

RUCKUS! Youth Activism and Anti-Racism Conference

November 28-29, 2008

Thank you for registering for RUCKUS! 2008. We are excited to offer you a selection of amazing and engaging workshops that will get you thinking critically about yourself and your place in the world. This document provides you with an itinerary as well as a tentative list and description of the workshops that will be offered at RUCKUS! this year. Please note that registration for the workshops will happen on the mornings of both days between 9:30am-10:30am and that some workshops are only offered on one of the two days. If you have any questions/concerns please contact us at ruckus@youthactionnetwork.org.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28th & SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29th

TIME SLOT	ACTIVITY
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Registration
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Plenary Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Performances• Keynote Speaker
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Workshop Session A
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Workshop Session B
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Workshop Session C
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing

VIOLENCE & HATE

Presented by: Kate Love, Leave Out Violence

Leave Out Violence (LOVE) will present an engaging workshop on violence and hate. Participants will be invited to share their thoughts and discuss the relationship between violence and hate and how they relate to racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. The workshop will also include a segment where participants will use digital cameras to capture images on how to combat hate and intolerance in their communities and in the world. Their images will be printed on site and added to an ongoing mural of photographs.

WHO'S THE MAN? CAGED & ENGAGED EXPERIENCES OF MASCULINITY

Presented by: Paul Gaines, GlobalAware

Starting with the boxed-in basics of 'real man' stereotypes, this workshop will move smoothly from the critical, to the creative, to the celebratory -- with images and actions of men making a positive difference in our world. Space will be given to understand the 'tough guy' response to an uncaring culture and also to the barriers of male self-worth, community engagement, and anti-oppression activism. This will be a participatory and creative workshop with multi-media resources and examples.

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TALKING BACK, RISING UP: CREATING OUR OWN NARRATIVES AS MUSLIM PEOPLE

Presented by: Sabera Esufali and Elvina Rafi

This is an arts-based anti-Islamophobia workshop that will focus on building our own narratives about our identities and resistance as Muslim people to counter mainstream Islamophobic, racist and imperialist discourses. Through creating and sharing collages and writing pieces we will explore art production as a means of protest and action. The workshop will also provide participants with tips and guidelines on editing and design so participants can walk away with concrete tools that help get their messages and stories out in effective ways.

MOBILIZING FOR CHANGE THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Presented by: Barrio Nuevo

This is a workshop for youth on developing and implementing community development projects that not only meet the immediate needs of the people but also cultivate their consciousness and mobilize them for change. Participants will learn through popular education about: Ways to identify the needs of the group or community they seek to serve; Ways to begin to attend to these immediate needs; How to incorporate consciousness-raising and political mobilization into this work; and, Some successful examples of work that Barrio Nuevo has engaged in.

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE INCLUSIVE CANADA?

Presented by: Nana Yanful, Harmony Movement

This workshop will explore the idea of Canadian identity and the images of immigration in youth culture. Participants will have a chance to share their ideas about what being Canadian means to them, and the way the media perceives Canada. Youth will shed their preconceived ideas of what an immigrant is, learn about current immigration trends, and begin to break down stereotypes about people who are newly arriving in Canada every day. The implications of failing to embrace the rich experiences and contributions of immigrants will be explored, and through interactive role-plays and games, participants will gain an appreciation for the barriers to inclusion faced by new immigrants, especially young immigrants in Canadian society.

FROM PASSOVER TO POW-WOWS, HOLI TO HALAL: DOES CANADA REALLY EMBRACE RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY?

Presented by: Lesley Cohen, Harmony Movement

Ever wondered how much you *really* know about your friends who practice a different religion than you? This interactive workshop will examine the meaning of the word 'multiculturalism' and explore what we can do to make Canada a more accepting and understanding place for people of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Through active role-plays and games, and by looking critically at the media and popular culture,

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participants will examine their own stereotypes, prejudices and belief systems in order to develop a better understanding of diversity in their schools, communities, and across Canada. We will explore the inadequacies of the word 'tolerance' and begin to see that embracing religious diversity creates positive change for all Canadians.

TAKE CONTROL: PREPARING YOUTH FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

Presented by: Jennifer Hartman, Harmony Movement

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. Take Control is centered around the idea of education, awareness-building and breaking down the stereotypes and assumptions we have about LGBT culture. By looking at the language, history and evolution of identity and sexuality, as well as cultural influences and stigmas, youth will not only learn how to speak up against discrimination related to homophobia and heterosexism, but will receive tools on how to become allies in their schools and communities

ENVIRO RACISM

Presented by: Beenash Jafri

In this unique workshop participants will be provided with an opportunity to widen their understanding of environmentalism and how racism is related to environmental issues. Through film clips, informative talks and discussions, youth will come out with an understanding of what environmental racism is and how they can help redefine what it means to be "green".

TAKING BACK OUR SCHOOLS and OUR STREETS: GETTING COPS OUT OF TORONTO SCHOOLS

Presented by: Newly Organized Coalition Opposed to Police in Schools (NO COPS)

This workshop is a presentation and interactive discussion/debate with a panel of individuals from the Newly Organized Coalition Opposed to Police in Schools (NO COPS) on their concerns with respect to the initiative of the Toronto Police Service to place armed officers in high schools. The panel will cover:

- History of police brutality in Canada and the criminalization of racialized and impoverished youth
- Lessons from the experience of police in schools in New York City and Detroit
- Successful and current movements of students against state violence and oppression
- Ways to get involved in the campaign to remove police from schools in Toronto
- Background on the 'Safe Schools Act', 'Zero Tolerance Policy' and other racist and oppressive TDSB policies
- Alternatives to police in schools – how to address violence in schools

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SPOKEN WORD

Presented by: Deidre 'D-Lishus' Walton

In this workshop, participants will learn more about 'spoken word' as an art form and how it emerged from and is linked to poetry. They will also learn what poetic devices and performance strategies are useful in creating and sharing spoken word pieces and how to gain experience by creating a communal spoken word piece. Participants will also be treated with a performance by the workshop facilitator who is also a spoken word artist!

