

**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.

## Stonewall Young Futures Transcript

### Cassandra's Story

When I was in school, I didn't have the best of times. Because it was such a structured and routinized environment, I didn't probably get the best out of it.

There were definitely personal barriers because as a trans woman, I think that's something that's really scary when you first come out. It took me a while to come out to myself, to be honest. It manifested in ways of me being a bit of a rebel, really. It was so bad that my mum and dad decided to take me out of school a year early and pay for me to go to college.

What hairdressing did for me was open doors for me to learn and to develop my skills. And then I got a job in retail. The environment didn't suit me. I actually ended up having a bit of a mental breakdown and going off with anxiety and depression.

Where there'd been so much flow before it was now an ebb. I felt a little bit backed into a corner. I've tried this now I've tried being employed and it really just isn't for me. So maybe it is time for me to become my own boss. I want to make jewellery inspired by mythology and folklore because I think story telling's so important.

Merseyside Community Training really helped me do that with the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. That taught me everything from marketing, branding, profit and loss, knowing my customers.

There have been loads of challenges. Having a mentor through MCT that's helped guide me through that process because they've already made those mistakes.

I was still suffering with my anxiety and I was still suffering with a really, really low self-esteem. They helped me build that up and realize that I didn't have to fight anymore. The skill set that I've taken from it is something that won't only aid me in business but in my life.

One of the biggest takeaways that I would give as advice to anyone who wants to start their own businesses is accept the help and look for the help as well if you need it, don't just think it's all on your shoulders and you're a failure if you're not making sales because there's always something more to learn.

If you're worried that a workplace won't accept you and you being LGBTQ is going to affect you, that's not the workplace for you. There's always going to be a team out there that accepts you for who you are.

In terms of not knowing what you might want to do with the career, no one ever actually does! I love it and I'm so passionate about both of my income streams, but I don't know if I'll do them forever, I might want to grow and stretch and develop in another area.

It's about building a career around yourself, not so much about finding a career that you fit into. You mould the role to you.