

Ruckus! Youth Activism and Anti-Racism Conference

November 23-24, 2007

Time	SCHEDULE
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23	
9:30-10:30am	REGISTRATION
10:30-11:00am	WELCOME
11:00am...1:00pm *Workshop 1*	
1	Borat? Russell Peters? Dave Chappelle? Who Controls Your I.D.? (mis) representations of racial identity Leticia Rose, The Harmony Movement
2	TAKE CONTROL: Preparing Youth for the Fight Against Homophobia Jennifer Hartman, The Harmony Movement
3	A Thousand and One Islamophobes: Islamophobia and Popular Culture Arwa Aulaqi, Ameera Basmadji, Arab Community Centre of Toronto
4	Love or Obsession? Stalking Alana Lowe, METRAC – Respect in Action: Youth Preventing Violence (ReAct)
5	Intersecting Identities: Anti-Oppression 101 Deidre Walton
6	Let's Talk: HIV/AIDS Workshop 101 Christopher Lawrence and Keith Cunningham, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black-CAP)
7	TBA

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1:00..2:00pm *LUNCH!*

2:00..3:00pm *Workshop 2*

1	Continuous Struggle and Challenges: LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS Activists Share Their Stories Chi Ching Hui, Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS)
2	Education Not Deportation! Immigrant Students Fight Back No One Is Illegal Toronto
3	Critically Examining the Media: Islamophobia Sadiya and Chi Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre
4	Creative Writing and Theatre of the Oppressed Erin Vahidi
5	Parlour Tricks and Poetry: Dub Poetry Workshop Deidre Walton
6	Hip Hop Politics Stolen From Africa

3:00..4:30pm *Workshop 3*

1	Let's Talk: HIV/AIDS Workshop 101 Christopher Lawrence and Keith Cunningham, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention- CAP
2	Design Your Own Freedom Gein Wong and Patrick Salvani Asian Arts Freedom School
3	The Genocide in Darfur Erika Finestone, Project Equity International
4	A Thousand and One Islamophobes: Islamophobia and Popular Culture Arwa Aulaqi and Ameera Basmadji, Arab Community Centre of Toronto
5	Young Male Magazines TBA

End of day I

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24	
10:30..11:30am *Workshop 1*	
1	Critically Examining the Media Sadiya Ansari and Chi Nguyen, Toronto Women's City Alliance
2	Teen Dating Violence Minnie Zhou, Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre
3	Public Speaking Nogah Kornberg, Project Equity International
4	Borat? Russell Peters? Dave Chappelle? Who Controls Your I.D.? Leticia Rose, Harmony Movement
5	TAKE CONTROL: Preparing Youth for the Fight Against Homophobia Jennifer Hartman, Harmony Movement
12:30....1:30pm *LUNCH!*	
1:30...3:00pm *Workshop 2*	
1	Creative Writing and Theatre of the Oppressed Erin Vahidi
2	Power Plays: Queer and Trans Youth Resist Hate Tess Vo, Jay Siao and Arti Mehta, ReachOut
3	Young Male Magazines TBA
4	Let's Talk: HIV/AIDS Workshop 101 Christopher Lawrence and Keith Cunningham, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black-CAP)
3:00...4:30pm *WORKSHOP 3*	
1	Anti-Racist Allies: Theatre of the Oppressed and Forum Theatre Heather Childs and Roxanna Vahed

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2	Power Plays: Queer and Trans Youth Resist Hate Tess Vo, Jay Siao and Arti Mehta, ReachOut
3	Education Not Deportation! Immigrant Students Fight Back No One Is Illegal - Toronto
4	Design Your Own Freedom Patrick Salvani and Gein Wong, Asian Arts Freedom School
End of day II	

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Friday, November 23

11:00am-1:00pm

1) Borat? Russell Peters? Dave Chappelle? Who Controls your I.D? Racial Identity in the Media

Presented by Letecia Rose, Harmony Movement

Room: TBA

This interactive workshop allows youth to explore the (mis) representations of racial identity in the media, peer groups, school, family and other major institutions. Using media clips, group discussion and activities participants will understand how their own identity affects their attitudes and behaviors towards specific groups—particularly racialized communities and individuals labeled as “other”. In addition to developing a critical understanding of these misrepresentations youth will be given educational tools and leadership strategies to actively and proactively respond in their respective environments.

