



Eliza Byard, PhD, is the Executive Director of GLSEN, an organization recognized worldwide as a pioneering leader in the fight for educational equity and LGBT issues in K-12 schools. Byard joined GLSEN as Deputy Executive Director in 2001, and led the growth of GLSEN’s public education and advocacy efforts; youth leadership development programs; professional development for educators; research and program evaluation capacity; and in-school programming. During her tenure, GLSEN’s work has spurred a significant decline in anti-LGBT harassment and violence in schools; established a new professional norm of support for LGBTQ youth among educators, school

administrators, and school staff in the United States; and sparked an international movement for LGBTQ-inclusive primary and secondary education. GLSEN currently partners with 30 NGOs in three global regions to develop the evidence base for advocacy and program development to improve LGBTQ students’ lives in their respective countries.

As a strategist and ambassador for educational equity, youth development and LGBTQ equality, Byard has brought people from disparate communities and politics together to forge common cause, and secured tens of millions of dollars from diverse individual, corporate, and institutional funders for transformative programs, advocacy, and public education. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, and is currently a Trustee of the America’s Promise Alliance. Byard holds a PhD in U.S. History from Columbia University.