



Street Youth Bill of Rights

Created by the Chicago Street Youth in Motion Task: A task force organized by the Young Women's Empowerment Project

This is an endorsement letter to have your organization sign on and become an ally of The Street Youth Rise Up Campaign.

The campaign is led Young Women's Empowerment Project to change the way Chicago sees and treats homeless, home-free and street based youth who do what they have to do to survive!

Our campaign comes from our 2009 research findings which discovered that young people are being denied help from helping organizations based on their involvement in the sex trade and street economy, because they are homeless, because they are of color and/or Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender. Our research also found that resilience is a stepping stone to resistance. We created our campaign to build our resilience and resistance to institutional violence.

Street Youth Rise Up has four components:

1. Healing in Action: Using reproductive and healing justice values to education ourselves and our community about taking care of own bodies through alternative methods such as self exams, Chinese medicine, evidence based herbal first aid and acupuncture
2. Bad Encounter Line: A tool for young people to report encounters with helping organizations so that we can identify and educate those providers
3. Media: We are creating music, art, games and zines to educate and inspire our constituency, allies and larger community
4. Chicago Street Youth in Motion (CSYIM): A group of young people from across Chicago who have come together to hold institutions accountable who are denying young people help.

The Street Youth bill of Rights was created by The Chicago Street Youth in Motion Task Force (CSYIM) to demand that our voices be heard and that we are treated with respect and dignity in the choices we make to survive.



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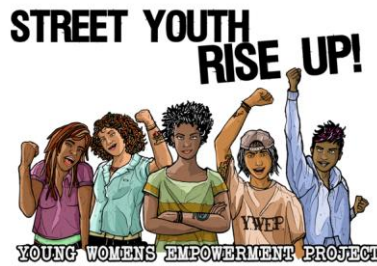
The best way to support is by signing on to the street youth bill of rights (listed below) and having your organization endorse the campaign.

Health Care

1. We have the right to receive fair treatment from all test counselors, nurses, Doctors and health care providers who work with youth.
2. We have the right to free healthcare services and or reasonable sliding scale fees when accessing treatment. We should not be denied any treatment needed based on our insurance plan, income, or lack of insurance.
3. We should not be judged by a test counselor, nurse, doctor or health care provider based on our age, gender identity or expression, health conditions, illness, sexuality and /or their involvement in the sex trade or street economy because we are homeless , home free or street based.

Education

1. We have the right to a good education that is uplifting and respects each youth dignity and learning styles.
2. We have the right to not be turned away from education based on our sexuality, grades, gender identity or expression or economic class or because we are homeless, home free or street based.
3. We should be allowed to have other options for our education when school is not accessible such as online school and/or home schooling for those who don't have access to internet, schools with childcare for parenting teens and alternative schools
4. We have the right to free food programs and free uniforms and books when we are not able to afford it with or without parental notification.
5. We have the right not to be subjected to unnecessary searches in school; discriminatory enforcements of rules, police and metal detectors in school, arrest or violent punishments for missing school, sexual harassment and discipline without a chance to be heard.



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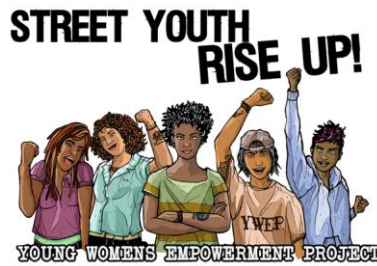
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Police

1. We have the right to not be profiled or targeted by the police based on our age, race, gender identity or expression, sexuality, clothing or because we are homeless and/or home free.
2. We have the right to be protected and to not be denied help based on our gender identity or expression, age, sexuality, race or our involvement in the sex trade and street economy and /or because we are homeless or home free.
3. We have the right to not be criminalized by the police for being homeless or home free or for doing what we have to survive by being involved in the sex trade, street economy. The police should receive trainings by youth or youth competent services providers on how to work with homeless, home free or street based young people in a respectful way and help them connect to voluntary and nonjudgmental services instead of arresting us.
4. We have the right to not be sexually harassed by the police. Sexual harassment and extortion of a young person is not permitted by law. Any allegation of sexual harassment by a police officer should be investigated and the officer should immediately be disciplined

Social Services

1. We have the right to be treated with respect and dignity and to not be judged based on our age, gender identity or expression or sexuality, and /or because we are homeless and or home free, or because we are involved in the sex trade and or street economy.
2. We have the right to receive services regardless if we have identification or not.
3. We have the right to receive as much resources and services from both state and non- profit service providers who offers to aid a youth living in a crisis situation. And they should not be judged based on their living situation or because they are homeless, home free and/or street based.



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What does it look like to endorse the campaign?

We are asking institutions and organizations who support our work to endorse the Street youth Rise Up Campaign. By endorsing the campaign you agree to be held accountable to the following requirements.

1. The institution and or organization must have a clear grievance process that is accessible to young people and or use the street youth bill of rights as tool to improve your way of working with and supporting young people.
2. The staff and youth leaders of the institution and or organization must be open to attending our street youth rise up accountability trainings.
3. If a young person is seeking resources through your organization and or institution and does not meet your requirements in order to receive those resources. Then the institution and or organization must provide support necessary to obtain other resources. (example: bus fare, I. D. referrals, etc.) The institution will assist that young person until they have received those resources.
4. Host meetings at your space when possible or help us find accessible youth friendly space for us to meet.
5. Provide resources when possible such as food
6. When possible, donate youth friendly hygiene supplies and clothing donations
7. Ask individuals/staff in your organization sign on to the Bill of Rights



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8. Support, endorse or offer feedback about direct action mobilizing for the campaign
9. Distribute information and resources related to our campaign within your organization and among young people
10. Help us hold a fundraiser by endorsing or publicizing our event
11. Hang up Bill of Rights Posters (provided by YWEP) in your space
12. Handing out Bill of Rights, Bad Encounter Line Reports and Chicago Street Youth in Motion information to young people who access your space.

If your organization wants to become an ally and feels that this is something you can commit to please sign below.

I _____ hereby endorse and fully support the Street Youth Rise Up campaign.

Name of Organization _____

Name of Staff Person _____

Position at Organization _____

Signature _____

Date: _____