



# **Youth Advocacy Resources**

**Curated by MOASH Youth Advisory Council Members**



I want to get involved with advocacy so I can spread awareness and take action on topics I'm passionate about.... but I don't know where to begin! Maybe we can start with school boards?



Of course we can! School boards make big decisions about our education. They're in charge of things like deciding what we learn, managing money for school programs, setting school policies, and so much more. Their meetings are open to the public.

If you are interested in speaking at a school board meeting, you can find steps to get started in our resources! Remember: rules can vary by school district, but you still have a right to speak under reasonable coverage by the First Amendment. Young people's perspective & experience is crucial.

Similar groups (with varying rules & ways to get involved) exist in our school infrastructure too - such as Sex Ed Advisory Boards in Michigan, which work on a district level to approve sex ed curriculum. If you're passionate about comprehensive sex ed, this is a must to keep on your radar!



That's so helpful! I just put all the upcoming meetings in my calendar.

I also hear a lot about Title IX, but I don't really get it. What does Title IX even do?



Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in any school (including colleges) that receives federal funding. Title IX exists to protect students from discrimination, bullying, harassment, and hostile environments. These protections apply to all school-run programs and extracurricular activities.



# Words of Wisdom from MOASH Youth Advocates

“Being an advocate can mean engaging in ‘uncomfortable’ conversations in order for change to be made.

Let communities impacted by problems be the leaders of the solution.”

**-Vic**

*MY TV Co-Facilitator*

“Being an advocate for something means taking action!

Advocating for change means refusing to accept the status quo and speaking out for what’s right.”

**-Indigo**

*MY Faith Member*

“Being an advocate means speaking up for your community.

Advocacy involves a lot of listening and learning.

It’s no longer just about you, it’s about everyone.”

**-Zi**

*MY REC Member*





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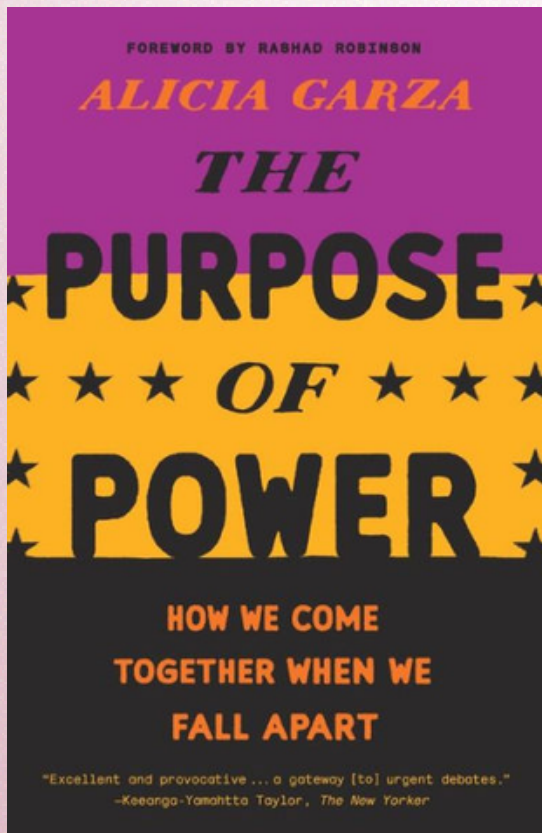




