



PUBLIC POLICY

TOPIC:

Protecting Trans

Youth in Schools


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UAPP225-011

28 NOVEMBER 2022





# Issue Outline



A

Transgender youth in schools are vulnerable as there are few policies in place to properly protect their privacy, dignity, and identity.

B

Gender-affirming and inclusive policies are significant interventions to help curb the high bullying, drop-out, and suicide rate of trans folks

C

Action to be taken: policy and individual level

# Stark Reality

- Over 60% of trans youth reported engaging in self-harm in 2020
- Transgender and nonbinary youth who reported having pronouns respected by all or most people in their lives attempted suicide at half the rate of those who did not have their pronouns respected
- 61% of transgender and nonbinary youth reported being prevented or discouraged from using a bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity



# The Importance of Schools

- Schools teach a hidden curriculum that often includes education on the gender binary.
- This is where most children interact with systems for the first time - this is how the world works!
- Learning spaces should be safe spaces because attending school is a crucial part of social and intellectual development
- A poor education contributes to poverty, poor health, poor decision making, etc.

# Examples of School Policy

- Several states and districts have imposed laws requiring students to use the bathroom corresponding to their gender assigned at birth
- Texas schools can report the parents of trans students who receive gender-affirming care as abusive
- Many schools have made it difficult for students to change their pronouns and names at school



# BATHROOMS!


- Require facilities to have equal, accessible, gender-neutral bathrooms and changing spaces (locker rooms, changing areas, etc.) for students and staff.
- Virginia Department of Education policy model

# PRONOUNS!

- Create space for pronoun declaration!
- Protect students' right to privacy and ensure disciplinary action for any breaches!
- Discourage deadnaming and misgendering where it is not warranted!



More Change is  
Needed!

