

GSA Day 4 Gender Justice 2019

Discussion Guide



*[Hi there! Yay, we are so glad you found this resource and discussion guide for this year's GSA Day 4 GJ. Please use this as your prepare to host a GSA club meeting and discussion; we're excited for you to join our conversation about self-determination for our people. We've included a letter to prepare yourself, example discussion questions and prompts, and TRUTH's Nine-Point Platform for context of our theme. We wish **you** the best of luck this Nov. 15 and can't wait to see any photos of your club!*

Tag us, [@ourtranstruth](#)]



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- I. Letter to GSA Leaders
- II. Discussion Topics and Questions
- III. National Trans Youth Council Nine-Point Platform Text



To the leaders of our work,

In November 2018, our team launched drafted and published the National Trans Youth Council's Nine-Point Platform, outlining the nine social justice areas that our work for trans liberation is lead and informed by. You are able to read and hear more about our thought process for the manifesto at ourtranstruth.org/gsaday4gj18.

This GSA Day for Gender Justice, we uplift and center our first point which reads: **We call for the right to self-determination and control of our destinies.** This day of action is about affirming the right of every young trans person to be in charge of this body, identity, self, life, future.

This discussion guide is offered to GSA clubs and similar organizations who are holding space and conversation on GSA Day for Gender Justice. This guide outlines various discussion points to kick off and sustain a conversation with community addressing some important questions like *What is self-determination? What does this topic have to do with trans liberation?* This guide is not meant to follow question by question, but to offer a reference point for leaders who want to shape the best and most productive conversation for your organization.

We believe in your power to hold space and conversation and we know that it is young leaders like us who are changing this world.

Happy GSA Day for Gender Justice!

In solidarity,
National TRUTH Council

Discussion Guide

Opening the space (5-10 minutes)

What is your name and pronouns?

What is in your heart, mind and body?

(This offers folks the chance to name their state of heart, mind, and body, as well as all of the outside worldly conditions that are impacting them at this moment. Even with the door closed, the world has an impact on us and how we navigate potentially heavy conversation and thought. Remember to thank everyone for sharing!)

Share the theme of this year's day of action: This year the theme of the year is **We Call for the Right to Self-Determination and Control of Our Destinies**. TRUTH's website reads: We as trans youth have the right to control our narratives, spaces, and all aspects of our lives. Resources to achieve this trans empowerment must be made more readily accessible and available.

Discussion (30 minutes)

1. What does self-determination mean to you?
2. In what ways can trans students at your school, or in your state, work toward gaining self-determination?
3. How can staff and faculty at your school best support trans students in their journey for self-determination? (i.e. Through funding? Policy-making?) What other resources should they should offer?
4. All systems of oppression are interconnected; which means that none of us are free until all of us are free.
 - a. If you are a cisgender person, how can you show allyship toward transgender people who are working towards gender liberation?

- b. If you are a trans person, what are some ways you can be any ally towards other trans people? (i.e. If you are a white binary trans person, how can you show support to non-binary trans people of color; or if you are a masculine trans person how can you show support for feminine trans people?)
5. Why is it important for trans students to feel represented at school? What do days like #GSADay4GJ mean to you? What are some of the impacts in participating in these events?
6. How do you demonstrate self-determination in your everyday life?
7. Historically, transgender and gender non-conforming youth have been restricted from making decisions about their body, legal documentation, and education. (Some examples of this include: not being able to access hormones without the consent of a guardian, non-trans inclusive sexual education, and policy barring trans people from getting ID's with their preferred gender.) In what ways have transgender and gender variant youth in your community been prevented from making decisions for themselves?

Feel free to think of more questions to add below

8.

9.

Thank you for holding space with your GSA today on GSA Day for Gender Justice! Please visit our website ourtranstruth.org for more resources and connections to opportunity! Remember, you already have the power to lead. We believe in you, we believe in ourselves, and we believe in the young people to lead our movement.

Manifesto Text

National Trans Youth Council: Nine Point Platform

We, the National TRUTH Council of 2017-18, draft this document in the radical tradition of creating manifests in order to define our revolution and achieve liberation. The manifesto was inspired by and builds upon the Black Panther Party's Ten-Point Program, the Young Lord's 12 Point Program and Platform, and the Third World Gay Revolution. The manifesto is not a static document, but a living one, so that it may be updated and changed to reflect the council's increasing understanding of the systems of oppression and the changes in the language we use to describe both ourselves and these systems.

We are in a moment which calls for us to bravely and ferociously fight for our communal liberation. In this moment, in the name of our transgender and gender nonconforming ancestors who struggled before us, in our blood, bones, and our spirits, we claim our right to existence and our future victory with these frameworks to guide our own work and the work of future generations on our collective, continuous journey towards liberation.

1. **We Call for the Right to Self-Determination and Control of Our Destinies**

We as trans youth have the right to control our narratives, spaces, and all aspects of our lives. Resources to achieve this trans empowerment must be made more readily accessible and available.

2. **We Call for the Abolition of the Police, ICE, Borders and the Judicial System**

We demand abolition! Abolition of the police, abolition of borders and ICE, abolition of the current punishment-based justice system. We demand for our communities to be empowered to take care of themselves, for no borders, for rehabilitation and healing justice. Abolition is a process that we are committed to fight for.

3. **We Call for an End to Disposability Politics and a Commitment to Transformative Justice**

We believe in establishing a culture of accountability that is transformative in nature and creates an opportunity for growth. We must take responsibility and hold space for the collective wellbeing and unity of our people.

4. **We Call for an End of the Cisgender Heterosexual Patriarchy**

We recognize that the current state of the world centralizes the stories of white cisgender heterosexual men. We call for the end of a social structure that separates or determines the value of people on gender expectations from historical Europe. We



demand that queer and/or TGNC people no longer be oppressed by these frameworks, institutions, and their enablers.

5. We call for Decolonization and Reparations for all Indigenous and Black Peoples

We call for the payment of reparations that are owed and the reclamation of cultural practices by the communities from which they originated. We call for the active and complacent perpetrators of cultural appropriation and colonization to be held accountable and to recognize the privilege they maintain through the oppression of others.

6. We Call for Comprehensive Education that Reflects our Histories and Needs

We call for the use of informed educational practices that provide access to curriculum to help build opportunities for historically erased peoples. We call for free and non-compulsory education for all ages and for all access levels.

7. We Call for an End to Global White Supremacy

We call for the end of this racist system that profits off of the devaluing of Black people, Indigenous people and all other people of color. We believe in exposing the history of global white supremacy and its discriminatory practices.

8. We Call for Land Justice and Environmental Justice

We call for the recognition and Indigenous reclamation of stolen lands. We call for conscious creation through choosing to stay local and sustainable, remembering that our actions last for generations.

9. We Invite our Comrades, Accomplices and Allies to Join Us

We invite our comrades in struggle who align with our principles, including those who have yet to self-determine their relationship to the struggle, to join us in solidarity, coalition, and liberation -- remembering the revolution is a relationship.

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