Supporting Queer Youth

Prepared by Aeryn Luminkith, acknowledging thanks for graphic design support.
I’m Aeryn! (ze/zir)

- LGBDTQ Member
- Queer
- Background in education
- Have worked with many queer young people over the years
- Have previously worked with non-profit LGBT rights organizations
Agenda

• Why it’s important to support queer youth
• Who are we talking about?
• Legislation affecting queer youth
• How to help
Definitions

• **Queer:** Anyone who falls in the LGBTQ Community (trans, gay, etc)

• **Transgender:** Someone whose gender doesn’t match their assigned gender at birth

• **Cisgender:** Someone whose gender matches their assigned gender at birth

• **Youth:** Anyone under 18
Alexander’s Story

As recorded by Letizia Mariotti
Photograph also by Letizia Mariotti
What is the impact?

Homelessness Rates and Suicide Rates

Data from True Colors Fund

Data from Trevor Project
Legislation

• Florida’s “Parental Rights in Education” Bill aka “Don’t Say Gay” Bill
• Idaho’s HB 675
• Alabama’s HB 266

• Devastating to youth who feel powerless
• Frightening to see it becoming illegal to exist as a queer person
Helping Queer Kids You Know

• Be inclusive in the language you use
• Speak up when someone makes jokes at the expense of queer people
• Encourage kids to exist as they are
• Normalize sharing pronouns!
• Be prepared to correct mistakes!
• Don’t make assumptions about anyone’s romantic interests
• Kids are NOT too young to “know” if they’re queer
Helping Queer Kids in your Community

• Local Orgs (Philly)
  • The Attic Youth Center
  • Mazzoni Center
  • William Way Community Center

• National Orgs
  • Trevor Project
  • Trans Lifeline