2) TAKE CONTROL - Preparing Youth for the Fight Against Homophobia

Presented by Jennifer Hartman, Harmony Movement

Room: TBA

TAKE CONTROL is an interactive, discussion based workshop that focuses on issues related to identity and sexuality, with a main focus on acceptance and respect. Through interactive activities and various movie clips, we will take a look at how society views the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community and the affect that it has on everyone. By looking at the language, history and evolution of identity and sexuality, as well as cultural influences and stigmas, students will not only learn how to speak up against discrimination related to homophobia and heterosexism, but will receive tools on how to become an ally in their school.

3) A Thousand and One Islamaphobes: Islamophobia in the Media

Presented by Arwa Aulaq, M.A student, Ryerson University - Immigration and Settlement and Ameera Basmadji, Arab Community Centre

Room: TBA

In this interactive workshop youth will be educated about Islamophobia through representations in the media, illustrate the diversity in Muslim communities, debunk misrepresentations and stereotypes about Muslims, and provide ways in which we, as youth, can begin to tackle Islamophobia. Featuring clips from the film “Reel Bad Arabs” and discussion of current events and examples of youth standing up against Islamaphobia.

4) Love or Obsession? Stalking

Presented by METRAC (Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children)

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Room: TBA

This workshop explores the difference between romance, courtship, and persistent, unwanted attention. Through, popular music videos and interactive group activities, this workshop will help youth identify the difference between a love interest and a “bug-a-boo”. Participants will leave the workshop with tools to help work towards healthy relationships.

5) Intersecting Identities and Power: Anti-Oppression 101

Presented by Deidre Walton

Room: TBA

An interactive workshop about power, privilege and identity that will challenge and inspire. Participants will learn how race, sex, class, age, sexual orientation, education, culture and language shape our experience. This workshop will include the Power Flower and Triangle/Iceberg Exercises.

6) Let's Talk: HIV/AIDS Workshop 101

Presented by Christopher Lawrence and Kelisha Peart, Black-CAP - Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention

Room: TBA

This interactive, discussion based workshop will introduce the topic of HIV/AIDS using different mediums to evoke feelings and subjective thoughts. Participants will go in-depth into HIV/AIDS, discussing what it really is and how to prevent the spread of the virus and disease. Youth will discuss HIV/AIDS issues in small groups, set individual goals for safer sex and learn about male and female condoms.

Friday, November 23

2:00-3:00 pm

1) Continuous Struggle and Challenges: LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS Activists share their stories

Presented by Chi Ching Hui, Asian Community AIDS Services(ACAS)

Room: TBA

Participants will be introduced to LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS issues through a series of interactive exercises, games and short films. This workshop will cover topics like: discrimination, stigma and prejudice from society in general. LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS activists and community workers will share their stories and how they became active in the field and how the struggle continues. Participants will engage in lively discussion on how to combat the stigma, prejudice and discrimination on the topics of HIV/AIDS and queer issues.

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2) Education Not Deportation! Immigrant Students Fight Back

Presented by No One Is Illegal - Toronto

Room: TBA

Join No One Is Illegal for a workshop that will expose Canada's role in driving people from their homes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Mexico and many other places around the world. We will also unveil Canada's unjust immigration and citizenship policies that discriminate against communities of colour and poor and working people. Most importantly, you will learn about the struggle for justice and dignity for migrants, refugees and indigenous people and how you can get involved. From Jarvis Collegiate to Western Tech, high school students across the GTA are standing up to defend their classmates against detention and deportation.

Join No One Is Illegal to learn more about the struggles of Rawad Reda, Matthew Nguyen, Kimberly and Gerald Lizano Sossa and other students who have mobilized not only against their own deportations but to demand justice for all people without status.

3) CRITICALLY EXAMINING THE MEDIA: Islamophobia

Presented by Sadiya Ansari and Chi Nguyen, Toronto Women's City Alliance

Room: TBA

Why is a Muslim woman described as 'veiled' in a news article when it has nothing to do with the story? What do you think about the portrayal of Muslims on Little Mosque on the Prairie? The aim of the workshop is to provide youth with tools to critically examine various forms of media including print and television media as well as online content. Islamophobia will be the topic to focus this discussion. Participants will learn how to critically examine both content and ownership patterns and will discuss different ways to take action (civic action, targeting media governance and proactive work such as independent media projects).

