

## RESOURCES

### **New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)**

*New York's foremost defender of civil rights and civil liberties. If you are having a problem at school because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or how to express your gender, contact us.*

[www.nyclu.org](http://www.nyclu.org) tap@nyclu.org **212.607.3300**

### **Callen-Lorde Community Health Center**

*New York City's only primary health care center dedicated to meeting the health needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities and people living with HIV/AIDS.*

[www.callen-lorde.org](http://www.callen-lorde.org) **212.271.7200**

### **The Center**

*The second-largest LGBT community center in the world, providing groundbreaking social service, public policy, educational, and cultural/recreational programs.*

[www.gaycenter.org](http://www.gaycenter.org) **212.620.7310**

### **NYCLU Headquarters**

125 Broad Street, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
212.607.3300

[www.nyclu.org](http://www.nyclu.org)

### **Capital Region Chapter**

90 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207  
518.336.8594

### **Central New York Chapter**

753 James Street, Suite 8  
Syracuse, NY 13203  
315.471.2821

### **Genesee Valley Chapter**

121 North Fitzhugh Street, Suite 300  
Rochester, NY 14614  
585.454.4334

### **Lower Hudson Valley Chapter**

297 Knollwood Road  
White Plains, NY 10607  
914.997.7479

### **Nassau County Chapter**

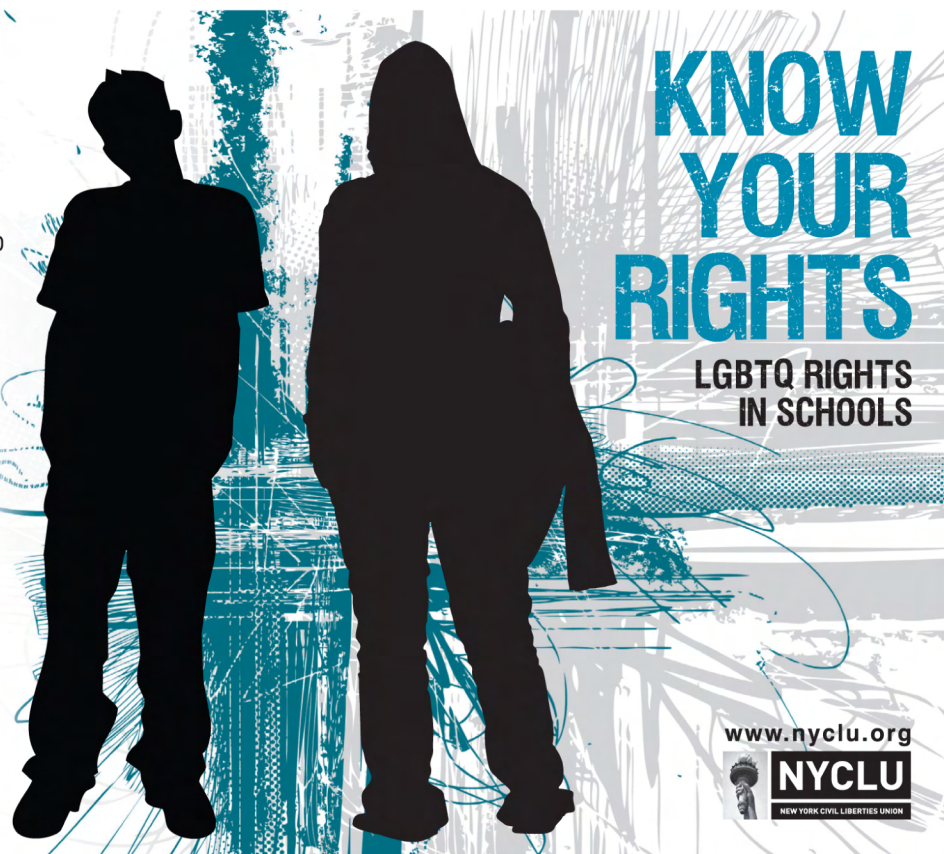
33 Front Street, Suite 205  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
516.741.8520

### **Suffolk County Chapter**

Touro Law Public Advocacy Center  
225 Eastview Drive  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
631.650.2301

### **Western Regional Office**

The Ansonia Center  
712 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.852.4033



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## LGBTQ RIGHTS IN SCHOOLS

[www.nyclu.org](http://www.nyclu.org)



## AT SCHOOL, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO...

1. Be safe and free from harassment and bullying.
2. Be treated equally and not be discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Be 'out' about your sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Dress and act in a way that does not conform to stereotypes associated with your gender.
5. Wear clothes that fit the gender you identify with.
6. Start a gay-straight alliance.
7. Wear LGBTQ-positive or political t-shirts, stickers, or bracelets.
8. Speak out about LGBTQ issues.
9. Access pro-LGBTQ websites or information about LGBTQ issues on your school's computers.
10. Bring your same-sex girlfriend or boyfriend to prom.
11. Use a gender-neutral restroom, or a restroom that corresponds with your gender identity, if you are transgender.

**To learn more about your rights, go to [www.nyclu.org/LGBTQyouthrights](http://www.nyclu.org/LGBTQyouthrights)**

## YOUR SCHOOL HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO...

1. Not discriminate against you.
2. Protect you from harassment because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
3. Create an environment free from sex and gender stereotypes in which you are allowed to be yourself.
4. Respect your privacy. We believe, and some courts have agreed, that your school cannot reveal your sexual orientation or transgender identity to other people (like your parents) without your permission, even if you are out at school.
5. Respect your gender identity by calling you by your preferred name and gender pronoun ('he' or 'she') and treat you equally with peers of your asserted gender.

**To learn more about your school's responsibilities, go to [www.nyclu.org/LGBTQyouthrights](http://www.nyclu.org/LGBTQyouthrights)**

## IF YOU ARE BEING HARASSED OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST...

1. Don't be silent! Report the problem immediately.
2. Write down a who/what/where/when/why description of every incident.

3. Write down the dates you reported every incident, who you reported them to, and what action that person said he or she would take.
4. If your school is not fixing the problem, contact the NYCLU!

**To learn more about how to make a complaint and fix the problem, go to [www.nyclu.org/LGBTQyouthrights](http://www.nyclu.org/LGBTQyouthrights)**

## USEFUL TERMS

*transgender or trans* — A term used to describe those who transgress social gender norms; often used as an umbrella term to include transsexual, genderqueer, gender nonconforming, cross-dressers, etc.

*gender identity* — The inner sense of being male, female, both, or neither. Gender identity usually matches a person's physical body but sometimes it does not.

*gender expression* — How you express or show your gender identity to the world. For example, the way you dress, the name and pronoun you use ('he' or 'she'), how you wear your hair, how you act, how you speak, and whether or not your wear make-up.

*gender non-conforming* — Expressing yourself in ways that are different from people's traditional ideas and stereotypes about how girls, boys, women, and men should look or act.