

News & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO PARTICIPATE IN SEXUAL MINORITIES STUDY!

Sexual Minorities At Ontario Universities: Negotiating Their Campus Climate

Jude Tate, a PhD student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto is currently conducting a research study titled *Sexual Minorities At Ontario Universities: Negotiating Their Campus Climate* for her doctoral research. Her research aims to illuminate how self-identified sexual minority (LGBTQQ) students, staff and faculty make sense of their campus climates and to inquire about the role and/or impact of equity and inclusion policies, statements, guidelines and discourses on their perceptions of their learning and working environments at 21 universities in Ontario.

If you self-identify as a sexual minority (LGBTQQ) and are enrolled as a student, and or as member of the staff or faculty, then you are invited participate in this study. The survey may take up to 30 minutes to complete and will require participants to respond (read and write) in English. Your responses to this survey are confidential and participation is completely voluntary. This study has been approved by the Research Ethics Office at York University #2012-032

Please complete the survey by **April 30th, 2012.**

If you have any questions about this survey please contact
Jude Tate: j.tate@mail.utoronto.ca or
Kari Dehli: kari.dehli@utoronto.ca (Supervisor)

If you have any comments or concerns about participation in this study, please contact Research Ethics Office at York University Sr. Manager and Policy Advisory-*Alison Collins* acollins@yorku.ca or the Office of Research Ethics at the University of Toronto ethics.review@utoronto.ca or 416-946-3273.

* If you would like to participate in this survey please go to
<http://app.fluidsurveys.com/s/LGBTQQ-In-OntarioUniversities/>.

International Mother Earth Day & An Important Message from sustainability@yorku

April 22nd is International Mother Earth Day (UN), and this day gives us all an opportunity to think about how we can better recognize and respect the rights of Mother Earth. In fact, the issue of the sustainability of our planet encompasses global human rights problems that we must all start turning our minds to on a regular basis, and not just on internationally recognized days such as April 22nd.

York University strives to be a leading post-secondary institution for sustainability. Our community of students, staff, and faculty is committed to a holistic and equitable approach to taking action that recognizes the full consequences and benefits of what we do. Our long term perspective recognizes our responsibility to be innovators and to continually work as a community to reduce our ecological impact.

As part of achieving that goal, sustainability@yorku is a multifaceted initiative, from taking pledges and signing up to be a sustainability ambassador, to discovering the various sustainability projects initiated by the university community, there are many ways for you to get involved. Check out the new website at yorku.ca/sustainability or email the Sustainability team with the Office of the President at sustainability@yorku.ca to find out more!



2012 CAPDHHE Conference (May1-4)– Walking the Talk: Human Rights in Higher Education

The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment in Higher Education (CAPDHHE) has the principal purpose of providing professional development for individuals employed at colleges and universities in the area of discrimination and harassment as identified under human rights law. This year's annual CAPDHHE conference is entitled Walking the Talk: Human Rights in Higher Education. There will be sessions relating to issues that we all see on our campuses - racism, sexual harassment, disability, creed, and sexual orientation. There will be great opportunities for learning coupled with the chance to network with people from higher education institutions across the country.

The CHR would like to encourage York Community members to attend the conference. For more information please contact *Mary Collins* (marycoll@yorku.ca) or visit <http://capdhhe.org/web/>

**Thank You to Our Wonderful
2011-2012 Diversity Peer Education Team!**

The Diversity Peer Education Team (DPET) is a volunteer based team run by the CHR. Students who are selected to be a part of this team have the opportunity to engage critically with a wide variety of human rights, social justice, and diversity related topics, trainings, and events. The main focus of DPET is to help organize and implement human rights related events and trainings. Some examples of this work include York University's 'Can I Kiss You?' event, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, annual Inclusion Day conference, and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The CHR would like to take the opportunity to thank the Diversity Peer Education Team of 2011-2012. These outstanding members were: **Margaret Mancharia, Elana Shugar, Ida Mirzadeh, Ayesha Zubair, Nohelia Millon, Steven Mullholland, Jessica Kerridge, Jozef Hadlaw-Murray, and Nausher Khan.** The team was successfully lead with enthusiastic and encouraging support around initiatives, monthly meetings, and training by 2010-11 DPET member **Daniel Faranda.** You may have noticed members of this amazing team tabling in Vari Hall wearing purple sweaters, clicking the DPET spinning wheel, and handing out amazing prizes to other students. Some examples of the types of education and awareness-raising activities led by DPET this year included collecting solidarity letters for the federal bill recognizing trans rights to commemorate the

Trans Day of Remembrance, creating an awareness-raising quiz during Black History Month, and collaborating with other student groups to commemorate International Women's Day and create the Hope Awards to honour students at York University for leadership and advocacy. This exceptional DPET team has brought the York University community events, awareness and outreach on topics of diversity, inclusivity, allyship, and human rights in fun, interactive and educational ways this past year and we thank you!

