

CARE NOT CONTROL: SUPPORT YOUTH AUTONOMY



ROCKWELL - SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME
THE POLICE - EVERY STEP YOU TAKE
WHO CAN IT BE NOW - MEN AT WORK
OINGO BOINGO - CONTROLLER
JUDAS PRIEST - BREAKIN THE LAW
BLUE OYSTER CULT - DON'T FEAR THE REAPER
SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES - MONITOR
OLIVIA DEAN NO ONE'S - WATCHING ME
THE CRANBERRIES - ZOMBIE
THE FIRM - PHONE TAP
RIHANNA - DISTURBIA



They say that giving young people “too much freedom” is dangerous! They tell us that youth are “too young to understand,” “naive,” or “confused” to make decisions about their own bodies and lives. That we must as a society “protect kids” from some imaginary boogeyman lurking in the shadows that turns kids trans and makes them eat abortions for breakfast. We get told that if young people have choice, they won’t be able to resist the epidemic that is the homosexual agenda! And will end up unmarried, with kids out of wedlock (or worse– have an abortion), skipping church to read books to children while dressed in boas with fabulous nails. *The horror.*

But the call is coming from inside the house. **The real monster is the systems that control youth’s bodies.** The systems that constantly watch and surveil youth. That cut key information about young people’s bodies and health from classrooms. And shove religion down their throats, and slice away life-saving medical access! *Now that’s creepy.*

These monsters teach young people that they must live up to restrictive gender and social roles, and grow up to be perfect members of a flawed system. And villainize them when they are any different.

WHO'S THE REAL MONSTER?

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUTH

TRUST young people when they tell you about their lives, needs, hope, concerns, and desires. Youth are powerful and deserve support and presence.

AFFIRM young folks’ vision for their own journeys and lives, decenter yourself and focus on meeting the person in front of you with openness.

ASK YOURSELF:

- Where do I have the power to support the agency of the youth in my life?
- What am I doing or can I do to disrupt attacks on youth health care access?
- What am I doing or can I do to let the trans youth in my life know that I am safe and supportive of their autonomy and dignity?

DONATE, VOLUNTEER + CONNECT

with organizations that support trans youth: [Encircle](#), [GLISTEN](#), [Advocates for Youth](#), [Forward Together](#) and [The Trevor Project](#).
with [your local abortion fund](#) to help get all people the care they need.

MONSTER- DEFENSE TACTICS

SKILL UP

in community safety and digital security practices to show up for each other in unsafe times.

LIFT UP.

support, and learn from youth-led work like Queerspace Collective, Tigerrs, and Advocates for Youth.

SUPPORT

youth gatherings with trusted friends for autonomous activities like in-person zine and craft fairs, skate days, open mics, food drives, fundraisers, anti-AI art-making parties & your local abortion fund's community events.

THE HORROR WE LIVE IN

The monster wears a perfect mask that shouts about "protecting children." But something is eerie about this facade – *what lurks underneath?*

States taking away support from trusted adults - making it a crime for them to help young people get the care they need, whether that is support for abortions or gender affirming care from a doctor. Anti-abortion policymakers who are hellbent on blocking access to birth control, comprehensive sex ed, abortions, and gender affirming care. DHS whisking away teens who are undocumented and pregnant to Texas where they are blocked from reproductive choice over their own bodies.

The monster can be found in the everyday silencing of youth, telling them to be "seen, not heard," shaming them for who they are, training them not to push back. It feeds on this silence, shame, and isolation so it can continue its destruction unchecked.



SURVEILLANCE IS A TOOL OF POLICING

For many years, the monster has trained its watchful eyes to police young people and communities' freedoms, including through spying and surveillance – from telegraph wiretaps in the Civil War, to COINTELPRO attacking Black revolutionaries, to Islamophobic programs targeting Muslims, BIPOC, and migrant communities.

This kind of watching isn't meant to keep us safe – it is meant to mark the next target.

Today, scary alliances between government, police, personal technology, and AI track our every move. And the monster doesn't spare youth seeking abortions – it polices social media messaging, web searches, location, and texts to build criminal cases against young abortion seekers and their parents.

When youth come together to push back, the monster uses surveillance technology to police youth resistance and collect information on organizers. Student data, CCTV monitoring, facial recognition technology, and physical force have all been used to crack down on young protestors.

WHERE THERE IS REPRESSION, THERE IS RESISTANCE

But young people continue to resist—as they always have—by organizing, taking care of each other, and fighting to be themselves in spite of any system that tries to steal their magic or shrink their power.

Youth organizers at **Encode Justice** are urging their legislators to regulate AI surveillance in schools.

Youth abortion storytellers with **Youth Testify** tell their stories boldly and build power with other youth.

Young people across the country are organizing with the **Youth Abortion Support Collective** to bust abortion stigma, share information and resources on how to get an abortion, and connect other folks to abortion access.

URGE chapters organize on college campuses across the country for Reproductive Justice.

Forward Together builds power with BIPOC trans youth to create alternatives grounded in queer and trans liberation.