



About The Respect for All Project

The Respect for All Project (RFAP) seeks to create safe, hate-free schools and communities by giving youth and the adults who guide their development the tools they need to talk openly about diversity in all of its forms. The Project offers a comprehensive set of resources for educators and youth-service providers, including **award-winning documentary films, high-quality curriculum guides and comprehensive professional development workshops**. The Respect for All Project is a program of Women's Educational Media, a nonprofit film production company founded in 1978 that creates and distributes documentary films on issues of social and economic justice.

The Respect for All National Coalition

With support from the Ford Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, The Arcus Foundation, and the Walter and Evelyn Haas Jr. Foundation, the Respect for All Project (RFAP) has spearheaded a collaborative initiative to reach out to educators, youth-service providers and human service professionals. Working in partnership with the **National Education Association, the Afterschool Alliance, the Association of Children's Museums, the Child Welfare League of America, and the National Association of School Psychologists**, the national coalition has helped to bring RFAP films and professional development workshops to cities across the country since 2003.

The Coalition works to build safer and more inclusive school environments for all children, foster respect for diverse families and strengthen the link between family, school and community. For the last three years, the centerpiece of the Coalition's work has been the RFAP film *That's a Family!*. In 2006, a second title, *Let's Get Real*, was added to the Coalition events.

The Films

That's a Family! features elementary school-aged children explaining to their peers what it's like to grow up in a home with parents who are divorced, single, different races and religions, gay or lesbian, or to be raised by a guardian or adoptive parent. This award winning film reveals the many shapes and sizes of families today and is a springboard for discussion about how all families are different—and how they are alike.

Let's Get Real focuses on name-calling and bullying among middle school students. It is unique among anti-bullying resources in that it features youth, not adults, speaking frankly about their varied and often painful experiences at school. Workshops provide participants with effective tools to help youth explore the underlying issues that lead them to tease or harass one another, including stereotypes and prejudice.

The Professional Development Workshops

Over 6,000 professionals have already attended our workshops, which highlight innovative and effective strategies for using our films with children, students, parents/guardians and professionals.

The basic workshops offered at national coalition events for both *That's A Family* and *Let's Get Real* provide professionals with tools for effective use and implementation of the film and related curricula. Participants of these workshops will:

- View the film with facilitated pre- and post-discussions.
- Explore foundational research and conceptual models that support the use of the film tool kit.
- Receive guidance and resources for working with children and youth to address:
 - *That's A Family*: human diversity and difference, building welcoming institutions and communities, bias prevention, culturally competent service delivery
 - *Let's Get Real*: bullying prevention and intervention, preventing name calling and prejudice, establishing and maintaining safe schools
- Participate in select classroom and group activities.
- Design action plans for concrete results and local change.
- Receive guidance on conducting discussions with young people and adults to address difficult subjects and issues presented in the film.
- Prepare for effective implementation of the tool kit in a variety of professional settings.

The Impact

Since 2003 coalition events have been held in over twenty cities across the nation. Some of the cities where coalition events have been held:

Houston, TX
Philadelphia, PA
Omaha, NE
Chicago, IL

Baltimore, MD
Iowa City, IA
San José, CA
New York, NY

A three-year survey based on feedback from participants in RFAP workshops has determined that:

- 88% of all RFAP workshop participants agree that RFAP videos are effective tools for discussing these difficult, but important issues with youth.
- 84% report an increased awareness, ability and motivation to teach on issues of diversity or to prevent or better respond to name-calling and bullying.
- 69% of *Let's Get Real* follow-up survey respondents report that the workshop promoted internal policy discussion related to name-calling and bullying at their institutions
- 80% of educators using *That's a Family!* found that their students and youth had increased their comfort and familiarity with youth from different family structures.