

Demonstrating Care: Showing Trans Young People They Matter

May 15th, 2026 - Virtual

Parent/Professional Advocacy League
Youth MOVE Massachusetts



Welcome!

Our Agenda Today:

Introductions

Assumptions & Context

What's Needed from Us?

Accountability

Takeaway Resources

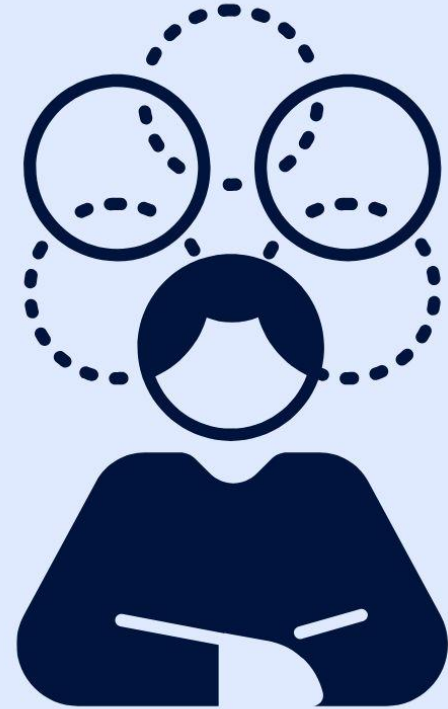


Assumptions & Context

- Transforming ourselves and our wider world is not a straight line.
- Homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and other systems of oppression are upheld by white supremacy. Demonstrating care for transgender young people *requires* challenging racism and colonization.
- Transgender young people, especially transgender girls and women, are facing a cultural moment that is explicitly hostile towards their existence. This is happening close to home, including here in Massachusetts and New England.



What's Needed From Us?



Gentle Curiosity

“[Gentle curiosity is] about exploring experiences, ideas, and even our own thoughts with an **open mind** and a **kind heart**. Instead of rushing to label things as "good" or "bad," we **pause, observe, and ask** questions.”

- Astute Psychology and Education Center, Australia

- See things as they are
- Ask genuine questions
- Be okay with uncertainty
- Treat yourself kindly
- Seek to understand first
 - Really, truly! actively listen
- Start small!
- Ask “I’m curious”
- Embrace I don’t know
- Talk to yourself kindly
- Seek different perspectives
- Be patient

<https://www.astutepsychology.com.au/blog/gentle-curiosity-non-judgment>

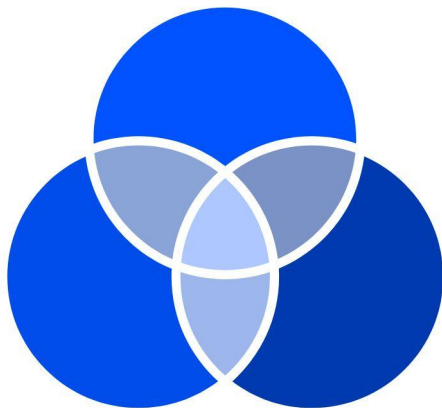


Intersectionality

Intersectionality is a **framework** for understanding how groups' and individuals' social and political identities result in **unique combinations of discrimination and privilege**.

There are queer and transgender young people who are *a/so*:

- Neurodiverse
- BIPOC
- Newcomers
- Multi-systems
- Disabled
- Religion



Gender & Pronouns

- Safety, incl emotional safety, is required for trauma informed approach. *Using correct pronouns is required for a trauma informed approach to supporting any transgender young person.*
 - Research from [The Family Acceptance Project](#) has found using transgender people's correct pronouns reduces suicidal ideation, substance abuse, and depression.
- You may not understand a person's gender; You *can* understand how to see and respect their gender
- Misgendering is often because we *do not see someone as themselves*, we see gendered characteristics
- Getting misgendered is a lot like tripping on the sidewalk - make it quick!
- Confirm with your young people where they use which pronouns



Sustaining Change

Accountability
Next steps
Resources



Accountability

- Trusted adults and professionals must hold each other accountable to new practices - using accurate pronouns, documenting with young people, not assuming/second guessing young people's identities, etc.
- It is exhausting to be the one to always say "actually my pronouns are"
- Remind other adults - and *do not take it personally when you are reminded.....*
Remember: not right or wrong, but "what can I learn"
- **We do harm** by repeating mistakes like misgendering, assuming sexuality or behavior, not including different queer and transgender people and families in our conversations.
- **We can make small changes that develop greater trust**, especially in these current times.
- Who do you trust (and who trusts you!) to check in on these actions?



Activity: Pod Mapping for Accountability





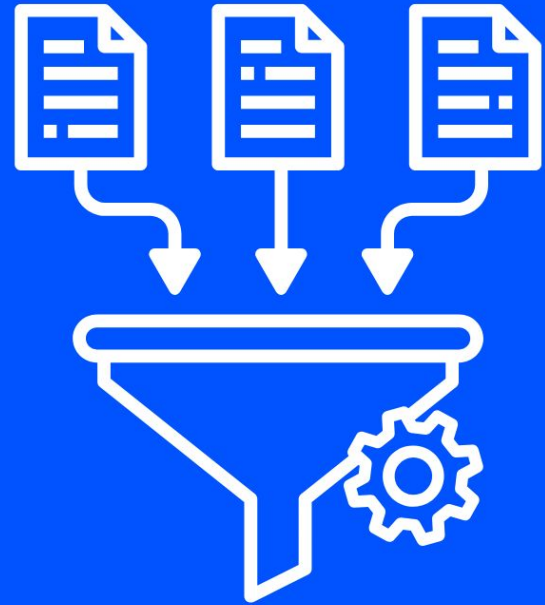
Questions & Conversation



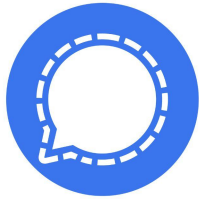
How'd we do?

Please [follow the link](#) to complete a 8 question survey. This helps us improve over time and better meet participants' needs!

Thank you!



Connect with Us!



@SpaceCases.508



[508] 713-8768



info@spacecases.org



www.spacecases.org

Resources

- Minus 18 Pronouns Practice ([Minus 18](#))
- Massachusetts ([The Trevor Project](#))
- Bridge Over Troubled Water ([BOTW](#))
- Boston GLASS ([JRI](#))
- Free parent peer support groups and workshops ([PPAL](#))
- PFLAG Connects: Communities for BIPOC Parents ([PFLAG](#))
- Gentle Curiosity ([Astute Psychology and Education Center](#))
- Nonbinary Youth in the Mental Health System ([YMN](#): Part [#1](#) & Part [#2](#))
- Project READY: Intersectionality Learning Toolkit ([UNC](#))
- Family Acceptance Project ([San Francisco State University](#))
 - Youth & Family Resources ([Family Acceptance Project](#))
- GLAAD's Media Guide ([GLAAD](#))
 - Guide to Current Legislation in MA ([GLAAD](#))



Resources: Stories

[Being Gay and in Foster Care](#) - Kristopher

[Christian Parent of Trans Child](#) - Avery

[Veteran Father of Trans Daughter](#) - Nicole

[Disabled and Queer](#) - Andrew

[Being Queer and an Immigrant](#) - Sonia

[Intersectional Perspectives](#) - Youth MOVE National

[QIC-LGBTQIA2S YouTube Playlist](#)

