

Pro-Choice Public Education Project

At the Pro-Choice Public Education Project (PEP), we prioritize raising the voices of young women, transgender and gender non-conforming young people which often go unheard in conversations about sexual and reproductive health and rights. Young people are disproportionately affected by reproductive oppression, yet most research on their sexual health focuses on STIs and STDs, measuring sexual behavior and rarely addresses their opinions, attitudes, feelings, or the quality of care they received. PEP has launched a new project to address those concerns and elevate the leadership of young people in the reproductive justice movement.

The RISE Initiative will connect focus group research, leadership development, and movement building strategies to increase the visibility and engagement of young people around reproductive justice issues. This fall we will bring together young people to talk about sexual and reproductive health and rights through a series of focus groups.

Partnering with organizations such as National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and Faith Aloud, the focus groups will concentrate on young women of color, low-income women, lesbian, bisexual, queer women and transgender and gender non-conforming young people. We hope this research will provide vital information about the lives of young people and develop them as young leaders to advocate for themselves around their reproductive and sexual health and rights. The RISE Initiative will also have a presence at the 2nd United States Social Forum in June 2010.

For more information about the RISE Initiative and to find out more about how you can get involved with organizing around young people and reproductive justice at the United States Social Forum, please visit www.protectchoice.org.