

GENDER (IN)JUSTICE AND SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION: DEVELOPING CRITICAL AWARENESS FOR POSITIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

Presented at Maine's Comprehensive
Sexuality Education Conference by:
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& Meg Charest

**HARDY
GIRLS**
CAUSE A RUCKUS!

ABOUT US: HARDY GIRLS

Our mission:

We take girls and nonbinary youth seriously and put the power in their hands to challenge a society that ignores their brilliance. We dare adult allies to join us.

Our vision:

Girls and nonbinary youth cause a ruckus!

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4 ZONES OF HARDINESS

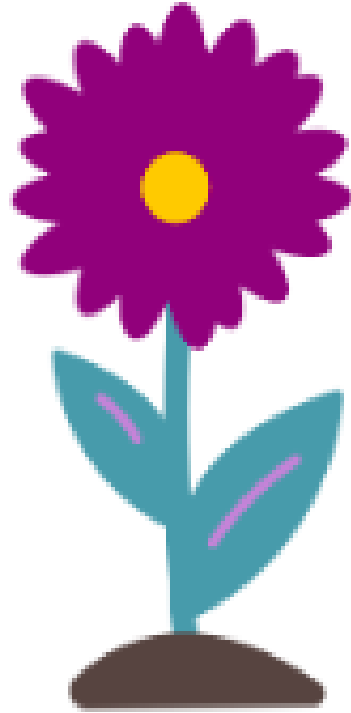
Think Critically

Form a Coalition

Be Curious

Challenge the Status Quo

CHANGE THE ENVIRONMENT, NOT THE YOUNG PERSON



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Intros!

- Your name (and any org affiliations you'd like to share!)
- Pronouns
- Something that drew your interest on your way here this morning

Hardiness and Sex Ed?

- Partnership with youth creates greater depth and access to youth's funds of knowledge around their experiences
- Open conversation supports protective factors inherent in positive youth-adult relationships
- Environments that youth are in impact the choices they can make within their locus of control

Why girls and nonbinary youth specifically?

- Comprehensive, youth-empowered sexuality education and dialogue is important for everyone.

AND...

- Girls and nonbinary youth experience specific stakes due to their marginalized positions in society and specific stigmatization that reinforces this marginalization.
- Girls and nonbinary youth are statistically less likely to have representation of their identities in roles that make legislative decisions about issues that directly impact their bodies and health.

Gender Stereotypes & Stigma

- What positive words are used to describe...
 - Boys' and men's sexuality?
 - Nonbinary folks' sexuality?
 - Girls' and women's sexuality?

- What negative words are used to describe...
 - Boys' and men's people's sexuality?
 - Nonbinary folks' sexuality?
 - Girls' and women's sexuality?

Gender in the Health Classroom

- 56.5% of Maine secondary schools taught students about sexual orientation and gender identity in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 84.3 % of Maine secondary schools taught students about sexual orientation and gender identity in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- 53.0% of Maine secondary schools taught students about gender roles and stereotypes in a required course in any of grades 6, 7, or 8.
- 80.0% of Maine secondary schools taught students about gender roles and stereotypes in a required course in any of grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- 64.2% of Maine secondary schools provided students with curricula or supplementary materials that included HIV, STI, or pregnancy prevention information relevant to LGBTQ youth.

Statistics from SIECUS Maine State Profile, January 22nd, 2024

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Facilitated Groups

Discuss in small facilitation circles, we will share out any big takeaways after!

Panel with Maine Youth

- Anica Spencer is a Junior at Portland High School. This is her second year on FAB.
- Chloe Whitbread is a Junior at York High School. This is her first year on FAB.
- Rylee Heal is a Junior at Penquis Valley High School. This is her first year on FAB.

Where do we go from here?

- Stay in touch! We are on Instagram and Tik Tok @hardygirlsmaine and Meg is available via email at meg@hardygirls.org

How to Cause a Ruckus!

1) Recognize Your Brilliance!

Remember that you have experiences, knowledge, and opinions that matter.

2) Identify the Problem!

What systems or norms in your community aren't working? What would you change if you could?

3) Define the Problem!

What is it?
Where does it happen?
Why does it happen?
How does it make you feel?
Who else is working on this problem?

4) Visualize the Solution!

If you woke up tomorrow and the problem was solved, how would you know?
What would be different?
How would it look and feel?

5) Build a Coalition!

Who can you involve to help you create change?
Who are your allies?
Who in a position of power can help and how?

6) Organize!

What is the role of each person involved?
How will you measure progress?
What are your steps?
There will be challenges. How will you navigate them?

7) Celebrate every little win!

Change doesn't happen right away, but every little action you take and ruckus you cause moves us closer to a better world!

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