

Sakia Gunn, Safe Spaces, and NJ Anti-LGBTQ Violence Mobilization

What makes this lesson culturally relevant?

The 2003 murder of Sakia Gunn in Newark, NJ was a hate crime that mobilized friends, and family into action, and marked a turning point in Newark queer history. The events that led up to and followed their death demonstrates how **structural systems of social control intersect and overlap in numerous ways, influencing beliefs and actions of people across and within groups.** In learning about Sakia Gunn, their death, and response to it in the community and across local and national media outlets through analysis of primary and secondary materials, **students can develop an understanding of the persistence of systems such as patriarchy, hyper-masculinity, homophobia, and racism, with the hopeful result of developing a comprehensive toolkit to confront and dismantle them.**

