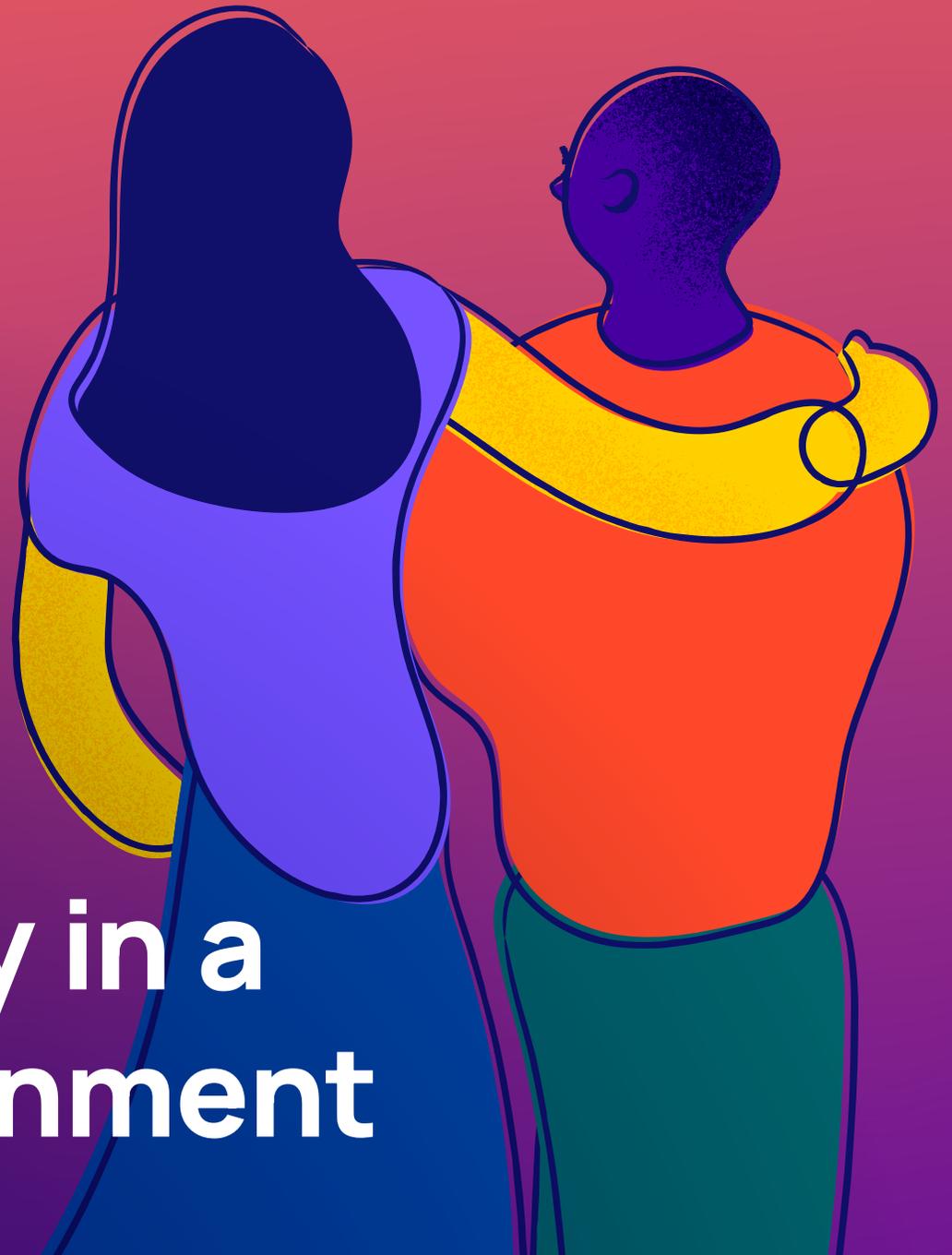


# How to Signal You Are an Ally in a Hostile Environment



# Welcome!

Allies provide important support for LGBTQ+ young people, especially in the face of increased marginalization. In 2023 alone, **over 600 anti-LGBTQ+ bills** have been passed, in some cases making it harder for allies to signal their support in schools and workplaces.

Unfortunately, this is now a reality in **over 15 states**, and it's not always easy to show your support if your workplace, school, or environment is hostile to LGBTQ+ folks. But that's why it's so important to do it anyway.

