



Soulforce

Youth Movement Report

2015-2016

Executive Summary

The 2015-2016 academic year expanded the capacity of Soulforce to train and mobilize students to speak to campus policy and culture change and to broader movement issues like the religious exemption model fueling much of the Religious Freedom and Restoration Acts and “bathroom” bills multiplying across the country in a state-by-state feeding frenzy.

After completing a community assessment of college campuses from 2013 to 2015, we directed the growth of our existing youth organizing structure to include new **two structural components** in 2015-16:

1. The Soulforce **National Campus Organizing** umbrella, which now, with the hiring of a lead staff member, has the capacity to mentor, strategize with, and mobilize students beyond the Equality Ride formal.
2. The **Soulforce House** that hosts cohorts of trans and queer youth-oriented activists in year-long fellowships to build a regional network, hone their organizing skills, develop develop strategies to combat Christian supremacy.

Our intensive House training program alongside the ongoing work of calling in, connecting, and supporting students across the country is Soulforce’s sustainable model that meets the needs of youth in our conservative religious context:

1. **Long-term training and mentorship** to build lifelong leaders among marginalized LGBTQI communities.
2. **Nimble and creative response to emerging opportunities**, such as the recent spate of Title IX waivers attacking trans students.
3. **Like a lighthouse**, we are now able to welcome students whenever they need support and as they learn about our offerings for training, national strategy calls, resources, and mentorship.

These Soulforce programs create a confident, skilled, and broad-based community of LGBTQI youth ready to be mobilized on issues of Christian supremacy that affect their schools and states.

“I didn’t think that what y’all are doing was possible. Building a movement of students and staff at Christian college campuses across the South... I’m so excited for what’s ahead.”

-A supportive staff member at a stop on the Beyond Equality Ride

Our models for supporting a **youth movement centered within the heart of Christian supremacy** paired with tangible action over the past year show that Soulforce is marching strong into a 2016-2017 academic year that will see a more coordinated national student movement on Christian colleges that **speaks to the political trends affecting our LGBTQI movement as a whole, even beyond campus.**

For example, this year our footprint as a campus organizing leader has multiplied through **two major campaigns**: Give Back IX and the Beyond Equality Ride.

Current cultural and legal battles over sex and gender identity, at both the state level and in international arenas, make it clear that our LGBTQI youth work with Christian colleges is one of the greatest battlefields of the Christian Right. Through our work at schools, **we are teeing off by proxy with some of the greatest leaders of the Right Wing advance on LGBTQI rights – from the Alliance Defending Freedom and the Southern Baptist Convention** to some of the powerful fundamentalist thought leaders who wreak havoc on our bodies, spirits, and livelihoods.

Simply put, we apply a sharp and unique analysis of Christian supremacy-and how it is threaded through the Right's court strategies to bread and butter issues like jobs and healthcare-to a youth movement that integrates healing, political activism, and reclaiming the language of morality and faith.

Sometimes when we first meet LGBTQI people and their allies in small towns, we are told that our ambitions – to build critical mass at Christian colleges to directly challenge Right Wing institutions from the inside-out – felt impossible until we showed up.

A different world remains a dream until we get to work and show people their own power and potential. Ultimately, we continue this work within a strong legacy of inspiring bravery for those who need it, so that our people may continue to boldly resist the oppression of all LGBTQI people.



Haven Herrin, Executive Director

By the Numbers

- **61 workshops**, led by Soulforce staff and/or student activists, on LGBTQI justice, racial justice, spiritual violence, and organizing on Christian campuses
- **42 youth leaders ages 18-24** showing up for LGBTQI justice by hosting workshops, planning actions, or organizing events for students at Christian college campuses
- Students at **18 different Christian colleges engaging** in our campaigns
- **6 direct actions**, held locally and nationally by and for Christian college students, to push back on their institutions' power
- **1100+ participants** directly impacted by Soulforce workshops or actions
- **16 campus activism tools and resources** sent out to Christian college students across the US on organizing skills, political analysis, and ideas for actions
- Students from **6 schools participating in regular national strategy calls**
- **8 administrative meetings** at Christian colleges where youth brought demands

Timeline of Major Events

March to May

Training: How to Turn Your GSA into an Intersectional Action Group @ Azusa Pacific U

#TellOurStoriesToo @ Biola U to counter conversation therapy messaging

June to August

6 LGBTQI Southern participants attend first House retreat

4 Queer Hikes and Craft Days with LA House and local social justice groups

September to December

SoCal Skill Share and Upper Midwest Skill Share with 22 students and 8 schools

Published Survival & Thrival Guide for campus organizing

Second House retreat

January to March

Third House retreat

GiveBackIX and NCAA campaign

Beyond Equality Ride 10th year anniversary tour to 6 campuses

April to August

House fellows independent projects

Recruiting interns for new Christian student newspaper, Kudzu

SB1146 Campaign

Summary of Activities

Students at Biola hold a demonstration with community members against their school's Title IX waiver on February 9th, 2016.