4) Creative Resistance and Theatre of the Oppressed

Presented by Erin Vahidi

Room: TBA

While almost everyone has faced some kind of oppression in their lives, most of us do not know how to deal with the feelings that come up - often responding with aggression in negative ways. This workshop will take youth through scenarios they have dealt with, and instead just of talking about what can be done, youth will actually work as a group to figure out what will work and will not work. This workshop will be highly interactive using poetry, free verse, dramatic practice and role-playing as forms of creative resistance to learn how to deal with racism, xenophobia and other forms of oppression. Youth will receive a list of resources for further learning.

5) Parlour Tricks and Poetry: Dub Poetry

Presented by Deidre Walton

Room: TBA

This workshop will introduce participants to the art form known as Dub Poetry.

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Friday, November 23

3:00-4:30pm

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Room: TBA

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2) A Thousand and One Islamaphobes: Islamophobia in the Media

Presented by Arwa Aulaq, M.A student, Ryerson University - Immigration and Settlement and Ameera Basmati, Arab Community Centre

Room: TBA

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3) Design Your Own Freedom

Presented by Patrick Salvani and Gein Wong, Asian Arts Freedom School

Room: TBA

Because you're sick of being asked "Where're you from? No, where are you really from?" Because you're sick of hearing "You're Jamaican, I love beef patties!" Because you know Chinatown restaurants aren't dirty and don't serve cat meat. Because you never get a chance to say anything. This writing and theatre workshop that will take the locks off your tongue and let you say what you really want to say.

4) The Genocide in Darfur

Presented by Erika Finestone, Project Equity International

Room: TBA

This educational and interactive workshop will outline the history of the genocide in Darfur and establish that what is occurring in Darfur is genocide. Youth will role-play different individuals in Darfur and be required to make decisions on behalf of the person they are playing. Participants will leave the workshop with greater empathy and understanding about the genocide in Darfur and will learn how they can take action to stop it.

3) What Does it Mean to be a Man? Media Literacy and Masculinity

Presented by Paul Baines, Global Aware and Co-Facilitator

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Room: TBA

What magazines are guys reading these days? Are men interested in more than abs, gadgets, girls, and celebrities? For 90 minutes we can be curious about all the current magazines for men and the types of dysfunctional masculinities we see providing participants to re-tool the boxed-in roles many guys struggle with.

Saturday, November 24

10:30-12:30pm

1) Teen Dating and Violence

Presented by Minnie Zhou, Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre

Room: TBA

The Teen Dating Violence workshop is designed to be interactive with games and is customized to suit high school students in grades 9 to 12. The purpose of the workshop is to allow youth to understand more about how violence occurs in relationships and how it repeats itself in a cycle. Furthermore, youth will learn prevention methods and approaches to violence happening in relationships. The workshop will provide an opportunity for youth to talk about violence and the ways to deal with it.

2) Be an Effective Advocate For Your Cause: Public Speaking

Presented by Erika Finestone, Project Equity International

Room: TBA

What to do and what not to do when speaking in public. Participants will learn the top 10 tips for effective public speaking and will practice their skills by modeling effective public speaking behaviour, writing and presenting a short speech and receiving feedback during the workshop. This workshop will help participants develop strong communication skills while increasing self-esteem and confidence.

2) Borat? Russell Peters? Dave Chappelle? Who Controls Your I.D.? Racial Identity in the Media

Presented by Leticia Rose, Harmony Movement

Room: TBA

This interactive workshop allows youth to explore the (mis) representations of racial identity in the media, peer groups, school, family and other major institutions. Using media clips, group discussion and activities participants will understand how their own identity affects their attitudes and behaviors towards specific groups—particularly racialized communities and individuals labeled as “other”. In addition to developing a critical understanding of these misrepresentations youth will be given educational tools and leadership strategies to actively and proactively respond in their respective environments.