Teachers especially face a difficult task in schools – here’s how to signal to others and LGBTQ+ young people that you are a safe person to turn to:

## **Introduce yourself with your name and pronouns.**

Invite others to do the same.

## **If you’re able, decorate your space with items that signify allyship.**

This could be a pronoun button, a flag, or a poster of an LGBTQ+ film or artist.



## **Do not tolerate harassment or bullying in your space at all.**

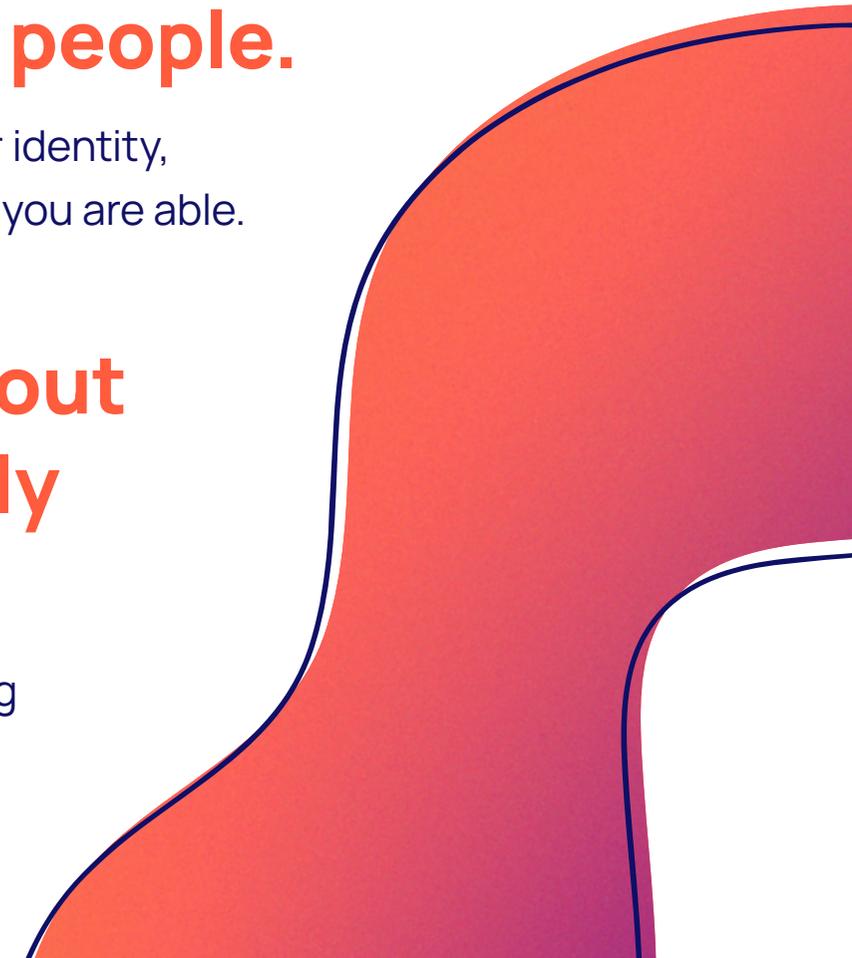
If bullying or harassment happens, enact consequences and hold the person causing harm accountable.

## **Talk positively about LGBTQ+ people.**

Even in instances where it's not appropriate to share their identity, this can show allyship. Always condemn acts of erasure if you are able.

## **If you can't talk positively about LGBTQ+ people, talk positively about famous LGBTQ+ allies.**

Show that you're a friend of the community by highlighting other people who are loud and proud allies.



## Integrate LGBTQ+ history and topics into conversation.

If you're a teacher, weave LGBTQ+ accomplishments into your lessons if you are able.

## Advocate for LGBTQ+ young people in your community.

Whether by showing up at a demonstration, participating in mutual aid, or using your voice to speak out against bigotry, your advocacy has an impact.

Unfortunately, there are spaces where mentioning LGBTQ+ subjects is dangerous or even illegal. Subtle gestures can show that you're someone who will be a support system, even if it is in a private setting.



The Trevor Project is the leading suicide prevention organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) young people.

We provide 24/7 crisis services for LGBTQ+ young people via a phone lifeline, text, and chat. We also operate innovative research, advocacy, public training, and peer support programs.



Crisis Services



Advocacy



Peer Support



Education and  
Public Awareness



Research