

## WHAT ELSE WE DO

### SAVE OUR SPACE

FIERCE! founded the Save Our Space Campaign to counter the displacement and criminalization of TLGBTSQQ youth at the Christopher Street pier and in Manhattan's West Village. The Pier, located on the fringe of the West Village, has historically been the only safe public space for many homeless and low-income TLGBTSQQ youth of color to find each other and build community. In an attempt to counter the state and city-sanctioned redevelopment and gentrification of the Pier, the Save Our Space (SOS) campaign was launched to reclaim the Pier as a public space that should be controlled by and for us!



FIERCE! has focused our campaign on the oppressive "Quality of Life" policies which were put into place by former Mayor Giuliani. The laws gave police the authority to treat petty offenses such as panhandling, public urination, loitering with the intent to prostitute, and homelessness as worthy of prosecution.

Through a mix of youth-led organizing and activist strategies - including direct action, media advocacy, street visibility through art/activism, and testifying at public forums - FIERCE! has been able to change the terms of the public debate about quality of life and public safety in the West Village so that the voices of merchants and residents, politicians and police, are not the only ones that are heard.

### POLITICAL EDUCATION & TRAININGS



FIERCE! organizes regular political education and organizing skills building workshops open to all of our constituency. FIERCE! continues its efforts to raise the level of political and social consciousness of TLGBTSQQ youth as a means to strengthen our organizing efforts.

Our skills-building trainings including topics such as campaign development, direct action tactics, practical skills for community organizing, and media advocacy. Our political education training topics have included histories of social change movements, policing in the queer community, as well as a series of know your rights trainings. For more information, please contact:

Bran Fenner at (646) 336-6789 ext. 107  
or by email at [bran@fiercenyc.org](mailto:bran@fiercenyc.org)

### FIERCE! 'ZINE

FIERCE! is in the process of making a queer youth of color-produced 'zine focusing on the quality of life policies and the effect they have on the youth in the Village. The 'zine will provide know your rights for police search and seizure, art, poetry, and stories from FIERCE!'s constituency, and resources for queer youth of color. We would like to invite you to contribute and/or help with the production and distribution. If you are interested in the zine, please contact:

Rickke Mananzala at (646) 336-6789 x103  
or by email at [rickke@fiercenyc.org](mailto:rickke@fiercenyc.org)

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## FIERCE!

FABULOUS INDEPENDENT EDUCATED RADICALS  
FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



A COMMUNITY ORGANIZING PROJECT FOR  
TRANSGENDER, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,  
TWO-SPIRIT, QUEER, AND QUESTIONING  
YOUTH OF COLOR IN NEW YORK CITY

THE REBELLION  
IS NOT OVER!





**ABOUT FIERCE** FIERCE! is a community organizing project for Transgender, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Queer, and Questioning (TLGBTSQQ) youth of color in New York City. We are dedicated to exploring and building power in our communities through a mix of leadership development, artistic and cultural activism, political education, and campaign development while taking care of ourselves and each other. We take on the institutions that perpetuate transphobia, homophobia, racism, ethnic conflict, gender bias, economic injustice, ageism, and the spread of HIV, STIs, STDs, and other mental and physical health crises that make daily survival a terrifying challenge for many TLGBTSQQ youth. FIERCE! organizes against the injustices of the criminal "justice", housing, employment, education, and healthcare systems.

➔ We believe in the ethic of organizing by us, for us. NOW THAT'S FIERCE! ➔

**OUR HISTORY** FIERCE! was founded in March of 2000 by a group of TLGBTSQQ youth, mostly of color, filling a city-wide gap and becoming NYC's only community organizing project for TLGBTSQQ youth. We founded FIERCE! out of a sense of urgency that the collective voices of TLGBTSQQ youth be heard in New York City. Fueled by direct experiences of racial, economic, gender, and age oppression, members of FIERCE! have been working to build bridges between movements for justice. Already, FIERCE! has worked to turn police violence against TLGBTSQQ youth into a public issue and have advocated for alternatives to incarceration that don't subject TLGBTSQQ youth of color to the racism, transphobia, and homophobia of prisons and juvenile detention centers.

## WHAT WE DO

### FENCED OUT

Fenced OUT documents the struggle of TLGBTSQQ youth of color to save the Christopher Street Pier from redevelopment and gentrification. While researching the history of the pier, FIERCE! members discovered past generations of queer peoples' fight for use of public spaces at Christopher Street and the piers. To date we have reached over 3,000 people in New York City and nationwide.



FIERCE! offers several workshops in conjunction with our Fenced OUT screenings, including TLGBTSQQ youth organizing against gentrification and displacement and TLGBTSQQ youth of color and the Prison-Industrial Complex.

If you would like FIERCE! to do a Fenced OUT workshop for your community organization, or if you are interested in purchasing a copy of the video, please contact:

Rickke Mananzala at (646) 336-6789 x103  
or by email at [rickke@fiercenyc.org](mailto:rickke@fiercenyc.org)

### EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION PROJECT(ELP)

ELP is a paid training program which provides comprehensive community organizing, political education, and anti-oppression trainings to TLGBTSQQ youth of color in New York City. As a means to increase the leadership and organizing skills of current and future members of FIERCE!, ELP combines interactive workshops and practical hands-on experience in organizing. ELP strives to develop a new generation of community organizers dedicated to social change work in historically underserved communities.

For more info on ELP, please contact:

Bran Fenner at (646) 336-6789 ext. 107  
or by email at [bran@fiercenyc.org](mailto:bran@fiercenyc.org)



### OUTREACH



FIERCE! does regular outreach at the Christopher Street piers and at other TLGBTSQQ youth organizations. We engage other TLGBTSQQ youth in the language, culture, and style that is specific to our community.

We have also developed a survey to document TLGBTSQQ youth of color and homeless youth's experience with police harassment and racial and gender profiling. So far we have collected hundreds of surveys.

If you would like us to come to your organization to do presentations or conduct surveys please contact:

Rickke Mananzala (646) 336-6789 x103  
or by email at [rickke@fiercenyc.org](mailto:rickke@fiercenyc.org)