This past year, we set out to grow the capacity of our several community organizing hubs of Christian college students across the US.

Building on the knowledge of 10 years of youth-oriented work on Christian campuses, we have worked with our youth to:

- + Create opportunities to create community and reducing isolation on campus,
- + Identify the sources of violence in their communities
- + Dream up possible strategies to combat the violence from the source, and
- + Execute these strategies.

We can tell the story of our year into three categories:

1. National Campus Organizaing: **From the Inside**
2. Southeast House: **From the Outside**
3. Beyond Equality Ride: **Weaving it Together**

National Campus Organizing: The Inside

SUMMARY

Our campus organizing strategies come from our 10 years of experience being **one of the first political LGBTQI organizations working at Christian college campuses**. They also are deeply influenced by our politics of intersectional justice and our understanding of the strategies of campus organizing in other movements like the coal divestment movement and student-led racial justice initiatives.

From our House and Skill Share programs, we learned that **it is vital for our students to unite across campuses to reduce isolation, share strategies and tactics, and foster a movement that is larger than any one institution**.

This year, our reach across all campus work has broadened to **17 actively organizing Christian colleges across the U.S.** At the helm of our work are queer and trans students, especially students of color. They are the directors, and often the main executors, of workshops, direct actions, and strategy sessions. In collaboration with their leadership,

ACTIONS

- + Training for APU: transforming your student organization into an intersectional justice action group
- + #TellOurStoriesToo: Biola U student response to conversion therapy event on campus
- + Art of Discovery social justice showcase at APU
- + Gender Statement Manifesto and Protest at APU
- + Two Back-to-School Mentoring Sessions with students at Eastern University and Gordon College
- + GiveBackIX actions on 4 campuses in Spring 2016
- + Student Skill Shares in SoCal and Michigan

IN FOCUS: Biola's GiveBackIX Action

Students from Biola march through campus alongside community members to speak out against Title IX exemptions.



“Biola, in many ways, was my first home and family. That’s why I will stand and act to make it reflect Jesus more wholly, and to set the table for our sisters, non-gender conforming siblings, and brothers who have a place card waiting for them, too. We all dine, no exemptions.”

-Atticus Ford (Biola senior, Give Back IX demonstrator)

“We ended up taking a meeting with administration...They were receptive to our demands for more educational pieces surrounding gender identity and transgender communities as well as lesbian and gay Christians and non-believers.... Another meeting will be set up for next week with the dean of students, Danny Paschal.”

-Erin Green, Soulforce Give Back IX Organizer and Biola junior

FULL STORY on BIOLA

Soulforce and students at Biola University have a **long-standing relationship**; we have been building power with students there since 2006 when we first visited the Los Angeles-based campus. Biola University had many student organizers in our 2015 Los Angeles Equality Ride House, and we have continued to develop trainings for and alongside Biola students with our SoCal Skill Share, Back-to-School Zine, and Survival and Thrival Guide.

When the report that came out in 2015 on Title IX exemptions, it revealed that Biola University was filing for an exemption. Students from Biola and campus organizers with Soulforce quickly connected to strategize next steps.

Biola students were some of the first students to join **Soulforce national strategy calls** with schools across the country, and over the course of these calls with Soulforce staff, **Biola made plans with Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), to host simultaneous demonstrations** opposing their schools' filings and demanding greater transparency from their campuses about the purpose of the exemptions.

On February 9th, 34 students and concerned community members took to Biola's campus and staged a public demonstration. **Biola students routed the event for maximum visibility, reaching over 100 members** of the Biola community and engaging with students all along the way about their aims. **Student leaders defied campus administration's several attempts to ask them to leave** the premises. Eventually, students were given a meeting with campus officials that day to discuss their Title IX exemption in more detail:

The boldness of leadership from Biola students was a key instigator for OBU students to organize their action. Under the GiveBackIX umbrella, they held their own campus demonstration -- creating a **"teach-in" space on campus about Title IX exemptions**. They also built out their **underground campus GSA, releasing a video statement against the Title IX exemption that has received over 1,600 views to date**; they too have received a meeting with their administration to demand LGBTQI-affirming policies on campus.

