles, strengths and joys of people who are both queer and/or trans* and also identify as being people of faith. We will also screen parts of Elisha Lim's film in development "Queers Who Pray".

KEYNOTES AND OPEN PLENARIES

K1. MORNING KEYNOTE – ATTENDED BY EVERYONE – 9:15-9:45

ILL NANA: CHALLENGING MAINSTREAM DEFINITIONS OF THE RAINBOW THROUGH ART AND DANCE

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Speakers: Keisha Williams, Aerissa Roy-Dupuis, Chase Tam

THIS WORKSHOP RUNS CONCURRENTLY WITH THE WORKSHOPS.

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K2. CLOSING KEYNOTE – ATTENDED BY EVERYONE - 2:25-3:00

CLOSING KEYNOTE: Students Talking Back to School Dress Codes, Body Policing and Lookism (Auditorium, 1st floor)

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STAFF ONLY WORKSHOPS

S1. STAFF ONLY WORKSHOP - SESSION A - 10:00-11:30, SESSION B - 12:45-2:15

Talking Relationships (PARTS 1 AND 2)

Ilana David and Javier Davila, Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office, Toronto District School Board

Building a positive school climate requires a focus on developing healthy relationships throughout the school community. Youth want to know more about healthy relationships and to receive that education from professional sources. This two-part training supports teachers, in their role as caring adults, as they support students learning about how to build and maintain healthy relationships. The training presents key points and multiple activities any teacher can use on topics such as healthy relationship behaviours, boundaries, consent and power imbalances for youth of diverse sexual and gender identities. This is a 2-part workshop.

S1. STAFF ONLY WORKSHOP - SESSION B - 12:45-2:15

How Can You Create Positive Space?

David Udayasekaran and Shayna Sayers-Wolfe, Planned Parenthood of Toronto

T.E.A.C.H. has a long history of working in schools and with youth who have struggled in a school system that doesn't always meet their needs. Come have a discussion about ways in which you can be a force for positive change in your school for everyone.

Envision:

TDSB Secondary School
Forum for LGBTQI2S students
and their allies

November 19, 2015
Central Technical School
725 Bathurst St.

Register here:
bit.ly/envisionforum

Presented by:



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
**GENDER
+ SEXUAL
DIVERSITY**

