

RESOURCES: PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

- **GLAD Answers**

Call: (800) 455-GLAD (4523)

Email or Live Chat:

www.GLADAnswers.org

- **Connecticut Commission for Human Rights & Opportunities**

(860) 541-3400

Connecticut Toll Free 1-800-477-5737

www.ct.gov/chro

- **Connecticut Department of Education**

(860) 713-6543

www.sde.ct.gov/sde

- **Connecticut Department of Children and Families**

(860) 550-6300

www.ct.gov/dcf

- **U.S. Department of Education**

- **Office for Civil Rights**

(617) 289-0111

www2.ed.gov/ocr

RESOURCES: LOCAL LGBTQ YOUTH GROUPS

- **True Colors: Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services**

(860) 232-0050

www.ourtruecolors.org

- **Kids in Crisis**

(203) 327-5491

- **Outspoken at the Triangle Community Center**

(203) 227-1755

www.ctoutspoken.com

- **The Rainbow Room at the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC)**

(860) 278-4163

RESOURCES: KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

- The text of the Connecticut anti-bullying law: <http://1.usa.gov/ctbullyinglaw>
- GLAD's Connecticut students' rights webpage: <http://bit.ly/ctstudentsrights>
- GLAD's webpage on student rights: <http://bit.ly/gladstudentrights>

OTHER RESOURCES YOU CAN USE

- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Hartford** (860) 633-7184
www.pflaghartford.org/connecticut.html
- New Haven/Shoreline** (203) 458-0493
greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com
- Norwalk/Southwestern CT** (203) 874-7365
pflagswct@yahoo.com
- Southeastern CT** (860) 447-0884
pflagsect@snet.net
- **Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network GLSEN CT Chapter**
(203) 533-9613 www.glsen.org/connecticut
- **Connecticut Outreach Society**
(860) 604-6364 info@outreach.org
- **Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition**
(860) 761-6699 www.ctaidscoalition.org
- **Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
(888) 774-2900 www.ctcadv.org
- **Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.**
(860) 282-9881 www.connsacs.org/
- **The Trevor Project**
Crisis/Support Line: (866) 488-7386
www.thetrevorproject.org

If your school doesn't take you seriously, if you find that any of your rights are not being respected or if you have *any* legal questions, **contact GLAD Answers by email anytime at: GLADAnswers@glad.org**

Or work one-on-one with a trained volunteer Monday-Friday, 1:30-4:30 p.m. EST

- **Either by live chat:**
www.GLADAnswers.org
- **Or by phone: (800) 455-GLAD (4523)**

GLAD Answers is free and confidential and can provide you with additional information about your rights — and resources that can help you fight for them.

C O N N E C T I C U T



Want to Know Your Rights As an LGBTQ Student?

GLAD's Got Your Back.

Knowing Your Rights is the First Step to Empowering Yourself.



30 Winter Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02108
(617) 426-1350 • (800) 455-GLAD
GLADAnswers@glad.org

All Public School Students Have the Right:

- To be safe in school without being discriminated against, harassed or **bullied**, because of your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or HIV status.

Bullying is defined as:

Repeated use of written/oral/electronic communication or physical act by one or more students directed at another student in the same school district that:

- (1) causes or places you in fear of physical or emotional harm to yourself or damage to your property;
- (2) creates a hostile school environment;
- (3) infringes on your rights; or
- (4) substantially disrupts your education.

The law identifies certain characteristics that are often a target for bullying, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, **gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression**, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, mental, physical, developmental or sensory **disability (which includes HIV status)** or association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics.

- To access information about LGBTQ subjects, including educational websites.
- To free speech and expression, including the right to express ideas respectfully that may offend others, and to disagree with others.
- To dress and present yourself in a manner consistent with your gender identity.

All Public and Some Private School Students Have the Right:

- To form a Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) that gets treated the same as every other non-curricular group. This means equal funding, access to facilities, and the ability to choose your group's name.
- To be protected from discrimination based on your sex or HIV status.
- To be protected from sexual harassment.



What You Can Do if You're Being Harassed, Bullied or Discriminated Against at School:

- **Tell somebody.** If you have understanding friends, parents, teachers, or counselors, use them as a support system.
- **Keep notes on what's happening** (and record who, when, where, and how).
- **Get a copy of your school's policies** on student conduct and discipline. All Connecticut school boards must adopt a bullying policy, and it must be posted on the internet and in the student handbook. You can ask your guidance counselor or school administrator for a copy.
- **Report it** to the person designated in your school's policy. Make your report in writing or electronically so you can prove you made it. Each school must follow a prescribed safe school climate plan which requires school employees who witness bullying or receive reports of bullying to report it and for the school to investigate all reports of bullying promptly. If bullying is found, the school is required to:
 - take necessary measures to ensure the safety of the target student and to prevent further acts of bullying; and
 - notify the parents of both the bully and the target student about the steps being taken to ensure the safety of the target student.

If You Need Help, Contact GLAD Answers via Email, Live Chat, or Phone:
www.GLADAnswers.org
(800) 455-GLAD (4523)



Outside School, You Have the Right:

- To be protected from discrimination based on your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or HIV status in employment, housing, and public accommodations (like restaurants or stores).
- To give your own consent to get tested for HIV without your parents' permission. However, the doctor is required to provide counseling encouraging you to work towards involving your parents in any decisions about treatment and notifying your partners.
- To keep your HIV status private. Under Connecticut law, healthcare providers cannot disclose HIV status without your consent.
- To report to the police anyone in or out of school who physically harms you, threatens you or vandalizes your property.

Get more information about your rights:
www.glad.org/youth