The impact of these events reverberates much farther than their individual campuses. **Several news outlets reported back on the Christian Campus Movement stemming from the actions on February 9th, many pointing to Biola's action as a brave example of student power.** Many students and staff at Christian schools along our time on the Ride knew about the demands of the campaign, and were ready to join forces with the other schools organizing through Soulforce.

SPARKING SOLIDARITY: #GiveBackIX in Sports

Pomona-Pitzer NCAA Track Invitational: Students at Welcoming Schools Stand in Solidarity with Christian Athletes



THE BACKGROUND

We started our #GiveBackIX campaign January 2016 in response to religious universities quietly applying for waivers from Title IX in order to discriminate based on gender identity. Every month, we kicked off a new action on the 9th. April's focus was pressuring the NCAA with a sign-on letter and media strategies to divest from discriminatory schools.

- 10 student leaders at Pomona-Pitzer action
- Average of campuses represented on every Title IX strategy call
- 2 major media pieces
- Encouragement from school counselors at Beyond Equality Ride schools to "go for the pocketbook" via NCAA interventions

"Everyone struggling to stay safe, come out, be active, or just come to terms with their identity in those institutions deserves our solidarity. More than that, they deserve our voices, to push for a system where everyone has the chance to study and compete in an environment as safe and supportive as ours." -Ellen Green

FROM CAMPUS to a WIDER MOVEMENT: California Bill SB 1146



SUMMARY

Soulforce is in a unique position to connect Christian LGBTQI students to larger legislative campaigns. Senate Bill 1146 in California is a bill proposed by Senator Lara that requires schools that claim an exemption under Title IX or California's Equity in Higher Education Act to disclose this information. This bill is significant because it is the first legislative attempt to mend the loophole of "Title IX exemptions" for religious institutions of higher education.

We created this film [with over 1,000 views], **the only testimony of its kind, to ensure that students and faculty are the people shaping the narrative.** We've coupled our storytelling strategy with an open-source open letter to the Christian universities that spent \$350,000 campaign donations to gut the bill: "350 Ways Christian Colleges Could Better Spend \$350,000".

Working with our legal collaborators, we will extend this counter-strategy model - and our relationships with students across the country - to coalitions in other states who are gearing up for the same battle.

