Easy Read Edition

Proud and Supported: Rights and Respect

Part 3: We have to fight for our rights!
Words to Know in Part 3
Conversion therapy

When someone sends you to a doctor or therapist to try and change your gender or sexuality.

Discrimination

When someone treats you badly based on who you are.
Supported decision-making

A way to make decisions. A person with a disability chooses someone to help them understand or communicate a decision. That person is called their supporter. The person with a disability can still make their own decision. But they have help from their supporter.

Supreme Court

The highest court in the United States. They have the final say on laws in the United States.
We have to fight for our rights!

The rights in Part 2 are rights that everyone should have.

But **discrimination** happens.

Sometimes, someone’s rights are taken away because they are LGBTQ+.

Sometimes, people’s rights are taken away because they are disabled.

This is wrong!
Some types of discrimination are against the law.

Other types of discrimination are not against the law.

It also depends which state you live in.

Some states say many types of discrimination are against the law.

Other states say only a few types of discrimination are against the law.
The LGBTQ+ community fought for the right to get married.

We fought for the right to tell other people about who we are.

We fought for the right to not be treated badly for being LGBTQ+.

We are still fighting for bans on conversion therapy.
When you are a child, you don’t have some of the rights we talked about.

Children usually don’t have the right to:

• Make medical decisions for themselves

• Get married
When you are under guardianship, you lose some of the rights we talked about.

This is wrong!

When you are under guardianship, you can lose the right to:

- Get married
- Make medical decisions for yourself
- Have sex with people
Guardianship gets used to control disabled people.

When someone has a guardian, the guardian can decide what the person can and can’t do.

If the person is LGBTQ+, the guardian could decide to send the person to conversion therapy.

The guardian could decide the person isn’t allowed to go on dates.
The guardian could decide the person isn’t allowed to buy certain things, like condoms or lubricant.

Guardianship is always wrong.

There are better ways to help people than guardianship.

Some people need help making decisions.

But they still don’t need a guardian.
They could use supported decision-making.

Supported decision-making is a way to make decisions.

A person with a disability chooses someone to help them understand or communicate a decision.

That person is called their supporter.

The person with a disability can still make their own decision.
But they have help from their supporter.

You can learn more about supported decision-making in our toolkit about it.
We all need to keep fighting for our rights.

One way to fight is to speak up.

Another way is to call your elected representatives.

Another way is to create a group with other LGBTQ+ people.

Another way is to talk about discrimination when it happens.
Court cases that protect your rights

There are a few cases that protect your rights as an LGBTQ+ person with disabilities.

All of these cases were decided by the Supreme Court.

The **Supreme Court** is the highest court in the United States.

They have the final say on laws in the United States.
The Supreme Court decided these cases.

So, you have these rights anywhere in the United States.
The court cases are:

- Griswold v. Connecticut: A court case that says you have the right to get birth control.

- Lawrence v. Texas: A court case that says you have the right to have sex with other consenting adults.

- Olmstead v. L.C.: A court case that says you have the right to live in the community.
• Obergefell v. Hodges: A court case that says you have the right to marry another consenting adult.

• Bostock v. Clayton County: A court case that says you have the right to not be discriminated against for being LGBTQ+ at work.
This project was supported, in part by grant number C00018GG, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, the Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201 through the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (NYS DDPC). Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy or the opinions, interpretation or policy of the NYS DDPC.