

# PRIDE & PLEASURE



**Advocates**  
**for Youth**  
Young. Powerful. Taking Over.

**Supporting health & wellness of**  
**LGBTQ+ young people**

# TODAY'S TEAM



VIOLETA ACUNA  
(SHE/HER)  
ECHO



SEBAS ABBATE  
(THEY/HE/SHE)  
YOUTHRESOURCE



LOUIE ORTIZ-FONSECA  
(HE/THEY)  
ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

# Advocates for Youth

Young. Powerful. Taking Over.

# OUR MISSION

Advocates for Youth partners with young people and their adult allies to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all young people.



# OUR VISION

**Rights.**

**Respect.**

**Responsibility.**

# ECHO

Young People living with HIV  
organizing efforts in their communities



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# YOUTHRESOURCE

**LGBTQ+ Young People advocates  
for LGBTQ+ health & rights**



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# COMMUNITEA

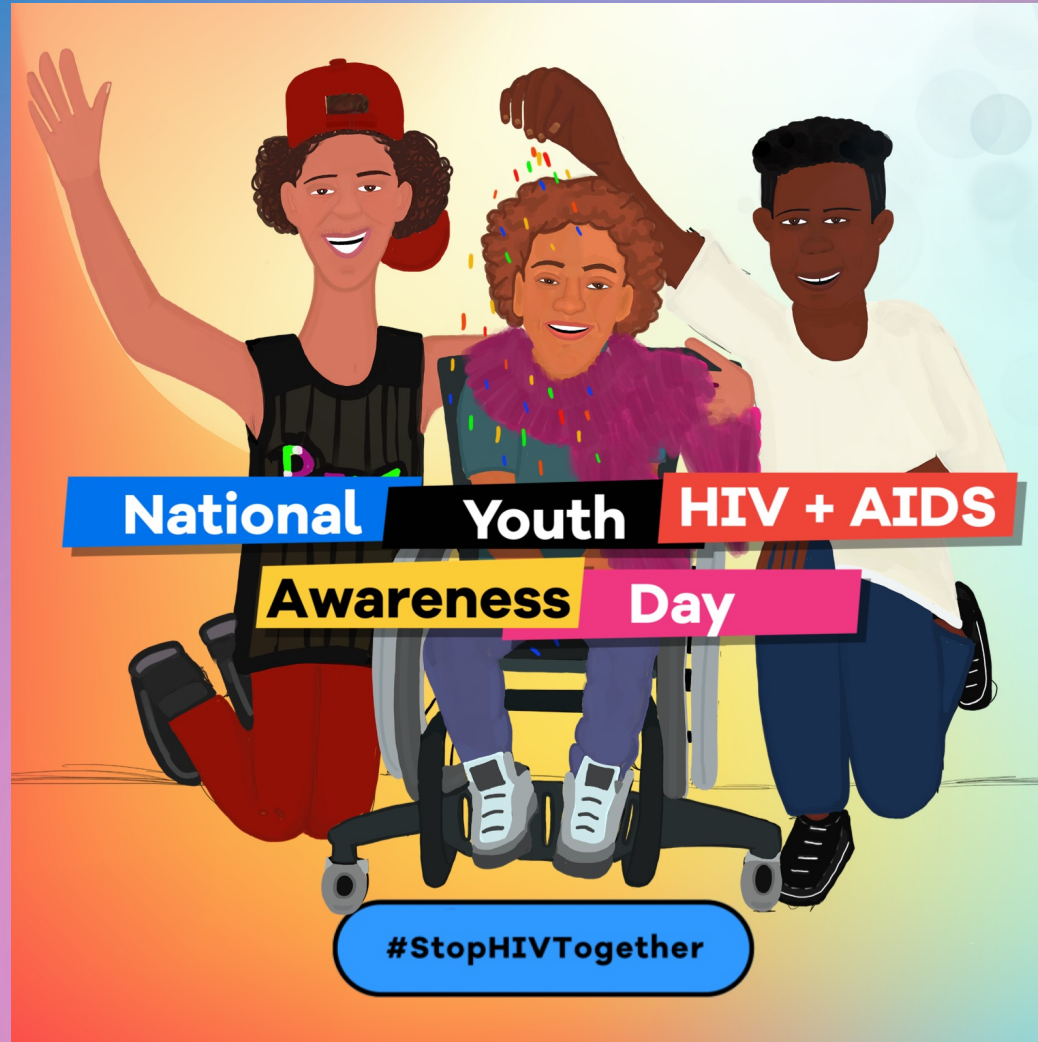
Young Black women raising awareness  
of HIV among young Black women