Southeast House: The Outside

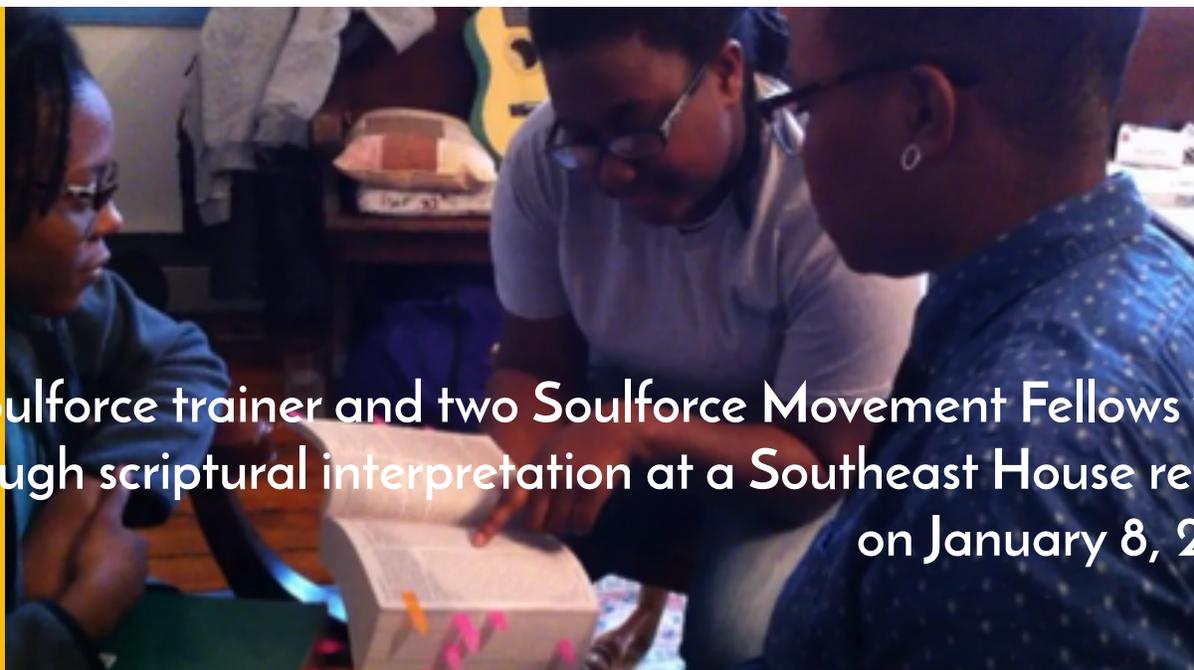
BACKGROUND

The newest iteration of the Equality Ride House model, our Southeast House, was borne out of a need named by students for long-term community organizing hubs to build skills for activism and a stronger political analysis around the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and religion.

Our staff disseminated promotional materials about the project to our partners and networks across the region, and received 16 applications from **youth across the South**; after a thorough interview process, we selected 6 participants to become the Southeast House cohort of youth-centered activists, organizers, and students trained to bring an analysis of Christian supremacy to Southern organizing work.

All 6 of our participants identify as Black or Afro-Latina and have relationships to Southern communities where they already do activism related to issues affecting LGBTQI youth of color.

By engaging youth organizers working in various fields (HIV/AIDS advocacy, HBCU campus work, ministry, etc), we facilitate opportunities for our participants to examine whereligious oppression and spiritual violence



Soulforce trainer and two Soulforce Movement Fellows work through scriptural interpretation at a Southeast House retreat on January 8, 2016.

PROCESS

For a full year (August 2015-July 2016), each participant received a Movement Fellowship, made up of four House retreats.

Every Fellow also developed an individualized learning plan with a Soulforce staff member who served as their mentor. Outside of retreats, participants completed between **10 and 20 hours of work per month on personal assignments**, and they had the opportunity to engage Soulforce via other campaigns and educational opportunities, like Creating Change.

As a capstone project each participant assisted in **planning and executing the Beyond Equality Ride**, a 17-day tour of Christian college campuses across the South.

RESULTS

Documented in 4 different surveys taken throughout the year, **84% of our Fellows documented learning new talents and ideas on “hard skills”** in organizing, like crafting a strategy, facilitating a meeting, doing outreach, and fundraising.

100% of surveys documented an increase in knowledge of Christian supremacy, nonviolence, Biblical literacy, intersectional justice, and spiritual violence.

What we hear again and again from our youth leadership in the Southeast House is that they are so grateful to have the space to have these hard-to-find conversations, especially created for queer and trans youth of color.



The first Southeast House retreat in August 2015 in Chattanooga, TN.

“After being in the Soulforce House, I feel so much more ready to have conversations with my peers about what Christianity really has to do with LGBT issues... It’s not as simple as the people in power make it out to be. I have learned so much about the Bible and my own faith journey. I have a lot of work to do, but I am more ready to talk to my peers about these things and really help to make a change on campus.”

-Jahniece Williams, age 21, Howard University’s GSA executive officer;
2015-16 Southeast House Movement Fellowship participant

HOUSE YOUTH in ACTION: National Religious Broadcasters

Our Southeast House curriculum is rigorous and demands youth activists to examine and tackle how Christianity has been used as a weapon to bolster sexism, racism, nationalism, and other systemic violences.

All but one of our participants identifies as a person of faith in the Christian tradition, and **all of our participants explicitly sought out the Fellowship in order to further their understanding of Christian faith alongside understanding crucial organizing skills.**

Because of the powerful potential of working with folks to build more just theologies, we work with our participants to build a more prescriptive theology—one that is based in their lived experiences and in social justice—as a means **to disrupt Christian supremacist narratives that bind people with fear.**

This work of “Reclaiming Spirit” is meant to heal spiritual violence individually, to connect our communities and reduce isolation, and to bolster commitment to social justice work tied up in faith and spirituality.

In January 2016, we reached out to Sara, one of our Movement Fellowship members in the House and two other Soulforcers who organize in Nashville to challenge the National Religious Broadcasters.

The National Religious Broadcasters, **one of the largest organizations of Right Wing Christian communicators**, was hosting their annual convention in Nashville, TN, and we hoped local folks were ready to work with Soulforce to disrupt their messaging.

Sara was ready.



Sara Green, Soulforce Southeast House Movement Fellow, leads her peers in a direct action training at the National Religious Broadcasters convention on February 23, 2016.

Sara worked with two other Soulforcers in the area to **craft a plan for the direct action and to scope out the perimeter**. She did outreach to a church and three different schools in the area: Lipscomb University (Church of Christ), American Baptist University, and Vanderbilt University.

