

Love is Love : A letter to the LGBTQ community



@boucli via Twenty20

Love is love, and that will never change for me. June is Pride month and the older I've gotten, the more compassion, understanding and acceptance I have become of the LGBTQ community.

Coming out is easy for some people and a struggle for others. It breaks my heart knowing that you have to hide your soul from the world because not everyone has an open mind.

We all have family, friends, coworkers that identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and Queer.

I hope anyone reading this, whether you are part of the LGBTQ community, straight or however you want to identify yourself: love is love.

Growing up as a Christian, the topic of homosexuality was never perceived in a positive light.

.The older I've gotten, I've met friends who are gay, and I wanted to hear their stories of triumph and downfalls.

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In high school, two close friends identified themselves as a gay man and later found out my other friend became transgender. I was happy to hear this because they were still my friends, but now they were free to continue to grow as people.

The greatest lesson I've learned is that no matter your religion or personal beliefs, you treat every human being with respect and kindness.

The first thing is learning to listen. LGBTQ members have higher suicide rates. Most people need someone to pour their hearts out to. They need someone to not turn their back on them when making a life-changing decision for their happiness.

They need their loved ones not to abandon them in the most challenging time of their life. They need love and reassurance that their choices are not mistakes or a phase they are going through. They need to know that they aren't alone because many feel that suicide is the only way out. We can continue to lower the rates of suicide when we start to be kind and compassionate.

Taiwan was the first Asian country to accept gay marriage. This is progress for the world and happiness for everyone. As a society, we need to continue to progress and move forward. We all have the right to be married to the person we love. Your gender or how you identify yourself should not be an issue because love doesn't see gender love sees the soul of another human being.