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# NYHAAD – APRIL 10



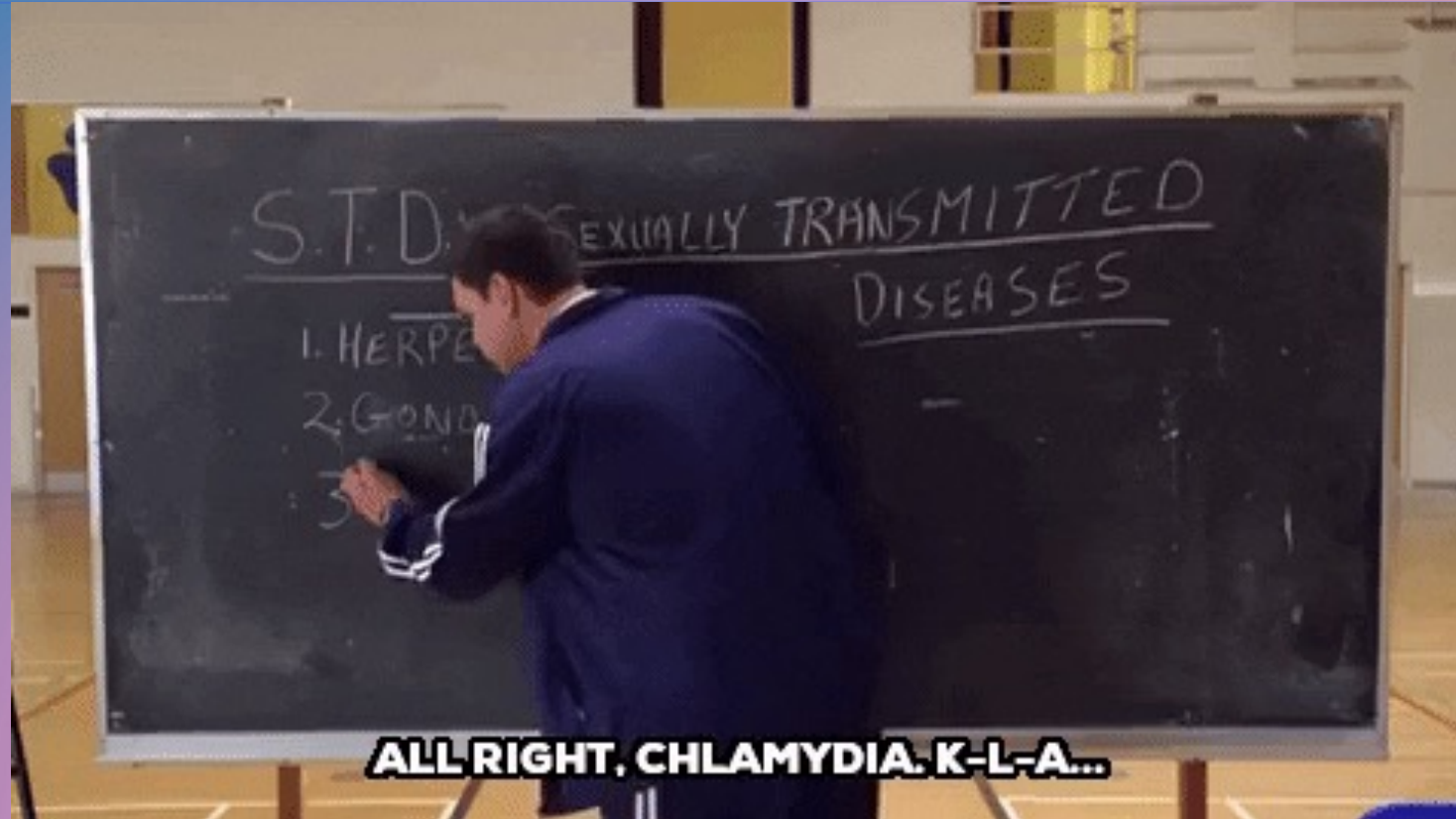
# INTRODUCTIONS

- **Name**
- **Pronouns**
- **A song that reminds you of summer/pride**

# TODAY'S GAY AGENDA

- Shifting from stigma to Pleasure
- Creating safer space for open communication
- Centering lived experiences of LGBTQ+ Young People

# How does the current model of sexual health education based on risk and fear fail us?



**ALL RIGHT, CHLAMYDIA. K-L-A...**

# A FEW STATS...



## *Statistics*



According to the CDC, 15-24 year-olds accounted for 53% of new STIs in 2020.