ANTI-RACISM 101

Presented by: Deidre 'D-Lishus' Walton

In this workshop, participants will use activities and discussions that will provide them with a working definition of racism. They will briefly examine the history of racism in Canada and how they can use language in more inclusive ways.

ANTI-OPPRESSION

Presented by: Deidre 'D-Lishus' Walton

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to human rights and anti oppression concepts. Through creative activities and engaging discussions, youth will begin to examine how power is distributed in our society. Participants will leave with a heightened awareness of how language is used as a tool of oppression and how they can use language in more inclusive ways.

ENGAGING IN CANADIAN POLITICS

Presented by: Education for Change

This civic engagement workshop offers a practical introduction to effective communication with Canadian politicians at the local, provincial, and federal levels for the purposes of applying the information students encounter in the classroom to their role as Canadian citizens. Students will be provided with a brief overview of the Canadian political and electoral systems before being taught the most effective ways to engage their elected representatives. Following this theoretical introduction students will be encouraged to use the methods taught to write a letter to a political representative at the municipal, provincial, or federal level on a topic of their own choosing.

THE POWER OF THE PEN: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN SPARKING POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

Presented by: Education for Change

Through exploring a plethora of Human Rights Crisis internationally and within Canada, this workshop, presented by Journalists for Human Rights, examines the role of the media in promoting human rights and sparking positive social change. From the genocide in Darfur and failure in Rwanda to the treatment of aboriginals in British Columbia and the socio-economic division in Toronto; this workshop examines the

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media's current relationship to promoting human rights, and how it can be used to give a voice to the voiceless.

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY: A TOOL TO END INJUSTICE

Presented by: Education for Change

The workshop will occur in two parts: education and training. As part of the education portion of this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of what intercultural dialogue is while working through a simulation activity of the United Nations policy recommendation process, which has been used in the creation of such documents as the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, that Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As part of the training portion of the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer dialogue over a variety of social and global justice issues such as religious and cultural intolerance, youth violence, poverty, genocide and ethnocide prevention, and modern-day slavery presented within a cross-cultural context. This training will take both the form of a dialogue and a social justice-specific decision-making game that will encourage participants to use their knowledge of intercultural dialogue (learned earlier) and their own natural desire to promote peace to make the best decisions when approaching a given conflict.

DECOLONIZE YOUR EDUCATION

Presented by: Critical Area Studies Collectiv

CASC is committed to developing alternative educational tools in an effort to reveal 'hidden histories' and expose those knowledges that have been actively silenced. In this workshop, a video clip outlining CASC's work at the University of Toronto will be screened to establish the context of their organizing followed by a participatory activity involving various locations found around Toronto. Images of these sites will be used in a critical history lesson where little known facts about the locations will be presented to attendees in an effort to radicalize and decolonize their education. Closing the workshop, we will facilitate a discussion around issues of critical education and decolonization.

TAKE BACK THE SCREEN!

Presented by: Lisa Campbell & Helena Shimeles

The remix has been hailed as the defining cultural phenomenon of our generation. From electronic music, to YouTube, youth are transforming media in new ways and redistributing it through their own independent networks. This new media movement has much momentum as a catalyst for social change. Youth are challenging and remixing traditionally oppressive media and talking back to the networks through independent media production. Often times youth culture is appropriated by the mainstream media in order to market their products to youth. We can see this any day that we flick on our televisions; rapping cows telling us to drink more milk, Barbie and Ken break dancing,

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and GAP ads taking place at raves. Everywhere youth look, our counter cultures are being monopolized by corporations in order to sell us back stuff that we don't need. With this in mind, this workshop series will allow youth to explore issues of racism in the media, and how they can use video editing techniques, and online distribution networks to challenge oppression and send their own messages out. Please join us to explore the remix as a political tool for critiquing racism and cultural appropriation in popular media.

KNOW THYSELF

Presented by: Sankofa Juba

This workshop provides a unique opportunity to self reflect on one's cultural roots and how that is connected to broader resistance movements. Participants will look at Afrikan, Native and Women's resistance movements and will join in discussions inviting them to redefine words, meanings and power. Youth will look at various kultural mediums of expression such as the canvas, television, computers, books, etc and will be encouraged to use creativity as a tool of resistance and path to self awareness.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN PALESTINE: STUDENT TO STUDENT SOLIDARITY

Presented by: Students Against Israeli Apartheid – UofT

SAIA will present an interactive workshop for youth who want to learn about the situation of Palestinian students, how their rights are denied under occupation, and how youth in Canada can get involved and show solidarity with students in Palestine. The workshop will be engaging and will involved discussion as well as multimedia.

NOT QUITE THE BIRDS AND THE BEES DISCUSSION: EMPOWERING SEX AND SEXUALITY DISCUSSION

Presented by: BlackCAP

This workshop takes the standard Sex and Sexuality 101 and develops it into to a fun interactive, empowering discussion base workshop were youth uncover their own answers to issues they face around sex and Sexuality.



YOUTH ACTION NETWORK
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RUCKUS! is an initiative of the Youth Action Network and is funded by the City of Toronto, Access, Equity and Human Rights Community Investment Program (AEHR-CIP).

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