The CHR has just completed the recruitment process for the 2012-2013 DPET and we look forward to another exciting year!

Upcoming Events

**SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, April 26th, 2012 -
Launch of the Ontario Human Rights Commission's
Policy on competing human rights**

How can a professor handle a situation in the classroom where one student's use of a guide dog due to a visual impairment impacts on another student struggling with serious allergic reactions? How can a manager deal with a situation where one employee's religious celebration conflicts with the belief system of other employees? On April 26th, 2012 the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) will be launching a significant new policy here at York University: Policy on competing human rights.

The OHRC recognized that individuals, groups and organizations such as educational institutions, are increasingly facing the challenge of having to consider how to resolve tensions and conflicts that arise when rights appear to conflict or "collide". This is an evolving issue especially in Ontario's increasingly diverse and complex society.

The policy is designed to provide a clear, user-friendly guide on how to assess, handle and resolve competing rights claims. It is a tall order, but one that demands attention if we are to continue to enjoy appropriate protections from harassment and discrimination.

The Centre for Human Rights is proud to help organize and support this important initiative as it will no doubt assist in the CHR's own work.

When: Thursday, April 26th, 2012 from 9AM-1PM

Where: Tribute Communities Recital Hall, Accolade East, Room 119

Refreshments will be served. Please go to the CHR website for further information: www.yorku.ca/rights.

Past Event Highlights

March 8th: International Women's Day Events

On this 101st IWD, York Community members organized in a variety of ways including celebrations, speeches, post-card campaigns, performances, and free food to bring attention to women's achievements over the centuries. As part of the celebrations, the CHR worked with SASSL, Glendon Women and Trans Centre, Oxfam Canada at York, DPET, and the YFS to highlight women's accomplishments through trivia games, free food giveaways, button-making, and a film showing of Miss Representation. On March 22, Glendon Women and Trans Centre organized a successful fundraising performance of Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologue. The evening wrapped up with First International Women's Day Hope Awards - women and York groups were recognized by a student collective for their advancement of women's rights at York. Those recognized included: Janine Manning, SASSL, Megan Bertasson, Oxfam Canada at York, and Sarah Khan.

March 21st: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – Documentary Screening and Dialogue: *Colour Me*

To commemorate this very important day, the CHR, in collaboration with the York United Black Students Alliance (YUBSA), organized a screening of the film *Colour Me*, directed by Sherien Barsoum. The screening was free and open to the entire York community, and the CHR was very pleased to see such a large and diverse group of students, staff, and faculty members present at the event. After the screening of the film, the film's director, Sherien Barsoum, and the main subject of the film, Anthony McLean, led the audience through a lively discussion and answered questions about the film and its messages about diversity and identity.

The film itself follows motivational speaker Anthony McLean as he runs a groundbreaking mentorship program for black teens in Brampton, the most demographically changing Canadian city. Issues of racism, stereotyping, identity, and what it really means to be "black" or "white" are questioned and examined.

To find out more about the film, please go to www.colourmethefilm.com.

March 23rd: What do you know about the D.R. Congo? Conference

The 5th Annual Congo Conference continued to grow in its support from the York community. This year Dr. Justin Podur spoke about his research in the DR Congo and had an engaging discussion about historical and current socio-political events with over 15 participants. Many performers also contributed throughout the day, taking time to share personal stories about the DRC through word, dance, and song. Performers included: Cuneyt (singer), Hamna Mughal (poet), Kasim (singer), Ellias Nabutete (storyteller), Fumu Jamez (Dancer), and SobAbu (Stephen). The last speaker of the day was MP Jim Karygiannis who spoke about steps ways that everyone can contribute to making a change by contacting their Member of Parliament and asking them to take action on the human rights violations happening in the DRC, especially towards women. Blandine (singer) performed the last songs of the day as the conference closed with music to celebrate the voices that came together and need to continue being heard.



Connect with us virtually to continue building a budding culture of human rights and equity on campus!

Our Website: <http://www.yorku.ca/rights/>



Look for our York University-Centre for Human Rights group page to stay notified about all future events!



Follow us on Twitter! <http://twitter.com/#!/YorkURights>

Find us on York's YU Connect Website.
<http://yuconnect.yorku.ca/>