3) CRITICALLY EXAMINING THE MEDIA

Presented by Sadiya Ansari and Chi Nguyen, Toronto Women's City Alliance

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Why is a Muslim woman described as 'veiled' in a news article when it has nothing to do with the story? What do you think about the portrayal of Muslims on Little Mosque on the Prairie? The aim of the workshop is to provide youth with tools to critically examine various forms of media including print and television media as well as online content. Islamophobia will be the topic to focus this discussion. Participants will learn how to critically examine both content and ownership patterns and will discuss different ways to take action (civic action, targeting media governance and proactive work such as independent media projects).

Saturday, November 24

1:30-3:00pm

1) What Does it Mean to be a Man? Media Literacy and Masculinity

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Room: TBA

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2) Power Plays: Queer and Trans Youth Resist Hate

Presented by Arti Mehta, Jay Siao, Tess Vo and youth participants from ReachOUT

Room: TBA

This fun and creative workshop explores ways in which queer and trans youth of colour and their allies can resist bullying, harassment, and hate in the hallways as well as out in the street. Make your own resistance buttons and sport your customized designs throughout the city.

3) Creative Resistance and Theatre of the Oppressed

Presented by Erin Vahidi

Room: TBA

While almost everyone has faced some kind of oppression in their lives, most of us do not know how to deal with the feelings that come up - often responding with aggression in negative ways. This workshop will take youth through scenarios they have dealt with, and instead just of talking about what can be done, youth will actually work as a group to figure out what will work and will not work. This workshop will be highly interactive using poetry, free verse, dramatic practice and role-playing as forms of creative resistance to learn how to deal with racism, xenophobia and other forms of oppression. Youth will receive a list of resources for further learning.

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Presented by No One Is Illegal - Toronto

Room: TBA

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3) Anti-Racist Allies: Theatre of the Oppressed and Forum Theatre

Presented by Heather Childs and Roxanna Vahed

Room: TBA

This workshop will give participants an opportunity to respond to racism and re-think situations in which they may have found themselves. They will leave equipped with a framework around what it is to be an ally and tools for assessing their own privilege and power roles in a given situation as well as real-life strategies for challenging oppression.

3) Design Your Own Freedom

Presented by Patrick Salvani and Gein Wong, Asian Arts Freedom School

Room: TBA

Because you're sick of being asked "Where're you from? No, where are you really from?" Because you're sick of hearing "You're Jamaican, I love beef patties!" Because you know Chinatown restaurants aren't dirty and don't serve cat meat. Because you never get a chance to say anything. This writing and theatre workshop that will take the locks off your tongue and let you say what you really want to say.

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Facilitator Biographies

Sadiya Ansari is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto where she completed her BA in Public Policy and International Studies. She received the Manzer Graduation Prize in Public Policy from the University awarded to the top student in the discipline. Sadiya is especially interested in examining the influence of various levels of governance on the nature of community organizations. In addition to this, she has a keen curiosity about motivations for and barriers to political participation. Sadiya currently coordinates the Muslim Youth Program at the Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre in addition to working for the Toronto Women's City Alliance.

Arwa Aulaqi has worked at the Arab Community Centre of Toronto, and she is currently an M.A student at Ryerson University in Immigration and Settlement. She is also an Arab and a Muslim.

Paul Baines

Ameera Basmadji is a Youth Coordinator at the Arab Community Centre of Toronto. She also just graduated from Ryerson University with a Master of Arts in Immigration and Settlement. She also wrote her Master's thesis on the extent to which cultural productions by female Muslim Canadians intervene into dominant Western discourses about Islam and popular representations of Muslims in the West, specifically Canada. Ameera is also an Arab and a Muslim.

Heather Childs is a dinosaur fanatic with a background in theatre and a decade of experience using active listening, counselling skills, group facilitation and question after question to make the world a better place. Heather combines misfit sensibilities and an anti-oppression framework with a quirky sense of humour to re-order the world.

Erika Finestone is currently a student completing her last year at Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute. Having been involved with many social justice organizations, such as Save Darfur Coalition Canada, Amnesty International and Project Equity International, Erika has now taken on the role of coordinating the L.E.A.D. program. She also recently created a "Save Darfur Club" at her school, engaging over 30 students in the planning of fundraisers and events. She has already spoken to over 350 students from different schools, camps and religious groups about the conflict in Darfur. Next year she is hoping to be studying in the field of International Development at either McGill University or Queens University. She plans to continue her social action work while attending university to help raise awareness of different human rights crises around the world.