According to the CDC, birth rates among 15-19 year-olds was 13.5 per 1,000 cis females.

According to the US Bureau of Justice between 2017-2022, LGB persons had victimizations rates 2x that of their heterosexual counterparts.

According to the U.S Transgender Study, 47% of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their life.



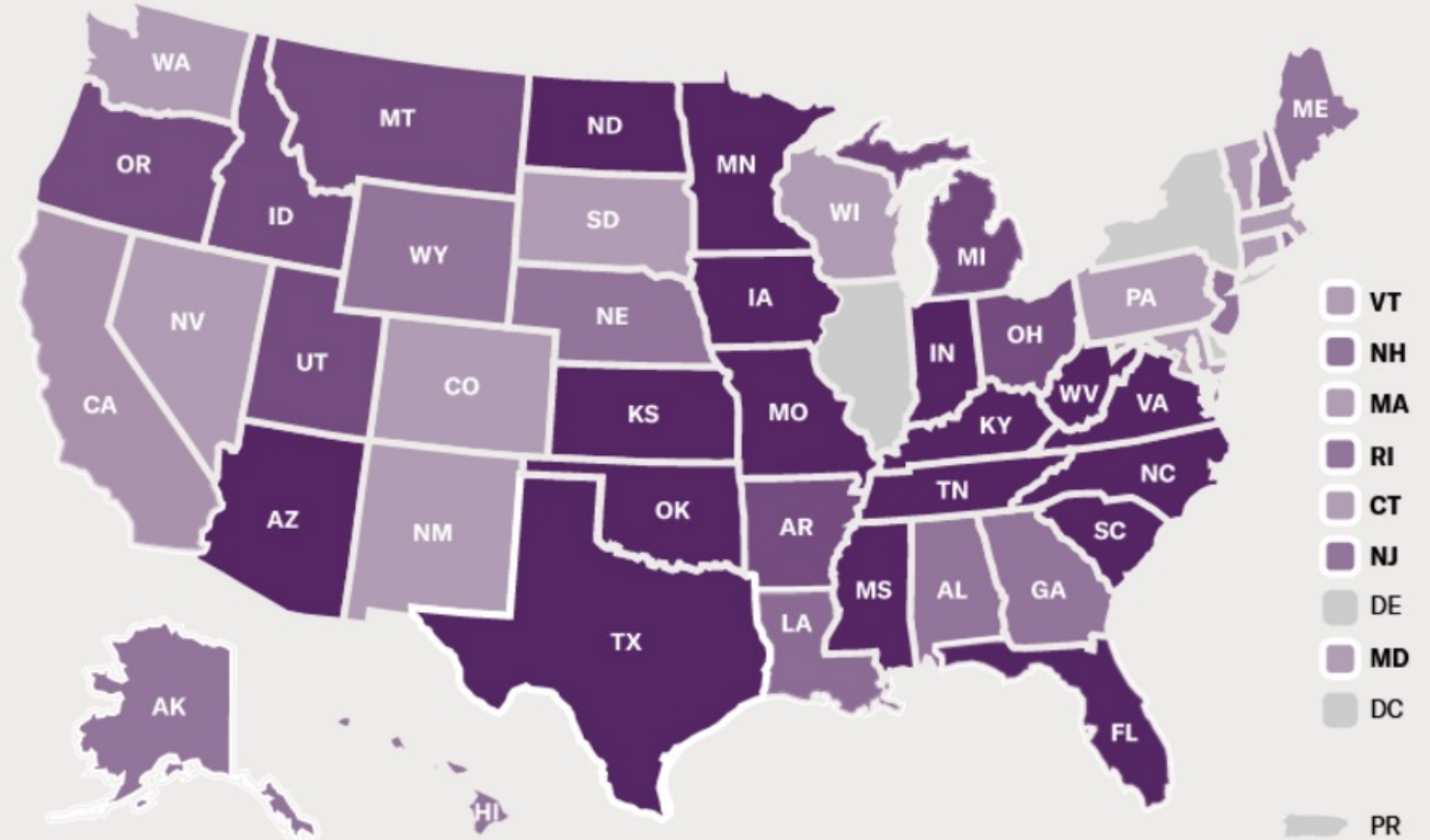
2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# The ACLU is tracking **496** anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S.

