

*“In-depth, well researched, and punchy in the right ways... NPR-level production values.... What makes all this remarkable is that most of the people working on the show... are **barely old enough to drive.**”*

— The Advocate

Uniting LGBTQ youth, straight allies, and the power of media in advocacy for a less unjust world

*“I’m **strengthening my voice** as a supporter of LGBTQ rights through radio. Not only am I working for a cause I truly believe in, I’m also developing **media skills that I wouldn’t have gotten anywhere else.**”*

— OutCasting youth participant Nora



We’re seeking new OutCasting youth participants. Here’s how you can help:

- Invite an OutCasting producer to talk with students at a meeting of your school’s Gay-Straight Alliance.
- Share information about OutCasting with students you think may be interested — LGBTQ, closeted or out, straight allies, interested in LGBTQ topics or journalism, broadcasting, and media in general.
- Contact OutCasting to learn more by sending an e-mail from the Contact page at OutCastingMedia.org

OutCasting — giving a national voice to LGBTQ youth, training a new generation of advocates, and contributing to our national discussion of LGBTQ issues

MFPG home of public radio's LGBTQ youth program **OutCasting**

Media for the Public Good, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization — online at
OutCastingMedia.org or MFPG.org



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**public radio's
LGBTQ youth
programs**

OutCasting

*“...some of the most honest and accurate representations of **LGBT and allied youth in the media.**”*

— GLAAD

OutCasting — on-air and online resources for anyone wanting to better understand the complexities of LGBTQ lives, as seen from a youth perspective

It's a world of stark contrasts: marriage equality is the law of the land, yet we see a rising number of anti-LGBTQ "religious liberty" bills that would explicitly permit businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ people; there's a growing public acceptance of LGBTQ youth, yet a continuing epidemic of bullying and suicide.

These conflicting realities create a confusing and sometimes dangerous world for LGBTQ youth in particular. But OutCasting and OutCasting Overtime, public radio's LGBTQ youth programs, make sense of this unsettled environment that juxtaposes progress with ignorance, intolerance, and bigotry. At OutCasting, LGBTQ youth and straight allies come together to go far beyond the limited and sensationalist coverage of these issues in the mainstream media. Because the programs are heard not only by LGBTQ listeners but by a broad spectrum public radio audience, we're helping to create a more stable and accepting environment for LGBTQ people, especially youth, by shedding light on issues that are unfortunately still divisive.

Training a new generation of advocates

These young voices are part of a population still marginalized, potentially victimized, and rarely heard. The experience of being an OutCaster is one of



empowering, meaningful exploration of issues in depth and connecting with others who may be going through the same things. Some OutCasters have said that their participation is the central experience of their high school years. It is also a powerful educational experience: our young participants learn a wide variety of important skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Covering issues of key importance with authoritative guests

Among many other things, OutCasting has covered:

- medical transition for transgender youth, with a physician, a psychologist, and a teenager currently in transition
- bullying and teen suicide, with **Dan Savage**, activist, author, and co-founder of the It Gets Better Project
- LGBTQ issues in religion, with **Bishop Gene Robinson** (Ret.) of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire (it was Bishop Robinson's ordination that prompted a worldwide split in the church over homosexuality)
- transgender issues, with activist **Juli Grey-Owens**, **New York State Assemblyman Richard Gottfried**, and triathlete **Chris Mosier** on issues faced by trans people in sports
- LGBTQ issues in education, with **California State Senator Mark Leno**, who sponsored a law to end the exclusion of LGBTQ history from school curricula in California



OutCaster Alex with Gilbert Baker, longtime activist and creator of the Pride flag. It was Gilbert's last interview.

- agender and nonbinary identities, asexuality, and intersex
- marriage equality, with civil rights attorney **Evan Wolfson**, one of the key architects of the global marriage equality movement; and the growing backlash against it, with author and journalist **Michelangelo Signorile**
- healthy LGBTQ teen relationships
- connecting LGBTQ youth with their history, with **Gilbert Baker**, creator of the rainbow flag



A great opportunity for your students

OutCasting is based in southern Westchester, with youth participants from high schools throughout the lower Hudson Valley. In operation since 2011, OutCasting has given more than 60 young people the **rare opportunity to work substantively on nationally distributed public radio programs**, heard online and collectively on more than 200 public radio stations. **They build their resumes** by learning and applying important skills in professional communication, writing and speaking for broadcast, research, interviewing, production, and more. **They make new friends and work collaboratively.** For some, it's the only environment where they can talk about issues in their lives **without fear of judgment or rejection.** In some cases, they come into OutCasting with a sense of guilt or shame over their identity; their work at OutCasting can help them shed these negative attitudes and enable them to become **self-actualizing, confident young advocates.**