From her efforts and those of other local organizers, 24 people—all but 3 were students—turned out to disrupt the event, hand out materials on the violence that was being worshipped therein, and **to hold visible public space in defiance of the conference and its host hotel**.

The training on direct action we hosted for 20 youth organizers and the local relationships we built in a hotbed of Right Wing organizing lays the groundwork for the another **Soulforce campaign, Know Your Neighbors, that works to undermine Right Wing stakeholders who ship their political strategies to the Global South**.

“This is an important reminder to me in divinity school that this is really serious work we’re doing. People’s lives are dependent on the work that we are doing right now.”

-Sara Green, Vanderbilt Divinity School student; Southeast House Movement Fellow

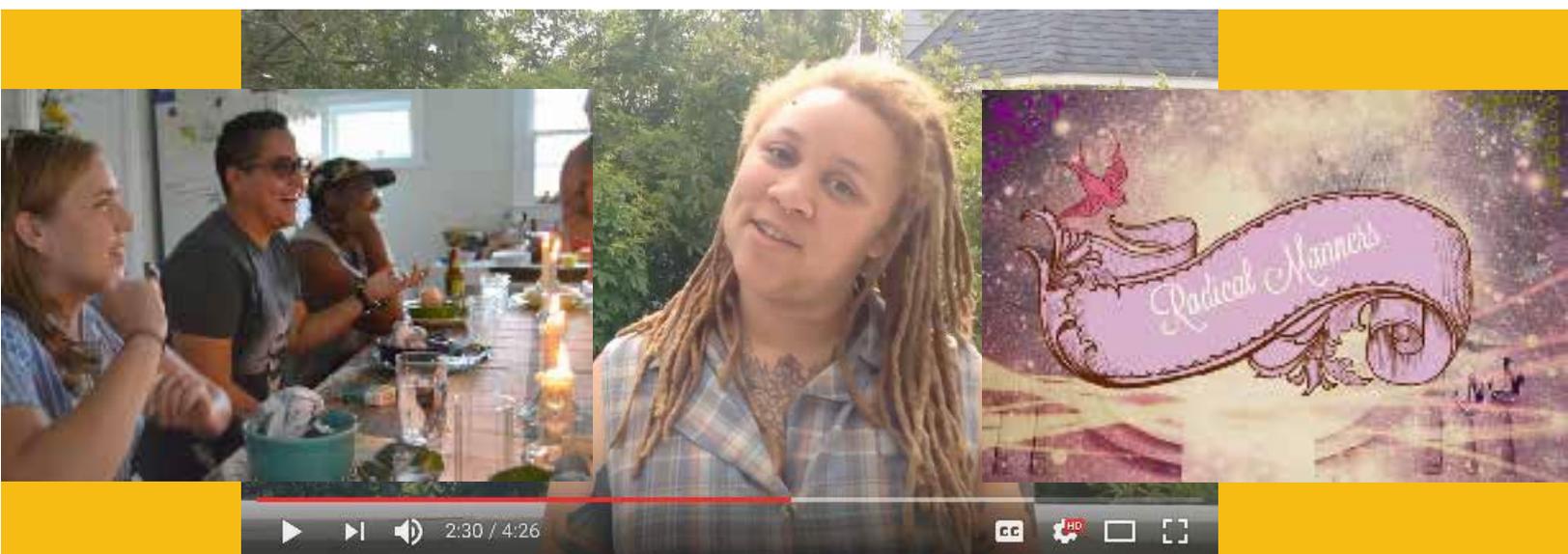
INDEPENDENT LEADERS: House Fellows Graduate

All of our leaders graduate from the program into a Movement Cohort who continue to be youth trainers, campus activists, and leaders for our entire organization who specifically lead and underwrite Soulforce work in the Southeast.

Three of our current Fellows are currently completing seed grant-funded projects to create programming in their own communities at the intersections of race, queerness, and spirituality/religion in the South.

The first **Radical Manners** dinner party in Nashville TN, an artistic project created by Sara Green, Southeast House Fellow from New Orleans, LA. Sara used her seed grant to collect stories of food and Southern hospitality as it relates to justice work in 3 states to create a living gallery for organizers to talk about what kind of changework can happen at the dinner table.

The first gallery opening of Radical Manners hosted 30 people on July 29, 2016, and another is scheduled for October 10th in Nashville. Sara is a third-year student at Vanderbilt Divinity School and developed this project in collaboration with the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality.