Choose a state on the map to show the different bills targeting LGBTQ rights and take action. While not all of these bills will become law, they all cause harm for LGBTQ people.

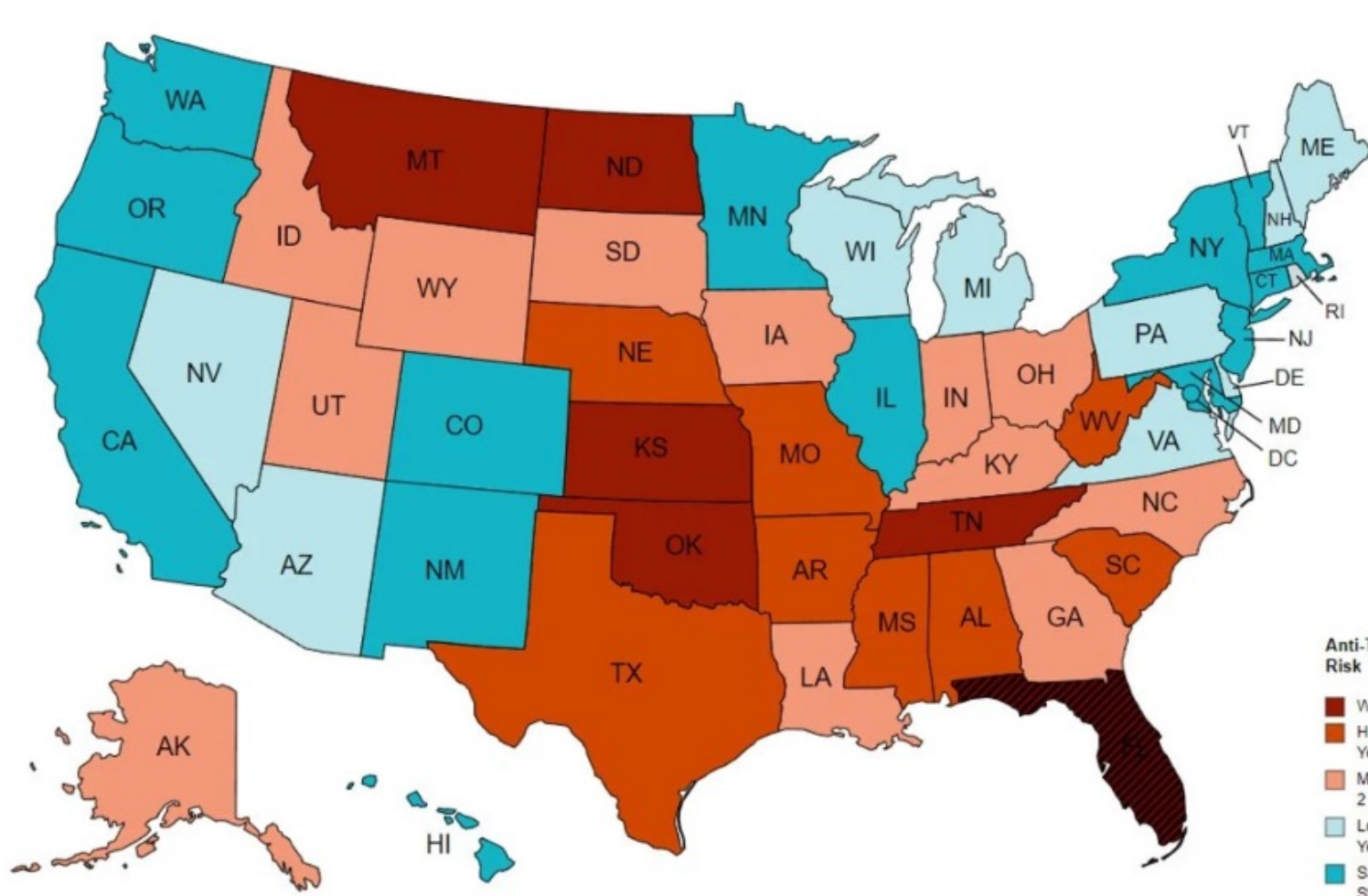
[View past legislative sessions.](#)

