



Focus on Focus Groups

Thanks to a special grant from the Gill Foundation, we've been learning how moderate parents (Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington DC) react to message and languaging about gender identity and expression. One thing we're finding is that the exact meaning of "gender" can still be confusing, but there is surprisingly broad agreement on the serious problems connected with gender stereotypes.

- Parents are worried about their daughters growing up too fast, dressing in provocative clothing, and caring too much about what boys think at early ages.
- For boys, parents are concerned about making sure their sons grow up respecting themselves and other people, showing empathy and valuing relationships - even though parents recognize that these qualities were not valued in men in the past.

Youth Lead the Way

Young people continue to be among the most active, enthusiastic, and effective activists on gender issues. For example, the new GenderYOUTH chapter at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville is creating a program to create safe spaces and combat school violence and harassment in local high schools this Fall. And student groups are starting GenderYOUTH chapters on 7 new campuses: Bates College (ME), Elmira College (NY), Indiana University (IN), Mount Holyoke College (MA), Ramapo College (NJ), University of Florida, and the University of Tennessee .

We are now collaborating with leaders in 43 chapters in 25 states - and still have 180+ student groups on the waiting list. Every day, we are amazed and inspired by the student leaders who are involved with GenderYOUTH.

GenderPAC Turns 10!

To mark our milestone anniversary, we have a new video, "GenderPAC at 10: A New Vision in Human Rights" by documentary filmmaker Harry Hanbury. It's very moving, telling the story of the last 10 years with documentary footage, pictures and interviews. It premiered at our 10th anniversary celebration on May 20 in DC. We raised more than \$40,000 that evening, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to the Arcus Foundation. There is a free video from the event -- great for introducing new supporters to gender rights and GenderPAC -- now available.

"Coming Home" Human Rights Keynote

We've always said "gender rights are human rights" and now we're been invited to keynote the upcoming "Close to Home: Bringing Human Rights to Illinois" conference sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Libra Foundation in Chicago on July 8. This is part of our 3-year strategic plan to outreach to human rights organizations. We hope to help them better understand violence and discrimination based on gender stereotypes. And help use become more adept at using the human rights model to frame our work. Plus it will help us build more effective coalition with the dynamic and emerging domestic human rights community