Chi Ching Hui began working at a local community house five years ago. Since then he has been actively engaged in HIV/AIDS and queer community through volunteering and working in various organization like Supporting Our Youth, LGBT Youthline, Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) and LGBTQ Program at Griffin Centre. He is now a Youth Program Coordinator at Asian Community AIDS Services, which hosted the Queer Asian Youth (QAY) Program. He also still works at Griffin Centre as a youth facilitator for the YAP! Group, a drop-in group for LGBTQ youth in North Toronto.

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Nogah Kornberg is currently the Education Initiatives Coordinator for Project Equity International, a movement of youth & upcoming talent dedicated to sustainable development. Working with Project Equity, Nogah developed the Leadership Education Ambassadors: Darfur (L.E.A.D.) Program, which spoke to over 500 students about the genocide in Darfur last year. Nogah was originally trained as a speaker in 1998 and has since spoken to audiences of various sizes, including over 4,000 people. Nogah is currently a Teacher Candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in the Intermediate/Senior stream and recently graduated from Trent University with a degree in History and Indigenous Studies.

Christopher Lawrence is a Community Service Worker and Life Skills Instructor who currently works for Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention.

Arti Mehta is a writer, knitter, accessory creator, pillow-maker, button-designer and all 'round crafting queen. When she's not in grad school studying to be a social worker, she's working with queer and trans youth and newcomer women in the arts. She's an aspiring expressive arts therapist and hopes to live somewhere sunny sometime soon.

Chi Nguyen, MSc, Health Community and Development, is a recent graduate of the London School Economics and Political Science. Her academic, advocacy and political interests are in citizen engagement and political participation. She has worked with young women (as a young woman herself) for over ten years, in community-based youth empowerment programmes at the local level with St. Stephen's Community House and Scadding Court Community Centre (Toronto), and federally (Young Women Vote, 2004). She is a recipient of the YWCA Toronto Young Woman of Distinction (1999) and of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case (2004). Chi Nguyen currently works for the Toronto Women's City Alliance.

Letecia Rose is the program coordinator for the Harmony Movement and is responsible for the organization and development of the Harmony Movement Diversity Education Programs. Having been in a number of community productions from the "Vagina Monologues" to "Youth Inpatients", Letecia has a deep interest in all forms of art and is currently working on incorporating the arts into diversity education through the creation of the Impact: Theatre for Change program. Currently obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Health and Society at York University, Letecia is currently implementing a number of youth initiatives like the Harmony Youth Council that will give youth the opportunity to embrace diversity and create change in their respective communities.

Patrick Salvani is a Filipino community worker, organizer, writer, facilitator, and social justice educator with Asian-western Canadianese nuances. Having organized Re-Sisters of Colour and various other community events in Scarborough and Toronto, he is currently with the Newcomer Youth Centre in CultureLink.

Jay Siao is the 16 yr old co-founder of Compass. Compass is a drop-in for LGBTQ youth with intellectual disabilities at the Griffin Centre. Jay is also a performer and can be found on stage at various youth open mic nights throughout the city as well as the Fruitloopz youth stage during Pride Toronto. Jay is a passionate activist promoting disability rights, youth leadership, and safe accessible spaces for queer and trans youth.

Roxanna Vahed is a chocoholic with an MA in Drama from U of T and just under a decade of activist shenanigans under her belt. If she's not working her day job, these days you might just catch her working for safe, accessible housing for women by women.

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Erin Vahidi has been involved with many anti-oppressive initiatives, including the Forum from YAN. She specifically works more closely with the oppression of women, and currently is employed at the Women's Centre at Ryerson University. Her greatest strengths are her ability to listen deeply, clarify issues and structure practical solutions. She also writes spoken word, and has often addressed issues of racism. She is presently attending Ryerson University for Arts and Contemporary Studies, specializing in Diversity and Equity. She plans to attend in the Toronto Institute of Art Therapy for grad school. Upon graduation, her dream is to open her own Art Therapy Clinic in Toronto, dealing mainly with the oppression of Women and Non-Status/Refugee Status individuals.

