



Tips for Activists

10 things you can do to protect sexual and reproductive rights

- 1. Learn!** Educate yourself about sexual and reproductive rights issues. Take advantage of the articles, books, movies and websites referenced in the Advo.kit to gain a deeper understanding of sexual and reproductive rights. Find knowledgeable reproductive justice activists, or activist groups, to answer any questions you may have.
- 2. Speak up!** Talk to your peers, colleagues, family, friends and strangers. Don't get into unproductive arguments or be aggressive. Do make sure reproductive justice issues are talked about in venues where they might otherwise be overlooked and that any conversation about sexuality or reproduction is based on facts. Sharing information about sexual and reproductive rights can influence voting habits, philanthropy, attitudes and actions.
- 3. Do something!** Help organize an awareness-raising event to build support for the sexual and reproductive rights movement. See our Sample Event Agendas for ideas.
- 4. Boycott!** Boycott local companies that have unfriendly policies toward sexual and reproductive rights. Publicize the boycott through flyers, letters to newspaper editors, announcements at schools or community events and e-mails to listservs. Promote companies with supportive practices and policies.
- 5. Ask your provider!** Find out if your local medical provider is LGBTQ-friendly and provides family-planning services, including contraceptives, abortion services or referrals. If your provider doesn't support sexual and reproductive rights, stop supporting them with your business, and let them know why you did.
- 6. Volunteer!** Find local organizations that provide sexual and reproductive health services and volunteer your time. You might work as a translator, help low-income women apply for funds to receive reproductive health services, serve as an escort at a local abortion clinic or answer phones for your local domestic violence hotline. Check the Selected Online Resources section in the Advo.kit for an organization in your area!
- 7. Lobby!** Send letters or make calls to your legislators. Many organizations provide legislative updates and online advocacy opportunities through which you can send messages to your representatives. Sponsor or participate in call-in days, or provide others with pre-addressed postcards and information on issues.
- 8. Fundraise!** Host an event, ask people you know or sponsor a written campaign to raise money for a reproductive justice organization, women's center or other project; or, for example, take the initiative and write a grant yourself for a local abortion fund or related cause.
- 9. Publicize!** Use your local media to get the word out about current sexual and reproductive rights issues. Write letters or op-ed pieces for newspapers and magazines about local, national or global issues; organize an advertising campaign to raise awareness about your issue; call local media and ask them to cover an event you have planned; blog about sexual rights and reproductive justice.
- 10. Make allies!** Work with other activist groups to link reproductive justice with their issues. Working together can de-stigmatize the debates around LGBTQ rights, sexuality education, abortion and other sexual rights and reproductive justice issues, as well as enhance support from community-based organizations.