



Gamma Sigma Sigma

NATIONAL SERVICE SORORITY

SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE EFFORTS THROUGH SERVICE

Individuals and groups often address social issues through advocacy and awareness work. A good starting place with advocacy and awareness projects is educating yourself or members on the cause. In order to make other people aware, members must be knowledgeable, aware, and refer to correct information. Gamma Sigma Sigma members create awareness through hosting informational tables, forums, speaker series, walks, vigils, letter writing, and more.

What is social justice?

Adams, Bell and Griffin (2007) define social justice as both a process and a goal. "The goal of social justice education is full and equal participation of all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs. Social justice includes a vision of society that is equitable and all members are physically and psychologically safe and secure."

Reference: Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice: A Sourcebook. Edited by Maurianne Adams, Lee Anne Bell, and Pat Griffin.

What role does it play in Gamma Sigma Sigma?

Equality is one of the three ideals of Gamma Sigma Sigma. Inequality is an aspect of our lives and our communities, and through service, we can promote greater equality and access on our campuses and communities. Community service is often in direct response to conditions of inequality or injustice, and many organizations that you serve with may incorporate this into their mission and goals.

1. Learn more about the issue you are supporting
2. Letter writing and phone calls to elected officials
3. Organizing voter registration
4. Organize a neutral setting to share feelings, include a campus facilitator such as someone from the counseling office.
5. Participate in facilitated dialogue and reflection before and following service opportunities (using service-learning principles) to develop greater understanding for the work you are doing and the affected communities.
6. Organize a spirit day centered on a social justice topic. Educate the community on the ways a specific group is oppressed and how they can take action to support the advancement of that group. Examples include women's rights, LGBT issues, Native American rights, etc.

In situations where there has been a man-made disaster that lead to loss of life or mass reduction in quality of life. (Ex. Orlando and Flint)

1. Donate to local blood banks, such as the American Red Cross
2. Issue a statement of support or solidarity to your community; although the direct event may not have occurred in your local community or campus, it is likely that there are people in your sphere of influence who are experiencing pain as a result.

Partnering with Organizations

Partnering with a social justice organization can help to further support various causes and spread awareness of ways people can take action. Many organizations require you to inform them before hosting an awareness or advocacy project for their organization. They may also prefer to provide the information that is distributed. A few organizations that actively strive for social justice and civil rights include:

1. NAACP
2. Human Rights Campaign
3. Social Justice Coalition
4. League of United Latin American Citizens
5. Pride Committee
6. Alliance for Social Justice
7. Center for Third World Organizing
8. National Council of Negro Women
9. Equal Rights Advocates
10. American Civil Liberties Union
11. Justice in Aging
12. National Council of Jewish Women
13. Native American Rights Fund
14. Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Communication with Gamma Sigma Sigma's National Office

Gamma Sigma Sigma recognizes that there are many causes that members feel passionate about and would like to raise awareness and support advocacy projects, such as issues of social justice. When members and chapters/colonies raise awareness for a cause, the entire sorority may be seen as raising awareness for that cause.. When considering raising awareness or advocating for a social justice issue, check with the National Service Director to confirm that the national sorority acknowledges support for the cause.

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