Bills per state



# Adult Anti-Trans Risk Assessment Map

# Youth Map



- Anti-Trans Legislation Risk**
- Worst Laws Passed
  - High Risk Within 2 Years
  - Moderate Risk Within 2 Years
  - Low Risk Within 2 Years
  - Safest States With Strong Protections
  - Do Not Travel



# HIV CRIMINALIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE VARIETY AND PREVALENCE OF LAWS USED TO PROSECUTE AND PUNISH PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (PLHIV) IN THE US.

LEARN MORE AT [HIVLAWANDPOLICY.ORG](http://HIVLAWANDPOLICY.ORG)



**6 STATES MAY REQUIRE REGISTRATION AS A SEX OFFENDER** as part of the punishment under HIV-specific laws



**13 STATES HAVE REFORMED OR REPEALED** one or more parts of their HIV-specific criminal laws



**30**

**STATES HAVE HIV-SPECIFIC CRIMINAL LAWS AND/OR SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS APPLICABLE TO PLHIV**  
(Note: Total reflects overlap among the 25 states with HIV-specific laws and the 9 with sentence enhancements.)



**STATES WITH HIV-SPECIFIC CRIMINAL LAWS**  
including laws targeting sex/ non-disclosure, exposure to bodily fluids, needle-sharing, sex work, and blood/ organ/semen donation



**STATES WITH SENTENCING ENHANCEMENTS**  
applicable to PLHIV who commit an underlying sexual assault crime.



**STATES THAT HAVE PROSECUTED PLHIV UNDER NON-HIV-SPECIFIC, GENERAL CRIMINAL LAWS**  
This number represents states with reported charges and/or convictions for non-HIV-specific offenses, where positive HIV status was relevant in establishing a (non-HIV-specific) element of the offense.



# WHAT IS A ROLE YOU HAVE IN A YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE?



HOW HAVE WE BEEN  
TAUGHT TO TALK  
ABOUT SEX & HIV  
PREVENTION WITH  
YOUNG PEOPLE?



# HOW IS PLEASURE TYPICALLY FRAMED WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PREVENTION & TREATMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?



# WHAT IS THE PLEASURE BASED APPROACH?

The Pleasure Project is the world's leading organization putting the *sexy* into *safer sex* since 2004.

A pleasure based approach is "one that celebrates sex, sexuality, and the joy and wellbeing that can be derived from these, and creates a vision of good sex built on sexual rights."



# THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLES

**Love Yourself:**  
Have kindness  
for yourself and  
others

**Embrace  
Learning:**  
Be willing to  
learn new  
techniques and  
spread that  
knowledge

**Talk Sexy:**  
adopt pleasure-  
inclusive  
language and  
imagery

**Be Flexible:**  
Be adaptive and  
recognize that  
pleasure based  
sexual health is  
possible for all

**Think  
Universal:**  
Recognize how  
everyone's  
differences  
affect their  
concept of  
sexual health

**Rights First:**  
Sexual rights  
are the building  
blocks of  
pleasure-based  
sex

**Be Positive:**  
Sex Positivity Is  
Key

# SHIFTING FROM STIGMA TO PLEASURE

- Not Framing sex (with or without a condom) as “dangerous”
- Framing prevention & sex ed as a way to enhance pleasure
- Support & Promote Bodily Autonomy

# A SAFER SPACE IS...

**the environmental product of a conscious set of decisions and actions taken by individuals to promote equality, fairness, non-violence and affirmation of the unconditional value of all peoples, where youth are free to grow, thrive and express their individual identities.**

# *How to Create a Safer Space*

Safe Spaces will allow for your clients to feel seen, heard, and open up more.

## Visual Cues

All-Gender Restrooms

Non-discrimination/Inclusion Policies

LGBTQ+ Affirming Paperwork

Diverse Staff

Right Person in the Right Job

Develop Effective Collaborations

Provide Continuing Education for Staff





**Safer Spaces are particularly vital for LGBTQ young people and young people living with HIV**

# CENTERING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF LGBTQ+ YOUNG PEOPLE

## What Do We Need?

Use inclusive language

Include All Bodies

Cultural Responsiveness

Risk to Reasons

# WAYS TO CREATE A SAFER SPACE

- **Affirm by listening**
- **Use people first language**
- **Validate experiences of young people, especially young people living with HIV**
- **Be open to learning something**

MAY 21rst  
MEDICAL  
MENTORSHIP FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV

**QUESTIONS/  
COMMENTS/  
CLARITY**

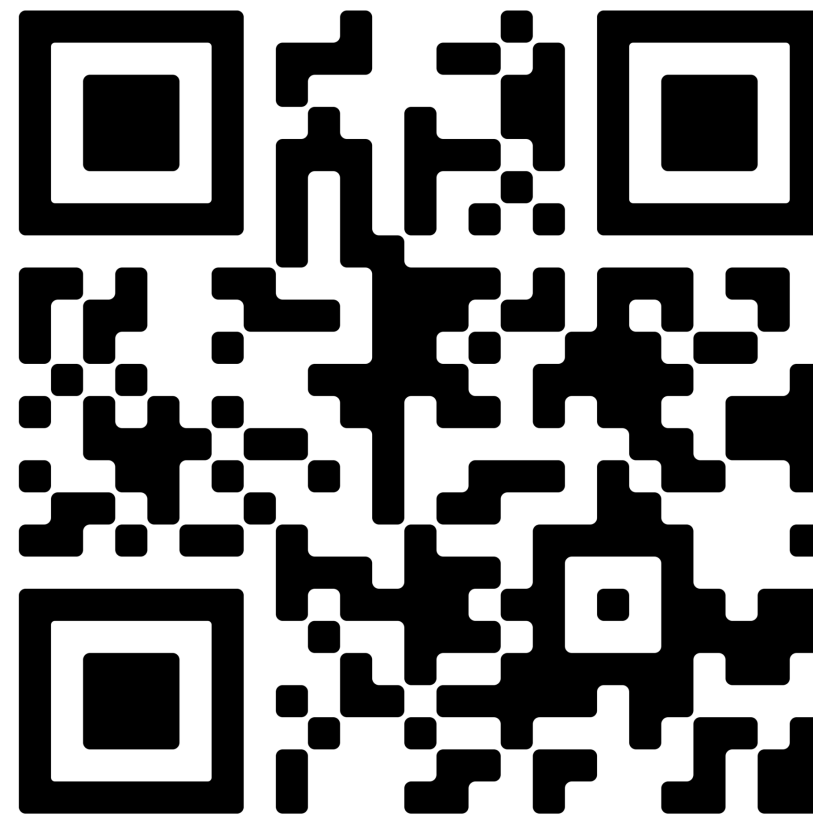
# CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS TOOLKIT



# PRIDE & PLEASURE



a community playlist



# SCAN ME