The Clearing is an alternative church for politically activated spiritual seekers. The altar is The Clearing's first public event on April 25, 2016, a sacred space for protesters of North Carolina's House Bill 2 targeting trans people's access to bathrooms.

Rev. Mykal Slack, House Fellow, invited protesters to come, take communion, and talk to queer and trans North Carolina-based spiritual leaders of color. Mykal set this space up with other leaders from The Clearing across the street from religious counter-protesters.

CasSandra Calin's seed grant project, entitled "Delving Deeper", is a series of workshops designed for young LGBTQI people of color in Richmond, VA, to heal from spiritual violence caused by Christian supremacy and to find new embodied ways to experience the Divine.

This photo is from her first workshop for 11 QTPOC youth to have conversations about Christian supremacy and its effects on the body. CasSandra designed each of the workshops based on her experiences at Soulforce retreats in collaboration with the Richmond chapter of Southerners on New Ground.

Beyond Equality Ride: The Campaign

SUMMARY

The 2016 Beyond Equality Ride is a 17-day organizing tour of Christian colleges and universities across the Southeast. In recognition of 10 years of Soulforce's Equality Rides and a **new era of student organizing**, this Ride was developed with the following goals in mind:

1. Engage new students and staff at targeted institutions through our sustainable organizing model to integrate **6 new schools and train 75 new students** in activism.
2. Experiment with **new ways to pressure institutions** to examine the violence wrought by their Title IX exemptions.
3. Conduct **on-the-ground research** on the relationships between religious denominations, legal counsel, and school administration around Title IX exemptions.



“We don’t have anything on campus, just people telling us that we’re wrong because of our identities. It might take a miracle for students to feel safe being out on campus.”

-Anonymous student at Mississippi College, our first day on campus

FULL STORY

Our **crew of 11 Riders** was led by the leaders of the Southeast House Movement Fellowship. Each participant collaborated to create the stops on our Ride, do outreach to schools and students, coordinate logistics, and create workshops and direct action options for each institution we visited.

Our shortlist Ride route consisted of 11 school visits, but it became clear that each of our schools needed more attention in order to fulfill our goals of **engaging students, making connections, and building trust with potential activists and organizers**. We focused on the following six schools:

Trevecca Nazarene University | Nashville, TN
Lipscomb University | Nashville, TN
Carson Newman University | Jefferson City, TN
Oakwood University | Huntsville, AL
Mississippi College | Clinton, MS
Judson College | Marion, AL

Of these stops, 3 schools were rural or semi-rural; 1 was a Historically Black University; 3 were Southern Baptist colleges; and one was an all-women's school; **3 schools with Title IX exemptions; and 3 schools that have considered filing for an exemption**. Every school is located in a state where religious exemption bills have been passed in the past two months.

“Thank you so much for stopping here. I am so grateful I met each of you. I really want to start a **GSA** now on campus, and because of your love I have found more acceptance for myself. I feel so encouraged.”

-Same student, after our visit to Mississippi College

RESULTS

The Ride ended only a few weeks ago, and so the work of the campaign has really just begun. Our youth leaders and staff on the ground are continuing to collect documentation from school visits to **assemble a report on our findings** so that we may offer key findings and information to other organizers combatting fundamentalist violence in the South.

We also are working with staff and students to create new initiatives specific to what we learned on the Ride, including a **quarterly support call for faculty and staff** who are willing to ally with student activists and more theological resources for students (see page 20).

IN FOCUS: Carson-Newman University

Beyond Equality Ride Stop #2

Carson Newman University (CNU) has been the focus of media attention since exemptions to Title IX were first publicized. Several case studies and journalists revealed the school's connection to Alliance Defending Freedom, a Right wing legal group based in Arizona that creates and defends anti-transgender, anti-woman legislation, and has connections to Christian colleges across the country.

Although we had no previous connection to Carson-Newman, we knew we wanted to put them on our Ride list. We contacted them to announce that we would be visiting; in turn, the university gave us no response.

The Southern Baptist Convention was one of the first denominations to develop a formal position on transgender identity. In 2014, the Convention passed an official resolution that condemns transgender identities and reaffirms a complementary gender binary. The resolution was created specifically to create infrastructure for the Right enact their agenda through schools: students in schools:

“The hope is that this resolution will apply our confession to the transgender question. In doing so, the resolution will be a reference point for Southern Baptist colleges, hospitals, and other institutions that may be facing legal challenges for their stance on this issue. California Baptist University is just one example of a Southern Baptist institution that has found itself exposed on this issue.” (Denny Burk, A Resolution On Transgender for the SBC, July 2014).

