

National Day of Silence to voice gay, lesbian support

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Silence can be a strong statement — at least that's what the organizers of the National Day of Silence are hoping for.

On Wednesday, members of ASU's Lambda League Coalition and Act Out will stay hushed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The boycott on noise is as an act of solidarity with gays and lesbians who have been silenced by fear, said Jessica Share, chairwoman of Act Out.

Act Out is one out of seven subgroups of the Lambda League Coalition — ASU's gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-

gender student group.

"There's a lot of things gay and lesbian people can't talk about," said Share, a women's studies and history senior. Homosexuals are often scared to talk about their sexual orientation because they experience prejudice and oppression, she said.

Arizona laws perpetuate the silence, said Share, by treating homosexuals differently from heterosexuals.

"In the state of Arizona people can be fired from their jobs because of their sexual orientation," she said. "They can also be evicted from their apartments and even have their children taken away from them."

On the National Day of Silence, supporters hope to get people to think about the silence and invisibility some gay and lesbian people are victim to every day by keeping quiet.

Cards will also be handed out explaining their silence. The cards read: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered rights. People who are silent today believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations. The Day of Silence draws attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression, and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing. What can you do to end the silence?"