

Ruckus! Youth Activism and Anti-Racism Conference

November 23-24, 2007

Workshop Program

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, among peer groups, 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 Ameera Basmadji and Arwa Aulaqi

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 Islamophobia.

4) Love or Obsession? Stalking

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

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 workshop will introduce HIV/AIDS using different mediums to evoke feelings and thoughts, take an in-depth look at fact and fiction surrounding the virus and learn about methods to prevent spreading HIV/AIDS. Participants will set individual goals, work in small groups and learn how to stop the spread of the virus.

Friday, November 23

1:30–3:00

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.

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.

Friday, November 23

3:00-4:30pm

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

Presented by: Christopher Lawrence and Keith Cunningham, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention

Room: TBA

This workshop will introduce HIV/AIDS using different mediums to evoke feelings and thoughts, take an in-depth look at fact and fiction surrounding the virus and learn about methods to prevent spreading HIV/AIDS. Participants will set individual goals, work in small groups and learn how to stop the spread of the virus.

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

Presented by Ameera Basmadji, Arab Community Centre and Arwa Aulaqi

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.

3) Design Your Own Freedom

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

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) "Crisis" "Conflict" or Genocide? Darfur

Presented by Erika Finestone, Project Equity International

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

What magazines are young men reading these days? Are young men interested in more than abs, gadgets, girls, and celebrities? For 90 minutes we can be curious about all the current magazines for young 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 the grade level (Grades 9 to 12) of high school students. The purpose of the workshop is to allow youth to understand more about how violence occurring 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 discuss about violence and ways to approach 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.

3) 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

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).

Saturday, November 24

1:30–3:00pm

1) What Does It Mean To Be A Man? Media Literacy and Masculinity

Presented by Paul Baines, Global Aware and Co-Facilitators

Room: TBA

What magazines are young men reading these days?

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

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 customised 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.

Saturday, November 24
3:00-4:30pm

1) 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 customised designs throughout the city.

2) No One is Illegal: Education Not Deportation

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.

2) 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.