“This administration is honestly really OK. Nobody gets in trouble for being openly gay. But now [with the Title IX exemption], they could choose to fire the president and replace him with someone really homophobic and students wouldn't be protected at all.”

-Anonymous CNU student



“I’m excited to learn more about why we’re in such a stalemate on this Title IX issue. This week’s conversations gave me a better perspective on how to move forward on organizing our students on how we want to respond, and what the issues were on all sides.”

-An anonymous student at Carson Newman University

Riders convened with staff and decided to go onto campus, unsanctioned by administration, in hopes that they could find even one more queer or trans student on campus. **The first students they met were, in fact, queer and semi-closeted on campus.** They were able to connect the Riders to 6 new students and a staff member who were excited about coming to dinner and organizing an event with Soulforce the next day.

We had planned a dinner to convene community members to strategize how to protect LGBTQI students on campus. Popping open a few cans of beans and a bunch of corn meal, they soon had cornbread and chili on the stove, and **18 people quickly crowded around the table to strategize how to push back against the Southern Baptist Convention.**

Students asked Soulforce Riders if they would help with placing 80 LGBTQI-affirming messages in public places around campus the next day. They also **asked for Riders to write an LGBTQI-affirming poem that they would perform at the university’s next open mic night.**

Through meetings taken with students and faculty at each of our target schools, **we found that counseling centers at most universities were the most sympathetic to their LGBTQI students** and were often the most willing to consider small campaigns like creating Safe Zone stickers to identify their offices as affirming and welcoming. This information is extremely helpful in order to determine where to calculate the next moves of our campaigns.

There is something spiritually and constitutionally impactful for all parties involved about boldly showing up at the doorstep of anti-LGBTQI institutions, **especially in small towns in the South that do not receive the same level of culturally-appropriate resources and attention from national LGBTQI non-profits.** For students to have access to organizing resources in the face of intense cooptation of their bodies, spirits, and livelihoods by the Right Wing arms of their institutions, **we are closer to unraveling Christian supremacy from the inside out.**

Staff Leadership

In the summer of 2015, we re-organized our structure and hired a National Campus Organizer so that we have two staff who drive the work. With two dedicated staff, we can provide hands-on leadership development and training and connect campus organizing to our other national campaigns.

These staff placements were made to intentionally ensure our queer and gender nonconforming youth of color on staff mirror the communities we engage in our programs.

Their leadership is complemented by the Executive Director who has 10 years of experience in Christian campus activism and our Spiritual Strategist who brings Southern organizing and formal theological training to the work.



Expense Report

Salary and Taxes	\$106,200	Printing	\$1,961
Housing	\$9,695	Shipping/Postage	\$292
Supplies	\$4,424	Fees/Registration	\$875
Food	\$7,591	Telecom	\$514
PR/Advertising	\$1,188	Youth Stipends	\$2,630
Contract Labor	\$11,423	Overhead	\$1,159
Transportation	\$27,803		
Total.....			\$175,755

Future Strategies: 2016-2017

CHRISTIAN FACULTY and STAFF MOBILIZATION

We find that LGBTQI students are kept from participating in political work or activism because they are already struggling to simply survive. We consistently seek creative ways to support the spiritual and psychological development of the students we meet.

On the Ride we met **11 campus staff and faculty who are seeking additional resources and support for their LGBTQI students**, so we will work with them to create new educational resources and quarterly strategy calls for supportive staff at Christian campuses. This initiative has the added benefit of ensuring a low-cost and long-standing relationship to campus.



STATE of the SOUTH REPORT

In the coming months, we will publish a **report of our experiences with the Beyond Equality Ride** as a written collaboration between our youth Riders and staff. This report will link the conversations and research we conducted on the Ride to current national conversations about religious exemption bills, anti-transgender legislation, and the strategies of the Right. We intend to disseminate this report to our sister organizations and our own networks of Southern organizers working on the ground to combat anti-transgender legislation in their states.

SOULFORCE HOUSE 2016-17

In August 2016, we have recruited 5 new Fellowship participants to join our House. Our youth participants are based out of Georgia, North Carolina, and Louisiana. They will convene for their first House meeting in September in Charlotte, NC.

