

Somewhere in the world...

A boy wearily collapses into the corner of his room, clutching his floral skirt as makeup tinged tears stream down his face. Automatically, if a boy wants to look pretty, that makes him a "Freak" and "Abnormal".

A girl nervously tugs her girlfriend through the front door to meet her parents, terrified of their response. To love someone of the same gender is "Wrong" and "Disgusting".

An Asexual boy, who obviously does not want any form of intercourse, is pressured into sex by his peers and family. Otherwise he's "Lame" and "Pathetic".

A girl anxiously avoids a taunting mass at school every single day. She used to be a boy and to identify as a gender other than the one you were physically born as, is "Not right" and "Sick".

A gay couple bravely paint on a smile at their cousin's wedding. They can never get married as society deems it "Disturbing" and "Not natural".

A young boy watches as his "friends" tease a transgender boy, but doesn't do anything to stop it. He doesn't understand. His family says it's wrong, so it is... Right?

So many people are being neglected the right to be who they are and love who they love. There are little things. There are big things. But they matter all the same. The rights and feelings of these people are being figuratively beaten, broken and bruised because our society is scared of change and the unknown.

A famous Greek philosopher, Socrates, once said "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." As a society we need to embrace change and support these people. Who are we to decide what is wrong and what is right for anyone but ourselves?

She matters. He matters. They matter. Equality matters.

When did being different become a bad thing? Why does this matter? Love is love, identity is identity, and only you can determine those things for yourself. Not others.

Almost half of the LGBTQ community hide their true sexual orientation or gender identity in public, for fear of violence or discrimination. This is not okay.

Eleven percent of Australia's population are of diverse sexual orientation, sex or gender identity. If they gather the courage to do the amazing thing we refer to as 'come out' chances are, for the rest of their life they will experience some form of recurring homophobic abuse. Eighty percent of homophobic abuse occurs at school. None of this okay.

We need to teach people and emphasize that members of the LGBTQ Community (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer) are not outsiders. They crave love and acceptance just like everyone else. Our identity and sexuality is not something anyone can choose.

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A boy prances gleefully in his floral skirt and heels and no one gives him a second glance.

A girl and her girlfriend slow dance at a school formal with eyes only for each other.

A fully converted transgender girl is laughing and joking with her friends, accepted and treated just like everyone else.

A gay couple are attempting to cook breakfast together, for the first time, in their flat.

A young boy stands up for what he believes in and tells his friends that it's okay to be different.

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