



FWU (right) - founder of Junete High LA (a non-profit dedicated to showcasing the artistic pursuits of marginalized voices) • EDEN (left) - Junete High space manager

FWU: "I've tried of using all more make decisions about what I can or can't do for my own health. It's exhausting to fight for rights that should be inherent, bipartisan, and undeniable. Right now a lot of threats flow - Wade - a legislation that makes it fully legal to seek or exercise an abortion. Much threatens the safety of trans, gender-nonconforming, and brown and black people as legislation banning discrimination is under attack. There are a lot of old ideas about gender and autonomy that still have a stronghold in today's political sphere because of who we see as our elected officials (see wealthy men). I'm excited for the next phase of US history where the representation we see is a reflection of the communities we are part of. EDEN: "I feel really lucky when it comes to the sex education I received. I was always the kind of student who did extra-curricular research, so when I went into my pre-med classes I would usually ask my teacher if he was going to cover topics like gay sex, the difference between sex organs and gender identity, or how to care for yourself after a traumatic experience. He would take those questions seriously and talk to the whole class about them. I've always really appreciated that. I don't know if he still covers those topics today, but - since I was in high school relatively recently - I did see the changing social climate positively affect classroom discussions."



NATELY LAUREN • SERENITY (from left to right) - Change the Talk peer educator (a peer-to-peer sexual violence education initiative for Los Angeles teens)

Serenity: "The topic of consent, and all that it encompasses, is becoming more familiar to everyone. The normalcy of age culture has helped to help its shame, and conversations can now be had with far less fear or shame. Speaking with my peers is also very empowering seeing how many people have shared a non-identical experience, but now finally feel safe to come forward about it. Lauren: "Previously, a big issue for me has been not feeling educated enough about a topic to speak up about it in fear of being shut down for my ignorance. By being a part of Change the Talk, I feel far more comfortable speaking about sexual violence and consent because I can back up my arguments with facts and be confident in what I am saying. There is a lot of ignorance around consent and sexual violence and I am glad to be educated on this very important topic and to bring this education to others. Nately: "Change the Talk has been an outlet where I can openly and comfortably speak about the neglected issue of sexual violence, not only within my own family but also with my whole community. Topics such as sexual violence are changing for our generation, as there is much more support for people who have been through similar situations. These topics are much more accessible now."

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