Our House model is a part of a long-term commitment to the South for Soulforce. The Southeast U.S. is home to a disproportionate share of Christian supremacist institutions and faith communities, and is often used as a testing ground for Right-Wing legislation before it is disseminated across the country. The South is also home to great legacies of LGBTQI and racial justice organizing. Soulforce's commitment to the South means building on our deep-seated relationships within Southern youth organizing networks to act on Christian supremacist narratives



"Please let me know what I can do. A lot of us in the counseling office work incredibly hard to support our students no matter what, and we want to be even more supportive."

-A staff member at one of our stops on the 2016 Beyond Equality Ride

KUDZU

Radical Student Newsletter

NATIONAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER: Kudzu

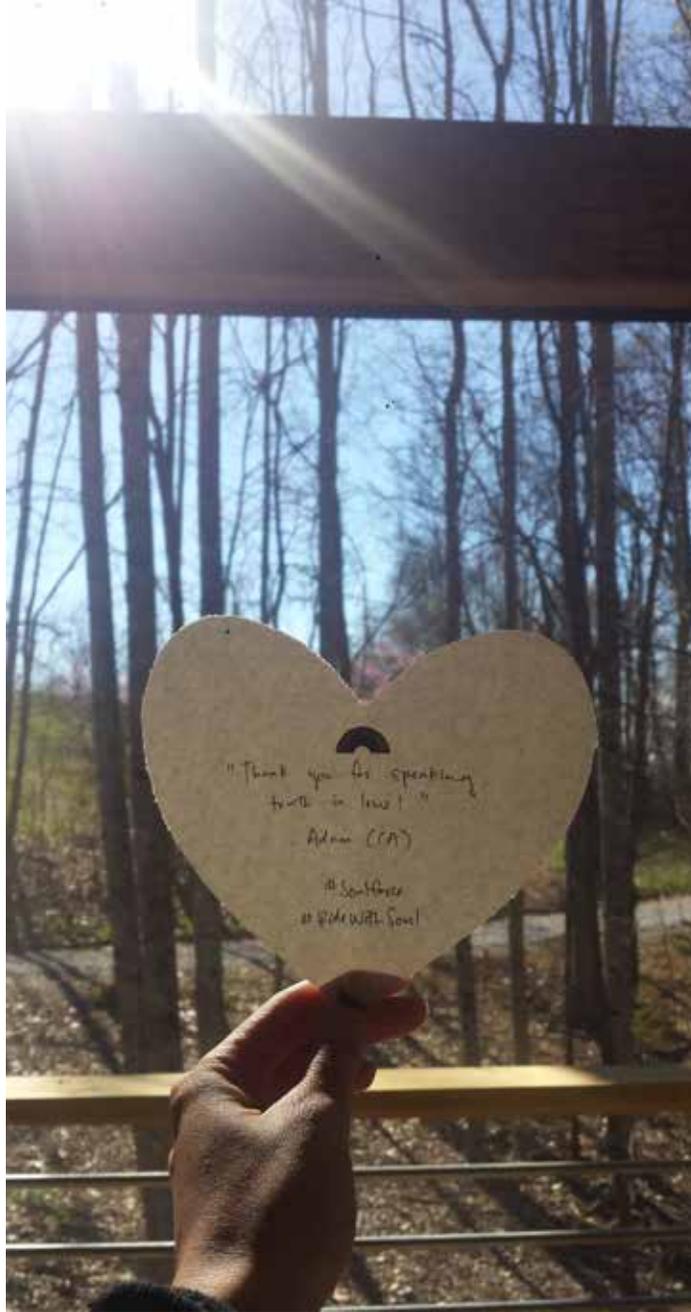
The purpose of Kudzu is to build and foster a national community of student activists on Christian campuses by creating a youth centered newsletter. The newsletter is meant to be a space where students can share current events occurring on their campuses as related to social justice topics not usually given a platform for discussion.

Our work will reduce feelings of isolation and build solidarity across issues via our centralized platform where students can defer to for news related to christian colleges, organizing resources, and spirit. We hired three student interns from Christian universities this summer and we'll produce our first issue in September.



TARGETING CAMPUS "PRESTIGE PARTNERS"

The NCAA is just one example of how schools build their brand and maintain a footprint in higher education. We will continue to intervene in the sports world during Homecoming, and we will expand our scope to include associative member bodies, like school rankings, job fairs, and accreditation.



Soulforce We work to end the political and religious oppression of LGBTQI people. Our activism at the intersections of religion, race, gender, and sexuality pursues healing, catalytic nonviolent change, and liberation for all our people.

P.O. Box 2499 Abilene, TX 79604 Hello@Soulforce.org

1.800.810.8143 Registered 501(c)3 Tax ID 33-0782888