Tess Vo coordinates Power Plays: Queer and Trans Youth Resist Hate, a project focused on supporting youth who have experienced violence, harassment and bullying on the basis of sexual identity, gender identity and/or gender expression. In 1999 she received a grant from the Laidlaw Foundation in partnership with Trinity Square Video to direct a short video arts project. She is passionate about community development, anti-oppression work, and making resistance buttons.

Deidre Walton

Gein Wong is an acclaimed spoken word poet, writer and music producer who weaves emotion and power throughout her art. Her works focus on obvious things like gender, class and race....as well as things a little less obvious, like gender, class and race. Her words and music have been heard across Canada, as well as internationally in England, the Caribbean, East Asia and the United States. Her CD 'Thousand Mile Voice' is a warm and distinctive blend of East Asian acoustic instruments and electronic brushed beats. Gein is a co-founder and the current director of the Asian Arts Freedom School.

Minnie Zhou is the Violence Against Women Youth Coordinator/Counsellor at RIWC. My role in the organization is to provide support counseling to youth who are victimized by violence. In addition, she designs and delivers workshops on violence to youth in high schools and community centre within the Greater Toronto Area.

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Organizations

The **Arab Community Centre of Toronto** is a federally incorporated organization with charitable status, and is non-political and non-sectarian. The ACCT is proud to be a focal point for all Arab and non-Arab communities in which they can find an outlet for settlement and social services and inquiries. We serve newcomers of all cultures, religions and ethnicities. Our programs are directed towards assisting all men, women, children, and youth. The centre is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Trillium Foundation, and the Maytree Foundation

Asian Arts Freedom School is an art-based radical Asian history and activism program for Asian/Pacific Islander youth in the Greater Toronto Area. Asian = South Asian, West Asian (a.k.a. Arab or Middle-Eastern), Southeast Asian, East Asian, and Central Asian. We cover various artforms including writing, spoken word, music, visual arts, film, breakdancing, theatre and modern dance. We just finished a busy summer with performances at Harbourfront Centre, Nuit Blanche and the 4th APIA Spoken Word Summit in New York City!!

Because Asian is not just curry paste, Lucy Liu, and henna 'tattoos'. Asian is not just being obscure one day and trendy the next, being quiet and well-behaved or being stopped every time you go to the airport or cross a border. Because you're sick of being profiled and harassed. Because feeling inauthentic is okay.

www.myspace.com/asianartsfreedomschool

Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS) is a charitable, non-profit, community-based organization. It provides HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and support services to the East and Southeast Asian Canadian communities. These programs are based on a proactive and holistic approach to HIV/AIDS and are provided in a collaborative, empowering, and non-discriminatory manner.

www.acas.org

Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black-CAP) is a volunteer driven, non-profit, community-based organization. The mission of the agency is to reduce the spread of HIV infection within Toronto's Black communities while enhancing the quality of life of those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. We work in partnership with organizations and individuals who support in principle and practice our mission, philosophy and activities.

www.black-cap.com

Griffin Centre provides a range of responsive community mental health services to youth and adults with complex needs. We have served the community for 30 years and are committed to building better futures for those we serve. Each year we serve over 1000 people. Our services are provided free of charge to youth and their families. At the Griffin Centre Everybody Counts.

www.griffin-centre.org

The Harmony Movement was formed in 1994 as a not-for-profit organization to combat inter-racial intolerance and to confront the "us versus them" attitude which was prevalent in Canadian society at that time. Our mandate is to promote diversity and to combat all forms of discrimination that act as social and cultural barriers to our citizens' full participation in civil society. We empower youths to become active and positive agents of change by implementing diversity education in schools and communities.

www.harmony.ca

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No One is Illegal (Toronto) is a group of immigrants, refugees and allies who fight for the rights of all migrants to live with dignity and respect. We believe that granting citizenship to a privileged few is part of a racist immigration and border policy designed to exploit and marginalize migrants. We work to oppose these policies, as well as the international economic policies that create the conditions of poverty and war that force migration. At the same time, we also work to support and build alliances with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in their fight against colonialism, displacement and the ongoing occupation of their land.

