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)

Celine's Story | Stonewall Young Futures

Celine (she/her)

I came from a Filipino background where obviously most of the careers that we go to is law, medicine, or something to do with STEM. So I went to uni doing biomedical science in first year and I actually realised: why am I doing science?

Is it for my parents or is it for me? I kind of realised that actually I like more creative stuff. And then that's when I found my love for making movies, creating pictures, creating photographs for my friends.

This was literally probably three or four weeks before I started my second year, and I just switched like that. And I was like, I'm switching. I'm doing something else that I want to do. This is the time I just recently came out as liking girls, as a lesbian, basically to my parents.

So I changed my career path then, and this is where I actually really flourished because I was out to my parents, I was confident with myself. I was my authentic self. I work for a university as well, and during my university career I was also doing a lot of advocation for the BAME BIPOC community and LGBT community as well in our university, which also had a lot of connection to why... where I am right now is because of what I experienced during university being my authentic self.

It just made me more confident and it made me able to not be afraid to network with other people and be proud not just to say, Oh, I'm Filipino, I'm a Southeast Asian girl, my parents are immigrants, but also to tell them I'm a lesbian, I'm proudly out. As a teenager, if I had role models growing up that was BAME or Filipino or a similar background as me and LGBT, I think that would've help me more on able to actually do what I wanted.

I ended up being in STEM because that's what I saw, but I didn't see other career paths that was possible for someone like me. The piece of advice that I would give to myself as a teenager is that.

Don't give up. I was going through a lot of things. I wasn't out to my parents and that was like a big struggle for me. I want to really tell her like, don't be afraid to fail. You know, it's okay.

It's not something to be ashamed of. It's actually something to be, you know, to be proud of because you accepted that you failed and, you know, you grow. Like I definitely grew up from all the things that I've done during my teenage years. Now as an adult, I'm now very proud of what I've done.

I've always grown from every mistake that I've done so far. I'm just really glad that I didn't give up then because I wouldn't have met the people that I met now, so.