

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NRCDV'S FEBRUARY 2023 NATIONAL YOUTH PREVENTION SUMMIT: HEALTHY SEXUALITY: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN AN (IN)EQUITABLE WORLD?

"Advocating for your presence to be acknowledged will never fail." - Shariah Miller

SEX EDUCATION

Sex ed should be more comprehensive. It should include talks around healthy relationships, safe sex, preventing STDs, abortion laws in the state, consent, and same-sex relationships. Sex ed should not be built in shame. Current approaches to sex ed leave youth ill-equipped with the knowledge they need to navigate real-life situations.



MY HAIR, MY CHOICE

Unfortunately, hair discrimination against Black youth is prevalent in schools. Many Black youth experience being sent home or given detention for their hair.

DRESS CODES

Remember a time when students were made to change their outfit because it did not align with dress code? It is somewhat common knowledge that dress codes tend to be more strict for women/feminine-presenting people, especially Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth. Dress codes place a burden on these individuals, as they hypersexualize them.

THE ROLE OF ADULTS

Having an adult sponsor youth-led advocacy can be very beneficial. We all know that adults are listened to more than youth, and that youth aren't taken as seriously as adults.

"We need people in power

to stand behind us as

we're advocating for

these healthy spaces."

- Destiney Wilson



STUDENT ADVOCACY

Student advocacy is important in order to bring awareness and change. However, you must be organized in your advocacy so that everyone is heard and the message is clear.

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"We need to avoid placing the burden on victims by encouraging self-control and respecting boundaries in everyone." - Destiney Wilson

HYPERSEXUALIZATION

Women of color are hyper-sexualized. They are seen as "fast" and shamed for wanting to learn about sex. Even if they are not taught, they still may experience a sexual encounter (consensual or not); unfortunately, women of color may not realize they were victimized because of the lack of sex ed.



CONSENT

Consent is rarely touched upon in sex education. This is detrimental to youth because many do not know what coercion is. Coercion often leads to shame. An important note to remember: everything except a yes, is a no.

TEACHER VS. EDUCATOR

Did you know there is a difference between a teacher and an educator? An educator is someone who will teach you everything; their teachings are comprehensive. A teacher will not teach you everything, just the bare minimum.



CALL TO ACTION

- Sex education should start earlier (7th or 8th grade)
- Make sex ed more interactive and engaging
- Stop victim blaming and interrupt it when we hear it
- Make dress codes equitable so no particular group is burdened
- Approach sex ed from a pleasure-based standpoint and not shame
- Make your voice heard despite the possibility of punishment
- If you feel uncomfortable, someone else likely does too!



We need to ask

ourselves, "Who are we

placing the burden on?"

when thinking about

victims and their experiences.

-Destiney Wilson

MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS



SHARIAH MILLER (SHE/HER)

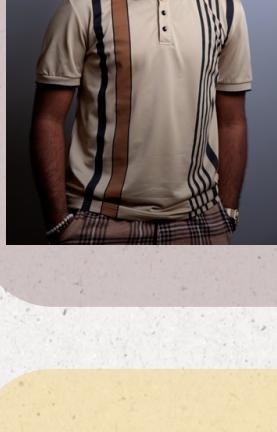
I'm 18 years old and I attend KIPP Indy Legacy High school, due to graduate in May. I plan to attend Indiana State University and major in Political Science and African American Studies. I am a member of the Indiana Youth Coalition Against Domestic Violence and I look forward to being at the Event!

DESTINEY WILSON (SHE/HER)

My name is Destiney! I'm 18 years old and I love activism, journalism, and education! I hope to have a career as a news anchor or writer.



FLOYD JEFFRIES III (HE/HIM)



Floyd works in the metro Los Angeles area for a non-profit called Peace Over Violence, which specializes in the help of survivors of rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and more. Being their Violence Prevention Educator and having experience in this form of work for 6+ years, he works with youth engaging in conversations surrounding topics of consent, sexual assault, toxic masculinity, and more. Hoping to create a better youth-led world.

MAR VALLE (THEY/ANY)

Mar Valle (they/any pronouns) is a Mexican lesbian immigrant, community health advocate, and student artist.



MO ASEBIOMO (THEY/THEM)

Mo Asebiomo is a queer Nigerian-American author based in Oakland, California who loves to write and make zines.



VISANNYA SALUJA (SHE/HER)

I am a sophomore studying Marketing and Sustainable Business. I am passionate about women empowerment coming from a developing country like India. I love serving the community around me. I love baking in my free time.

KÉTURA LAINY (SHE/HER)

Hello! My name is Kétura. I am a sophomore at Indiana University Bloomington, majoring in Neuroscience. I am also on the premed track. Though I love science and medicine, I am also very passionate about social justice, health equity, immigration rights, and education. I love to read, spending time with my family and friends.