

**Some updates on Day of Silence school participation
4-12-08.**

I've received many e-mails and have been interviewed in the past few weeks by various media outlets (watch for a Charlotte Observer article tomorrow, Sunday). The questions focus on our objections to the Day of Silence, and often, the reporter seems to favor the claim that the DOS is not about homosexuality but is a day that protests bullying and violence.

This is a twisted version of the truth, and kids' ideas are being manipulated by this deception. Mission America as well as the rest of our coalition do not in any way favor bullying and violence, but of course, that's the tenor of some of the responses, the implication that we either think it's okay or that we are indifferent. NOT TRUE, and any media outlet that implies this is flat out lying.

The truth is that this observance has everything to do with propaganda in favor of homosexuality, which uses legitimate causes and rides on their coattails. So, as I heard from one mom two days ago, her son's school expects around one-third of all the students to observe the Day of Silence, and the school will tie it to the Holocaust.

This manipulation of young minds is unacceptable. Homosexual sex and religious freedom of conscience are apples and oranges. These are not the same thing! Homosexuality is also not like race relations, another common but erroneous comparison.

Also, about removing schools from the list.

We continue to get e-mails from people saying, "I called my school and they have tried to get off your list, because they are not observing the Day of Silence, but they are still on it. What gives?"

Please understand that yes, many schools have e-mailed us once, but when we e-mail them back and ask how they handle the in-class situation, they either never respond, or they respond and give us very squishy answers. So they remain on the list.

Laurie Higgins' article below explains how class time can be manipulated and why it's important for us to determine

that a school is not tacitly endorsing the DOS by giving silent protestors in-class time for this protest.

This excellent article is posted on our web site at www.missionamerica.com .

The Political Hijacking of the Classroom on the 'Day of Silence'

by Laurie Higgins

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A broad coalition of individuals and organizations is urging parents to oppose the Day of Silence (DOS), a political action sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), because it politicizes the classroom for ideological purposes. The explicit purpose of DOS is to encourage sympathy and support for students involved in homosexual behavior and cross-dressing whose voices have been allegedly silenced by the disapproval of society. The implicit purpose is to undermine the belief that homosexuality is immoral. Parents should no longer passively countenance the political usurpation of public school classrooms through student silence.

Parents should call their children's middle schools and high schools to ask whether the administration and/or teachers will be permitting students to remain silent during class on the Day of Silence. If students will be permitted to remain silent, parents can express their opposition most effectively by calling their children out of school on the Day of Silence and sending letters of explanation to their administrators, their children's teachers, and all school board members. One reason this is effective is that most school districts lose money for each student absence.

School administrators err when they allow the classroom to be disrupted and politicized by granting students permission to remain silent throughout an entire day. The DOS requires that teachers either create activities around the silence of some or many, or exempt silent students from any activity that involves speaking. Furthermore, DOS participants have a captive audience, many of whom disagree

with and are made uncomfortable by the politicization of their classroom.

Some administrators assert that DOS merely seeks to promote "acceptance." They fail to clarify, however, what precisely they want students to accept. While it is legitimate to teach students that there exist diverse opinions on this issue, it is not legitimate to imply that one of those opinions is preferable to another. While it is appropriate to teach acceptance of people, meaning that we should treat all with civility, it is not appropriate to suggest that students need to accept the view that homosexual conduct is moral. These important distinctions are rarely, if ever, made in public school discussions of "acceptance."

One oft-repeated mantra is that the goal of DOS is to keep LGBTQ students safe. The problematic rhetoric of "safety," however, substitutes speciously for the more accurate term of "comfort." To suggest that in order for those who self-identify as homosexual or "transgender" to be "safe," no one may disapprove of homosexual conduct is both absurd and dangerous. If this definition of "safety" were to be applied consistently, virtually all statements of disapproval would be prohibited.

Day of Silence participants claim they seek to end discrimination. There is, however, a problem with the way "discrimination" is defined in public discourse today. Groups like GLSEN believe that statements of moral conviction with which they disagree constitute prejudice or discrimination. While relentlessly promoting this view, administrators are never asked to provide evidence for the dubious presuppositions on which claims of discrimination are based. They are never asked to provide evidence for the arguable claim that homosexuality is equivalent to race; or that disapproval of homosexual conduct is equivalent to racism; or that homosexual impulses are biologically determined; or that the presence of biological influences in shaping desire renders a behavior automatically moral. The time is long past that parents demand justification for those claims.

ARTICLE continues at
<http://www.missionamerica.com/homosexual.php?articlenum=68>

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