

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

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.

Stonewall Young Futures Transcript

Miki's Story

Growing up in a religious community and a religious family as a queer person was really difficult. I heard from a very young age, from priests, members of the community and various family members and stuff about how wrong it was to be gay and how difficult gay people would find it within the world.

I always felt like I was acting. Then I think my confidence massively took a hit. As a grown up now it feels like I have a lot to catch up on.

I think the real turning point for change was when I was about 15 years old, I knew who I was inside, but I wasn't acting that on the outside. And I spoke to a teacher who told me that I was going to be okay.

It was the first time that I'd felt that I'd been allowed out, and that started the upward trajectory to me being Miki.

One thing that I always will have and always have had is a deep faith and spirituality. I've spent a lot of my career working for religious organisations. Until recently, I thought that being queer kind of gave me like an edge, and I was able to bring a different perspective to the organisations about who I was and how I was able to deliver my work.

But actually, like, I found it really difficult and in a way that I thought every queer person found it. And I felt that there was always a justification of my authenticity that I had to do.

I got another job almost a year ago now, and I'm in a completely different field. Being queer is the most amazing thing. It's not just appreciated by my colleagues. It's really celebrated.

To be able to live my life authentically now means that everything I do I can do 100%. It means that at work I'm able to talk about my weekend and my partner and my family and my chosen family.

The bit of advice I would give to the younger people in the community. It's okay to not know who you are. Sometimes I sit and I still question what label is on me. It's okay to change. It's okay to be fluid. Every single little person who isn't a little person, they're a big solar system full of complexities and we're waiting to lift you up and cheer you on.