

**Stonewall**

# ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

**This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people.**

At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full.

Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

To find out more about our work, visit us at [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No 1101255 (England and Wales) and SC039681 (Scotland)**

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter.

## Kerris' Story | Stonewall Young Futures

Kerris (she/her)

So when I left school I didn't really want to do what school had planned for me, it was always college, university. And so I decided to go to a different route and I took up an apprenticeship. I think my favorite part is I like giving back and seeing like all these other young people come up that have probably sort of had different experiences from when I was younger, and sort of helping them achieve what they want to achieve. So most of the barriers I've faced are mainly around me being a female in engineering.

I have sort of faced the whole, you know, not wanting to come out as queer or gay - I faced that. And, you know, you don't want to admit it to people because you don't know how they're going to react.

And especially in this kind of industry. I think navigating the barriers that I have faced is probably mainly from sort of realising that my difference is actually my strength. When you've got something that's different or you feel that you're different.

You feel like you've got a bit more to prove. I can do it. Just because I've got this or I've got this it doesn't mean, you know, you can't be as good as other people, if not better. So the confidence that I gained from being LGBTQ+ has sort of helped me progress through my career, having that strength and that difference and now being able to be a role model for other people in similar situations. If I was to give advice to anyone that is leaving school and is a bit unsure on which way to go.

I would suggest the apprenticeship route. You can get apprenticeships from from hairdressing to engineering to call centers, anything that you want. You can get an apprenticeship in these days. I'm not saying, you know, not to go to university if that's what you want to do that's fine.

I'm just saying that there's other options out there that can be considered. A piece of advice I would give myself as a teenager would just to be who you are. Embrace your differences, your differences are your strengths, and to be that role model for other people from the get go really.