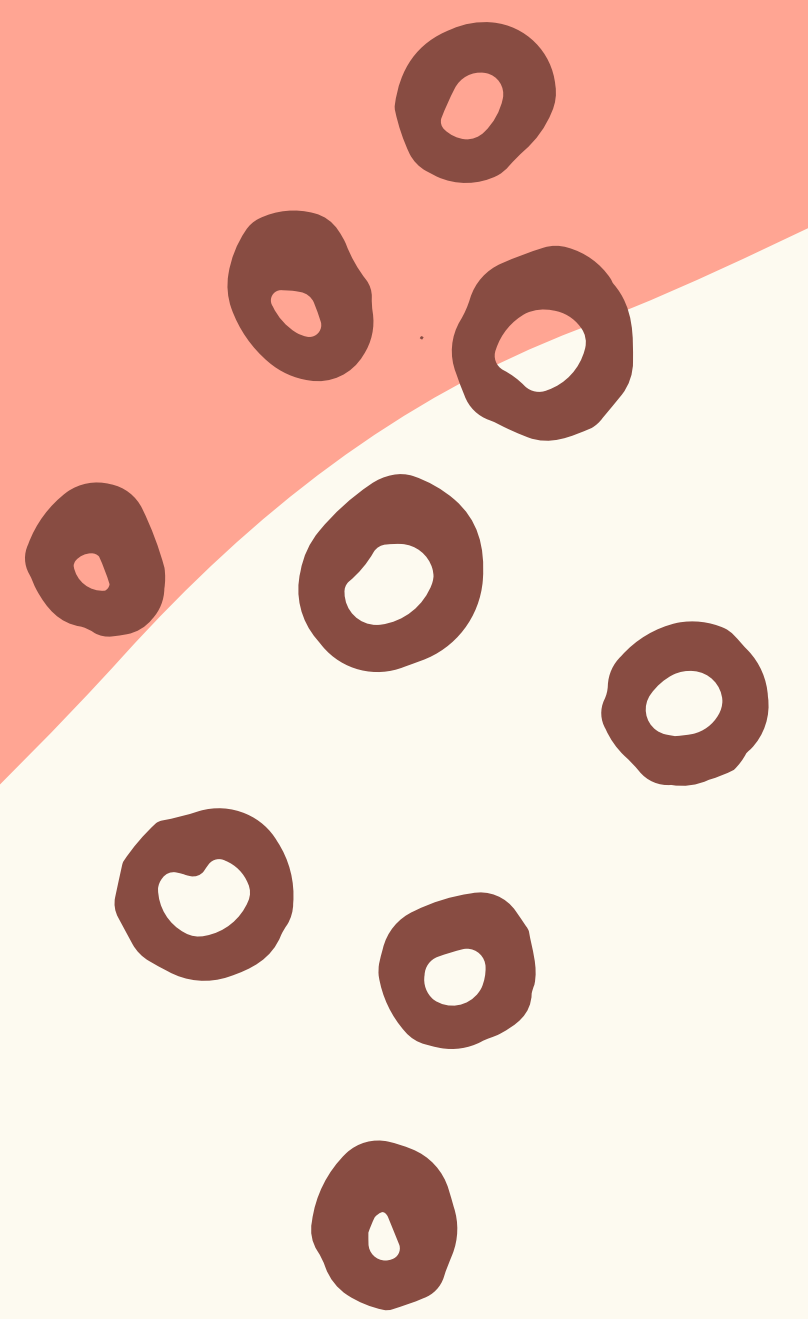
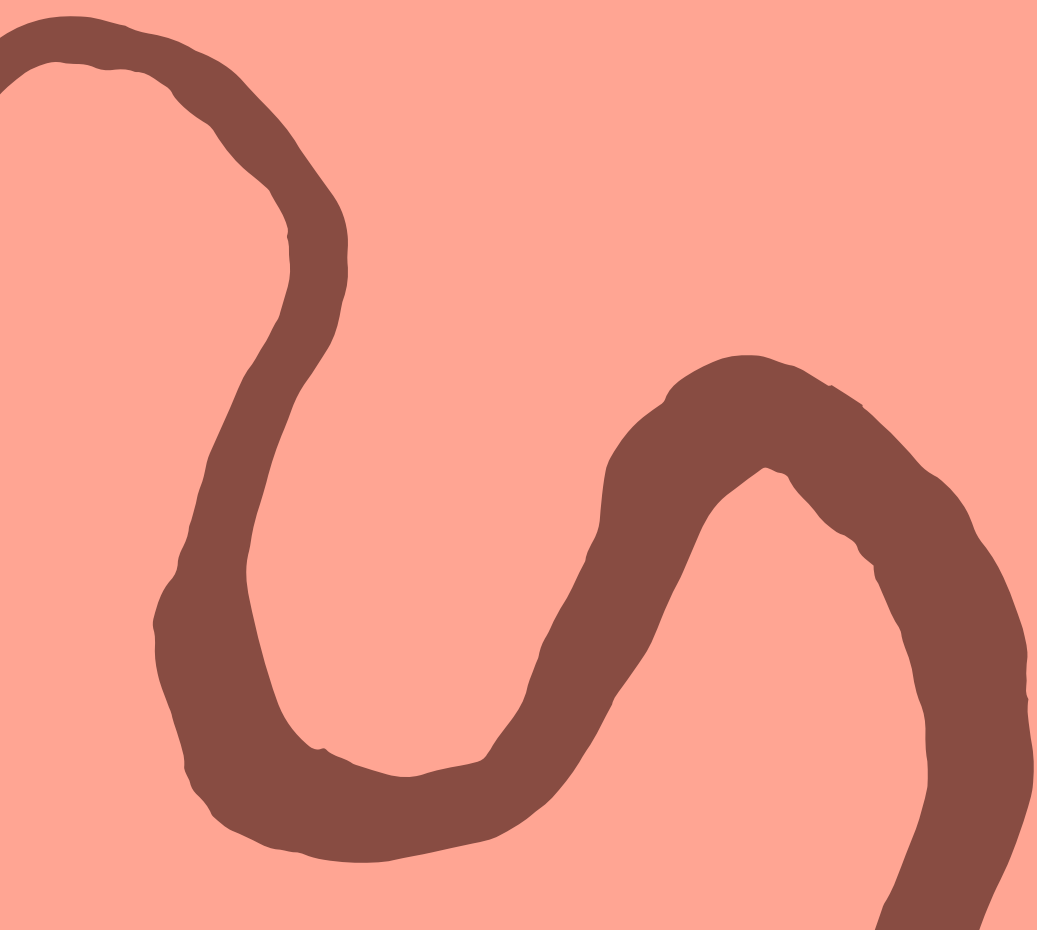
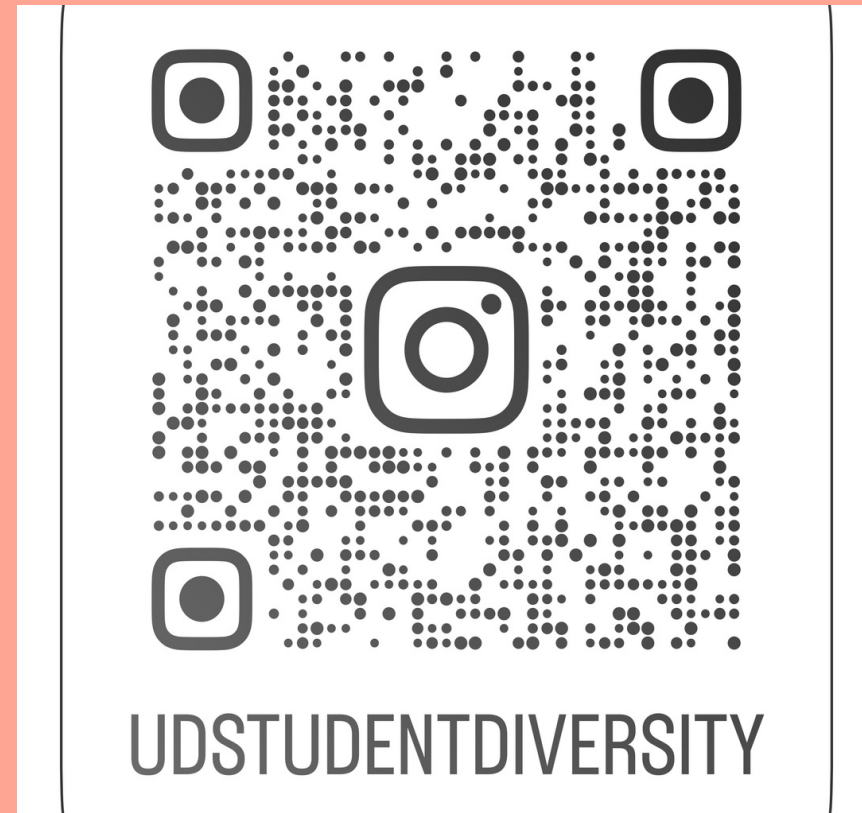



# What can YOU do?

- Learn and educate!
- Correct misgendering and deadnaming when you see/hear it!
- Model sharing and asking for pronouns!
- Use inclusive language (folks, people, yall, etc.)
- Vote: for and against!
- Practice what you preach!
- Become an accomplice to the trans community!



# Connect with SDI!





Thank you for  
listening!

Don't hesitate to ask any questions!