Education Not Deportation is a joint project that was launched by No One Is Illegal-Toronto, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation D-12 and the Toronto Youth Cabinet to strengthen the fight against student deportations and demand access to education without fear for all students without status. Learn more about how your students from school can get involved.

www.toronto.nooneisillegal.org

METRAC is a not-for-profit, community-based organization that works to ensure women, youth, and children live free from all forms of violence and the threat or fear of violence.

We address the distinct realities of women within and among diverse communities.

METRAC's programs seek to prevent and end all individual, institutional and systemic forms of violence. We work collaboratively with a broad range of partners to develop strategies to end violence against women and build safer communities for everyone.

Respect in Action: Youth Preventing Violence (ReAct) is METRAC's unique peer education program. It's made of dynamic, diverse youth who facilitate interactive, peer-to-peer workshops on violence against women and youth. Our workshops raise awareness, foster discussion, and introduce existing community resources to challenge diverse youth and inspire them to prevent violence in their lives.

ReAct offers an array of youth-friendly, youth-created, and youth-led workshops. They provide an empowering space for youth to participate in the process of learning in a way that validates their personal experiences. As well as offering peer-led workshops, ReAct offers Train-the-Trainer sessions for service providers, educators, and community workers, as well as speakers for panels, presentations, and assemblies.

All ReAct youth workshops include:

- Interactive activities (e.g. art, drama, media clips, games)
- An interview process to ensure the workshop meets the needs of youth participants and to allow teachers or youth workers to preview workshop content
- A comprehensive list of community resources that youth can access if they or someone they know is experiencing violence

www.metrac.org

PROJECT EQUITY INTERNATIONAL is a movement of youth & upcoming talent dedicated to sustainable development. We are using our energy & creativity to promote new & innovative ways to make economic development of needy regions compatible of environmental sustainability. P.E.I. is currently focusing on three projects including Leadership Education Ambassadors: Darfur (L.E.A.D.) where students are trained to give interactive presentations to grades 3-12 on the topic of the genocide in Darfur; and Operation Groundswell, an eco-adventure travel experience. Operation Groundswell's mission is to engage North American youth by providing off-the-beaten-path travel opportunities to the developing world. Participants learn first-hand by becoming immersed in local communities and cultures through group and personal projects. Our programs expose participants to the harsh realities of everyday life in the developing world. In showing the ground-level perspective to our participants, we ultimately hope to foster cross-cultural dialogue and engagement between the participants and our partnered communities. Most importantly, the trips expose the root causes and real

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challenges behind poverty, foreign aid & trade, development and the impact of climate change. www.projectequity.org

ReachOUT is a creative, inclusive & accessible program for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning youth in north Toronto. This includes drop-in groups, community outreach, counselling, art & skills exchange. We offer a safe space for all youth that reflects the diversity of our queer and trans communities. Individual and family counselling is available from staff who have expertise in working with LGBT youth and their families.

ReachOUT offers the following groups:

1) YAP! (Youth Arts Project): a weekly arts-based drop-in group for LGBTQ youth. Snacks and TTC tokens provided. Runs Wednesdays 6:00pm - 8:30pm. 24 Silview Drive (close to Finch subway station).

2) Compass: a weekly social discussion group for LGBTQ youth with intellectual disabilities. Snacks and TTC tokens provided. Runs Thursdays 4:30pm - 7:00pm. 24 Silview Drive (close to Finch subway station).

3) Not Pink!: a weekly social group for LGBTQ youth of colour who live in the Northwest region of Toronto and surrounding areas. Runs Tuesday evenings. Time and location confidential.

www.griffin-centre.org

Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre (RIWC) is committed to supporting Chinese speaking and South Asian women to take greater control of their lives. RIWC provides culturally appropriate and linguistically specific settlement support and counseling services with the use of community determined strategies, developed and delivered by immigrant women. Founded in 1982, RIWC is a non-profit community-based immigrant women's organization committed to the empowerment of women and social change. RIWC operates from a holistic and integrated service model that addresses the social, cultural and political realities of minority communities informed by a feminist and anti-racist praxis. RIWC also, collaborates with coalitions, both within the immigrant and women's communities and cross-sectorally, to address and bring about equality and policy change.

www.riwc.org

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YOUTH ACTION NETWORK

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Youth Action Network
176 John Street, Suite 307
Toronto, ON M5T 1X5
416-368-2277

www.youthactionnetwork.org

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