

Colorado



School Safety Resource Center

October 22, 2010

E-UPDATE FROM CSSRC ~ You are receiving this email as a subscriber of the Center's listserv. E-Updates from CSSRC will contain the most current information about the Center's activities and resources, as well as the school safety efforts throughout the state of Colorado.

Please forward this email to others on your email list with an interest in supporting safe and positive schools in Colorado. They may register for this listserv on our website <http://safeschools.state.co.us/index.html>

This message came today from Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education.

[10-22-2010—SPECIAL EDITION—ED's SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS NEWS—A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA TO LGBT TEENS](#)

In the wake of the recent suicides of students who have been bullied, President Obama has released a personal message to LGBT teens. The video can be seen by visiting: www.whitehouse.gov/itgetsbetter

The following White House Blog was posted by Brian Bond, Deputy Director of the Office of Public Engagement on October 21, 2010 at 11:30 p.m., EDT

[The White House Blog](#)

President Obama: It Gets Better

Recently, several young people have taken their own lives after being bullied for being gay – or perceived as being gay – by their peers. Their deaths are shocking and heartbreaking tragedies. No one should have to endure relentless harassment or tormenting. No one should ever feel so alone or desperate that they feel they have nowhere to turn. We each share a responsibility to protect our young people. And we also have an obligation to set an example of respect and kindness, regardless of our differences.

This is personal to me. When I was a young adult, I faced the jokes and taunting that too many of our youth face today, and I considered suicide as a way out. But I was fortunate. One of my co-workers recognized that I was hurting, and I soon confided in her. She cared enough to push me to seek help. She saved my life. I will always be grateful for her compassion and support – the same compassion and support that so many kids need today.

In the wake of these terrible tragedies, thousands of Americans have come together to share their stories of hope and encouragement for LGBT youth who are struggling as part of the [It Gets Better Project](#). Their messages are simple: no matter how difficult or hopeless life may seem when you're a young person who's been tormented by your peers or feels like you don't fit in: life will get better.

President Obama is committed to ending bullying, harassment and discrimination in all its forms in our schools and communities. That's why he recorded this message.

Last year, the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services joined forces with four other departments to create a federal task force on bullying. In August 2010, the task force staged the first-ever National Bullying Summit, bringing together 150 top state, local, civic, and corporate leaders to begin mapping out a national plan to end bullying. The task force also launched a new website, www.bullyinginfo.org, which brings all the federal resources on bullying together in one place for the first time ever.

If you're a young person who's been bullied or harassed by your peers, or you're a parent or teacher who knows a young person being bullied or harassed, here are a few resources that can help you:

[The Trevor Project](http://www.thetrevorproject.org/) - <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

The Trevor Project is determined to end suicide among LGBTQ youth by providing resources and a nationwide, 24 hour hotline. If you are considering suicide or need help, call: **866-4-U-TREVOR (866-488-7386)**.

BullyingInfo.org

BullyingInfo.org is a project of the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs (IWGYP) focused on providing tools and resources for youth, parents, teachers and mental health providers to prevent and address bullying.

[It Gets Better Project](http://ItGetsBetterProject.com)

President Obama's video is just one of thousands of videos submitted by people across the country to inspire and encourage LGBT youth who are struggling. You can watch more videos at ItGetsBetterProject.com.

For even more information and resources visit:

- [Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\)](http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/home/index.html) - <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/home/index.html>
- [Matthew Shepard Foundation](http://www.matthewshepard.org/)- <http://www.matthewshepard.org/>
- [Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays \(PFLAG\)](http://community.pflag.org/)- <http://community.pflag.org/>

A transcript of the President's video is at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/it-gets-better-transcript>.