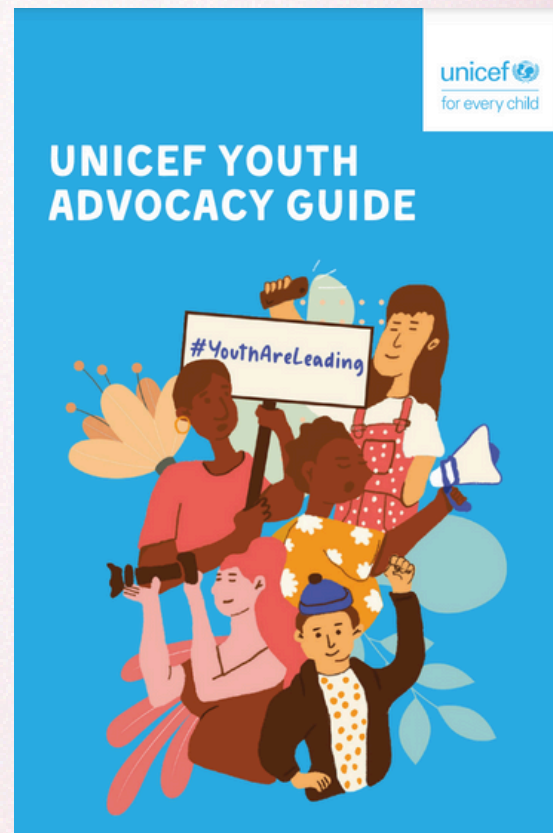
# Key Terms

<b>Advocacy</b>	The act of offering support for a cause. There are many ways one can be an advocate.
<b>Bodily Autonomy</b>	The right to make informed decisions about your body, life, and future with external influence.
<b>Protest</b>	An event or action where one can publicly express their opinion and demand change. Protests take many forms.
<b>Sit-In</b>	The act of occupying a space as a form of protest.
<b>Consent</b>	Permission given for something to happen or an agreement made to do something
<b>Victim Blaming</b>	Putting the responsibility on a victim or potential victim to control or change their behavior to avoid harm
<b>Rally</b>	A typically larger protest supporting a specific cause, often has pre-arranged speakers
<b>Vigil</b>	A more solemn protest in remembrance of lives lost or harm caused to a marginalized group. This form of protest is often silent

# Concepts & Tips



*“An essential guide to building transformative movements to address the challenges of our time, from one of the country’s leading organizers and a co-creator of Black Lives Matter.”*



*“Really well made guide that defines multiple aspects of advocating as a young person. I think the sections on policy, personal check-ins, and feeling stuck are extra helpful.”*

## [Protesting When Trans: Know Your Rights | Trans Youth Equality](#)

What MOASH youth have to say: *“Amazing anthology for intersex youth- I think this is a great example of the different examples of how youth can engage and express their voice/feelings.”*

## [Participating in Direct Actions: A Guide for Transgender People | Trans Youth Equality](#)

## [Pride & Protest: Safety Tips for LGBTQ+ Youth | GSA Network](#)



# Strategy

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[Youth Activist Toolkit | Advocates for Youth](#)

[Advocating for Ourselves & Our Loved Ones | MOASH](#)




## Schools

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[Supporting Trans Students Resource Document | MY Trans Voice Youth Advisory Council \(MOASH x Stand with Trans\)](#)



What MOASH youth have to say: *“Really well made guide that defines multiple aspects of advocating as a young person. I think the sections on policy, personal checkins, and feeling stuck are extra helpful.”*

[Student Advocacy Resource Guide | MOASH](#)

[Stop Sexual Assault in Schools](#)

[Know Your IX | Advocates for Youth](#)



# Get Involved

## Evokate App

What MOASH youth have to say: *"This is a great resource for youth interested in mental health advocacy and the intersectional overlap with being LGBTQIA+. There's a great section on taking action broken down by type on involvement and time, which is super great for youth who need to advocate remotely or in limited intervals."*

## YOUTH & I

What MOASH youth have to say: *"Amazing anthology for intersex youth- I think this is a great example of the different examples of how youth can engage and express their voice/feelings."*

## Act Out! | Advocates for Youth

What MOASH youth have to say: *"A great group/opportunity for youth do get involved with LGBTQ+ advocacy opportunities- holds great trainings and resources youth can apply to various environments and situations."*

## Ten Ways Youth Can Engage In Activism | American Defamation League

What MOASH youth have to say: *"Great brief breakdown on different ways youth can get involved to make change on the issues they are passionate about."*