

## Nobody should go through what I did. Please help Stonewall today.

Dear Stonewall supporter,

I've always known I was different. Every day at school I would hear people saying 'that's so gay' when they were talking about something rubbish. When I realised I was gay, I thought that meant I was rubbish too. So I didn't tell anyone.

But they guessed anyway. And that's when the bullying started. Some older boys started calling me names in the corridor, like 'poof' and 'queer'. Then some of my year decided they didn't want me to get changed for PE in the same room. They started a petition and got over 20 signatures! I felt so alone and the teachers never said anything.

Another time a group of the 'cool' boys spat in my face and pushed me down the stairs. I was so scared and embarrassed - everyone saw it happen and nobody said anything. Even my friends didn't stick up for me in case they got bullied too. I told my mum that I'd tripped over and hoped she didn't suspect anything. I was too ashamed to tell her what was really happening.

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### I'd like to help Stonewall tackle homophobic bullying by making a donation

**1. Check your address details**

**2. Please accept my donation of**  £20  £30  £50  £100  Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

(Or use the form overleaf to become a Friend of Stonewall and help us fight homophobia all year round)

**3. I enclose a cheque payable to Stonewall**  **OR please debit my card**

**Card No:** ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... **Expiry Date:** ..... / .....

**Security code (3 digits on back/4 digits on front for Amex):** ..... / ..... / ..... / .....

**Switch only: Start Date** ..... / ..... **Issue No** ..... / .....

**Signature:** ..... **Date:** ..... / ..... / .....

**Tick here if you do not wish Stonewall to send you an acknowledgement letter**

  Please make every pound you give worth at least 25p more to Stonewall I'd like all donations I've made to Stonewall in the last 4 years and all donations I make in the future to be Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT & Council Tax do not qualify and that Stonewall will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

I started to cut my arms and legs as a way of dealing with the pain. I'd skip school to avoid facing the bullies and my grades were getting worse and worse. I decided that as soon as I could, I'd leave school so I'd never have to face those people again. I couldn't see any way out.

I first learned about Stonewall when a poster appeared on the school noticeboard. It said 'Some people are gay. Get over it!' in huge letters and I felt like it was meant just for me. I couldn't believe it when one of my teachers stood up in assembly and said he'd put it there! To know that someone in our school cared made me start to question how I felt about myself. Suddenly I felt I could talk to someone. I didn't feel so alone and like I was rubbish.

That night I looked at Stonewall's website and realised there were loads of people out there like me! Knowing this gave me the courage to talk to my teacher and I also came out to my friends. They told me they knew anyway, but it felt so good to talk about it and not have this huge secret hanging over me.

Luckily for me, my teacher took me seriously and went to the head about the bullying. She got Stonewall to come in and do some workshops with us. It was the best day of my life - hearing people talk about being gay and seeing other people starting to realise that maybe it's not wrong. That maybe they're wrong.

I know it's only the beginning and I'm still going to meet people who think it's wrong to be gay but I just wanted to say thank you to Stonewall supporters. Stonewall has really made a difference to my life and I hope they can work with all schools so nobody has to go through what I did.

Thank you so much for helping.

David, 16



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## BECOME A FRIEND OF STONEWALL AND HELP US TACKLE HOMOPHOBIA ALL YEAR ROUND

Already a Friend? Help Stonewall by passing this on to someone who isn't



Enter your email address here to receive exciting news and events info from Stonewall

Instructions to pay by Direct Debit (originators ID number): **6 8 9 7 9 2**

Monthly donation of:  £10  £15  £20  Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

Account Holder Name & Address (if different from overleaf):

.....  
..... Postcode: .....

Account Number: ..... Sort Code: ..... / ..... / .....

**Instructions to your Bank or Building Society:** Please pay Stonewall Equality Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Stonewall Equality Ltd and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank / Building Society.

Please return in the enclosed FREEPOST envelope, ONLINE at [www.stonewall.org.uk/regulargift](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/regulargift) or PHONE 020 7593 1876.



THIS GUARANTEE SHOULD BE DETACHED AND RETAINED BY THE PAYER

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, Stonewall will notify you at least ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.

- If an error is made by Stonewall or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to Stonewall.