

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.

Tim's Story | Stonewall Young Futures

Tim (he/him)

My mum wanted me to go into medicine or go into law. She wasn't so sure about me choosing hairdressing as a career. Very traditional Protestant Northern Irish family. And obviously I was painting from I could touch a brush and painting hair is no different and I just stuck with it, I loved it.

So I decided to take a year out and go work in Australia. And I only came back due to my mother's passing and from then that opened up different doors for me. Change of life, change of - I suppose path within the industry.

And then I studied wigs and makeup for special effects and went into TV and film. Being openly gay within my career has definitely impacted it in positive and some negatives. Working within TV and film, it's definitely helped I feel a lot of either my actors or my artists or clients sitting with me, with me being so open about myself allows them to open up a lot more. So it's very different to when I worked for somebody to then working for myself. I started off in studying hairdressing. I didn't know I was going to do makeup and special effects and wigs, you know.

And now, even now, I am starting education, you know, which I never would have thought I was going to go into. So paths can change. And it's just good to actually go into something, yes, 100%, but I also know it doesn't have to be forever.

Don't scare yourself, because if I told myself as a teenager that this was going to be forever, I don't think I would have done it. Somebody growing up in Northern Ireland today that is going through what I came through, I would definitely give them the word of advice.

Look at organisations. Get some advice because there will be a lot of negativity around you and who you are depending on your community. For me, it's being part of who you are and finding your tribe. And definitely once you find a tribe, it helps you become who you are. And take your time.

Take your time to come out, that's for no one else to decide but for you.