



***Children are multifaceted like a prism. They all deserve an education that reflects their unique identities.***

Teach For America's [National Prism Alliances](#) (formally TFA's LGBTQ+ Community Initiative) launched Prism in 2014 with the purpose of creating brave spaces for LGBTQ+ teachers and ultimately students in every region. Learn more about our National and Regional Prism collations and how you can get involved.

## What is Prism?

Prism is a coalition of corps members, TFA alumni, non-TFA educators, civic and religious leaders, youth advocates and policymakers, and community members, all collaborating to share strategies and resources to support LGBTQ+ students and all students.

The network operates nationally and as local initiatives in more than two-dozen Teach For America regions. Members meet up quarterly for ongoing learning and professional development on LGBTQ+ leadership and transgender and non-binary advocacy.

## National Prism Board 2019-2021

Our national Prism board includes members who represent diverse and multiple intersecting identities within the LGBTQ+ community. The board oversees the strategy and direction of Teach For America's national LGBTQ+ supports and programming. The 2022 National Prism Board will be announced in June of 2022.

**Am Norgren (D.C. Region '10)**

he/him/his  
Professional Services Advisor, Agile Mind  
Phoenix, AZ

**Liaison:**

**Audrey Momoh (Bay Area '16)**

she/her/hers  
Education Program Associate,  
Oakland Mayor's Office  
Oakland, CA

**CJ Crowder (Bay Area '99) - Co-Chair**

he/him/his  
Area Manager, New England  
Catapult Learning  
Boston, MA

**Kat Ling (Mississippi Delta '11)**

she/her/they/them  
Interim CEO, Moonshot Edventures  
Denver, CO

**Kezia Gilyard (Mississippi Delta '12)**

they/them/theirs  
LGBTQ+ Coordinator, Equity & Diversity  
Broward County Public Schools  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**Omar Ornelas (California Capital Valley '14)**

he/him/his  
Director, Program Applications, Teach for America  
Lathrop, CA

**Sarah Storm (D.C. Region '11)**

she/her/hers  
Coordinator, IMPACT Operations, DC Public Schools  
Washington, DC



## NATIONAL PRISM ALLIANCES

Teach For America

### **Coyote Shook (New York '12)**

they/them/their

Ph.D. Candidate, Univ. of Texas  
Austin, TX

### **Gil Garza (Rio Grande Valley '16)**

he/him/his/el

Manager, Pre-Corps Experience, Teach For America  
McAllen, TX

### **Jeremy Scheiner (Massachusetts '13) - Co-Chair**

he/him/his

Deputy Director, Equity & Inclusion, ACLU  
Somerville, MA

### **Jesse Holzman - Secretary**

they/them/their

Ph.D. Candidate & Graduate Student Instructor,  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL

### **Justin Tindall (San Antonio '12)**

he/him/his

Director, Education & Global Programming, It Gets Better  
Project  
Hollywood, CA

### **Umut Dursun (Miami-Dade '11)**

he/him/his

Executive Director of Education, YES Institute  
Miami, FL

### **Washington Navarrete (Arkansas '14)**

he/him/his

Education Leadership Program Manager, UnidosUS  
Los Angeles, CA

### **Wren Walker Robbins**

she/her/hers

Dept. Head of Secondary Education, Salish Kootenai  
College  
Pablo, MT

## Regional Prism Coalitions

Nationally, more than half of Teach For America regions have Prism coalitions which are led by a regional Prism board. Members of each coalition advocate for and engage people who identify as LGBTQ+ in ways that best match the unique needs and complexities of their local communities. Importantly, coalitions partner with both national and regional external partners who are sometimes better positioned and equipped to support policy, queer and transgender youth leadership and development, or BIPOC intersectionality.

