

CENTRAL VALLEY YOUTH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A CALIFORNIA YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS!

¡Escuelas Sí! ¡Pintas No!, a Central Valley Youth Organizing Coalition has been gearing up to take part in developing a statewide campaign to create a Youth Bill Of Rights! The Vision is that youth would create a Youth Bill of Rights that would demand that all California youth be guaranteed these rights and be given the chance to succeed. Working with the California Fund for Youth Organizing's Movement Building Committee, ESPINO is just one of 5 groups working on creating these rights. The Youth were given a set of rights which the youth from: San Diego, Los Angeles, Central Valley and Bay Area, had agreed upon at a retreat in 2006. The youth then were charged with taking these rights and defining what they looked like in their respective regions. The youth from all areas will be gathering in Los Angeles in July to present what the rights look like in their respective regions, and decide on set of rights to push for statewide!

This is an amazing venture for these youth and will be exciting times as we push our legislators and decision makers to make the promise to give youth a chance to succeed by providing the rights they deserve!

Here are the defined rights the youth created for the Central Valley:

- ★ **The right to define, control, and express our own identities and ideas**
 - Having a voice on campus, and communities
 - Peer to Peer Discipline policies. "If your old enough to go to jail, you should have the right to have your voice and the voice of your peers determine what actions are taken"
 - Being able to start their own clubs on campus regardless gender race and sexual orientation.
- ★ **The right to learn, express and celebrate our own history, language and traditions.**
 - Being able to learn more than American History, but the history of our ancestors.
 - Having faculty and administration that represents the population of the school, more teachers of color
- ★ **The right to eat healthy and nutritious food.**
 - Providing healthy food on campus
 - Creating healthy alternatives of food on campus (eating styles)
 - Better access to fresh fruits and vegetable
 - Making healthy foods more affordable
 - Educating our communities on how nutritious foods are and how make healthy meals
- ★ **The right to be free from fear, all forms of violence or brutality.**
 - Racial Discrimination in schools and communities
 - Policy brutality
 - Bullying
 - Violence against women
 - Profiling
 - Intimidation
 - Youth to Youth
 - Male to Female
 - Straight to LGBTQ
 - Adults to youth
- ★ **The right to permanent, decent and affordable housing.**
 - More resources to homeless youth
 - Inclusionary housing
 - Stop the segregation of socio-economic status
- ★ **The right to have roots -- in our community, protection from gentrification and displacement**
- ★ **The right to free, quality education – preschool through college.**

- ★ **The right to equal justice before the law** (throughout all levels of police, court and institutional contact; the right to rehabilitation, treatment and alternatives to arrest, court, detention and incarceration.)
 - Teen Court
 - Restorative Justice
 - Pre-release programs
 - Multicultural sensitivity throughout the system
 - Youth advocates provided at the courts

- ★ **The right to work** – fair and dignified employment with a livable wage, job training and career opportunities.
 - Job Opportunities for undocumented workers
 - Preparing youth for the workforce
 - Having schools prepare students for life!
 - Youth Entrepreneurial opportunities
- ★ **The right to peace.** End the war on youth at home and throughout the world.
- ★ **The right to exercise political power.** The right to political representation, voting, etc
 - Lowering the age of voting “If your old enough to get tried as adults, you should be old enough to vote
 - Educating the youth on the importance of voting

- ★ **The right to free, quality health cares** without parental/guardian permission.
 - Quality Universal Health care for youth
 - School based health clinic
- ★ **The right to a clean environment.**
 - Air quality
 - Water Contamination
 - Global Environment
 - Water selling rights
 - More trees
- ★ **The right to organize** unions, organizations, etc
 - Youth Led Youth Movements
 - Change fear to support