Prism coalitions are often in different stages of development, aligned with other Board strategies, such as:

- **Ideation:** The region has been thinking about taking steps to start a Prism coalition;
- **Emerging:** Informal meetings and programming but no Board establishment;
- **Operational:** Coalition is supported by a Board with clear mission, vision, strategic pillars, and the identification of external partnerships, as well as comprehension of the policy and legislative issues that are critical to advancing safer and braver classrooms and schools.
- **Sustainable:** The Prism Coalition is supported by a Board that has been sustained over multiple consecutive years

Regional Prism coalitions support LGBTQ+ students, educators, and community members through a variety of initiatives including:



## NATIONAL PRISM ALLIANCES

Teach For America

- Providing ongoing learning and professional development for corps members and alumni
- Educating LGBTQ+ educators on local policies and protections for LGBTQ+ employees
- Developing partnerships with local LGBTQ+ organizations and youth centers
- Organizing fundraisers to support LGBTQ+ causes
- Hosting regional Brave Education Summits where this capacity exists (e.g Valor del Valle in RGV).

### Join a Regional Prism Coalition

[View a list of regions with Prism coalitions](#) and contact the staff point person for more info.

Many regions are in the process of forming a Prism coalition and may still offer opportunities to get involved with advocating for LGBTQ+ initiatives, even if their local coalition is still emerging. Contact Tim'm West to learn more about opportunities in each region.

### Start a Regional Prism Coalition

Beyond the list of regions who have established Prism coalitions that are guided by a Board, many or most other regions are at stages of development with intention to launch them. If your region does not currently have a Prism coalition we invite you to ask staff in your region or contact Kezia Gilyard or Tim'm West.

#### **Senior Managing Director of the National Prism Alliances, Tim'm West** (he/they)

t.west@teachforamerica.org

The Senior Managing Director (SMD) of the National Prism Alliances (formally the LGBTQ+ Community Initiative) will build national alliances and partnerships within the LGBTQ+ community, effectively and compellingly representing Teach For America with those groups through: **(1)** sharing learning, knowledge, and information; **(2)** elevating aligned policies and advocacy issues to create the conditions leading to our 2030 goal; **(3)** amplifying the stories and voices of LGBTQ+ community in an effort to advocate for issues critical to our communities; and **(4)** providing the TFA network with external community insights, resources, and opportunities that will deepen our accountability to communities, further our learning and development, strengthen our network, and facilitate impact in the communities we serve.

#### **Director of Regional Prism Board Alliances, Kezia Gilyard** (they/them)

Kezia.Gilyard@teachforamerica.org

The Director of the National Prism Board Alliances reports directly to the Senior Managing Director with statistical information and insight into the inner workings and needs of regional prism board sites. The Director facilitates the flow of information and data between regional staff liaisons and the board. They also develop new protocols and blueprints for best practices of individual prism board sites taking into



## **NATIONAL PRISM ALLIANCES**

Teach For America

account the demographics of staff, CMs, and the region/school districts at large. The Director of National Prism Board Alliances also maintains communication between the Senior Managing Director, Alumni networks, and Staff Liaisons. The Director maintains record and helps to implement strategies to combat the frequently changing legal landscape of LGBTQ+ employees and students in schools. Finally, the Director develops and manages content and professional development for all stakeholders.

### **Regional Prism Board Staff Liaison**

Serves as the liaison between the broader TFA organization and the Prism Board. This role will not be voted on by the board, but appointed by the region. At all times, there should be a regional staff member in this position. Responsible for bringing to the board key, critical, or relevant issues and for communicating board recommendations out to relevant and appropriate parties. Also responsible for managing the board's finances, submitting expenses through WorkDay and using a Team Card, when available, to cover Prism expenses. Staff liaison also manages relationships with the National Initiative Directors and National Prism Liaison and should leverage the staff-facing #prismliaisons slack channel to learn from best practices across other Prism regions.

### **Regional Alumni Point Person**

This person is often chair or co-chair on their regional Prism Board. The inclusion of an alumni point person is critical to ensure information flows from regional prism boards to all alumni networks. TFA alumni often assist in expanding the impact of regional prism boards for students, families, and current and former staff.

### **Board Chair**

Different prism board regions have varying organizational leadership styles. When the position of Board Chair is present, their role is to maintain order and communication amongst board members and report board activities to the regional prism board staff liaison.