

## The Mic Drop - Season Two, Episode Six: Gender Identity, Conversation 2

**Mo** [00:00:00] Good afternoon and welcome to another episode of The Mic Drop, as you probably remember, the last episode series that we had, is that we had. We were talking about the gender identity and we decided it was something that we could actually carry on talking for another episode. So that's why we invited the same guest you know Kath Charters and Arthur Britney to come and talk about their experience and the issues that the trans people have in Britain.

**Mo** [00:00:33] First of all, welcome both of you and hope you're OK.

**Mo** [00:00:37] One of the things I was going to ask you and Britney is that the first series I interviewed you and I called you Adrian, you know, and obviously since then, you know, we know you are with another name Arthur Britney So I just wanted to, if you don't mind explaining it to both your and your name and why you change its place.

**Britney** [00:00:59] OK, thank you Mo. Well, hello, everyone. That is listening to this episode. Yeah. It's kind of an extensive story that I will try to resume, for me since I let's say came out and accept my identity. It was also a stuff about... Let's say I always had this kind of a fighting inside of me trying to figure out who I really am, who I really was or who I wanted to be.

**Britney** [00:01:35] So part of this stuff is that I never felt the name that was given me when I was born identified myself. You know, there's people that they feel really proud of their name and they say, this is my name. And they carry on. Even, for example, being drag queens, they keep their names as a name they were given when they were born. But in my particular case, I never felt identified with that name I never like it.

**Britney** [00:02:05] So across the years, many people before even I came here to UK and they they started to call me Britney as a nickname. And it was like I always had that name with me and eventually that became part of my identity. So it really felt like I was Britney was like my name because most of people call me like that. But I also in my country, they call me Arturo, which is the Spanish version of Arthur it. So it's like I just transform my Spanish name into the English version and mix it with Britney, which for me personally, it totally sends the message, the message of my identity. You know, that I'm not a binary person that doesn't feel that fit on the masculine or feminine stuffs. I'm like in the middle, like my name's like in actually when my my case came out to the public people get shock, positive and negative about the name, it's like how come they were able to get that mixed up off of names. So some people get shocked, like I say, in a negative way for other people. They they got shocked in the positive way. They say, oh my God, what a legend. Those names, Yas Queen!. And yeah really it really identifies my my new identity. And it's important for me to be called with these names. And because this is the person I feel like I am.

**Britney** [00:03:38] OK, thanks very much for the explanation. I'm just another very short answer or a quick answer. What does your mom I call you now? Did she call you Arturo or Arthur or Britney or Arthur Britney?

**Britney** [00:03:54] Oh, my mom always called me "Mi Amor" or "Mi Vida", m love. It doesn't make any difference.

**Mo** [00:04:02] OK, thanks very much, Kathy. In the last episode, we did talk quite a lot in regard to, you know, non binary and we didn't really have a lot of time to actually talk about the trans men and trans women. Just remind us again of the group that you facilitated in Liverpool, what it was called, you know, and before that, I just want to say that I actually was invited to that group. And one of the things that sort of struck me is, you know, obviously they're a very friendly bunch of people. But also another thing was the diversity that existed in that group.

**Mo** [00:04:39] You know, if I remember rightly, there was someone. Probably in his 70s, there was someone, the teen age, and seemed that they all got great about this.

**Kath** [00:04:53] Thank you. Thanks bye. Well, personally speaking out so I'll say what the group is. The group is called Trans Health Merseyside. And just to give a background to the group, we were once upon a time, we were funded by the Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group and we were we are in partnership and have been in partnership with Interest Merseyside, which is another quite important and I would advise anyone to have a look at interest Merseyside at their website.

**Kath** [00:05:25] And there another big group for people who are identifying as Trans or Trans umbrella in Merseyside. So thanks for your comment about the group, actually, because one of the things that I get so I've I've worked in community engagement for an awfully long time, too long.

**Kath** [00:05:47] And that group makes my heart sing because of its diversity. So originally, and this is quite interesting, really, originally, we thought it might be difficult bringing people out of the shadows or their closets or the. Well, to come to a group, it's a big ask is next country group and we were astonished by the response. And so it's really indicative of how much people need a peer support group. I never thought that that many people would engage with the group as fully and completely as they do. And one of the things about the group, it's nice that you set about the generational diversity because say, for example, in that group, this can happen. And I don't know how many of the groups this could happen. And so I'll give you an example so we can have a discussion about coming out as a group, coming out as a trans person. And some people in the group will talk about coming out as trans to their parents, some people from the group will talk about coming out as trans to the children and else. Are you going to get that kind of exchange? And people can support one another and how they might approach that and how it might feel. And, you know, people talk about lots of different things that the intergenerational aspect of that group can facilitate. And so that's pretty cool. And just to say that the group Trans Trans can mean a lot of different things to different people. So so while Strapline is the group is for transsexuals, people who identify as transitioning, so that can be a social, medical or surgical transition. People who may be questioning the gender that they were assigned, such as people who might be questioning or thinking about. Who they are want to explore possibilities and people who have an intersex experience and people who are just gender nonconforming. Well, I don't mean just so we're just not people of gender nonconforming. So that includes all kinds of people who might identify as non binary. OK, and it's just really more and more as we've gone along and the the issue can be around challenging the binary norms, that seems to be a theme that that's coming about at the moment, just challenging the binary norms of our society that we find ourselves.

**Kath** [00:08:22] And that's that's the thing that.

**Britney** [00:08:26] I find I quite love that this new generation is like really into that. Yeah, I think like is like you said, challenging this binary norm is a new thing. Yeah. People are finding themselves especially really young people. They're finding themselves out of all this pattern, that has been like forever. So they say, wait to wait, why do you trapped us in a cage when we can do whatever we wanted. There's like this kind of trending to erase the toxic masculinity. I just love in this. Like, it doesn't matter what your sexual orientation, you know, all that. It doesn't matter if you're straight or gay. You can wear a dress if you want. You know, you can use nail polish if you want ear rings, So whatever you wanted it just dress the way you want, just love it, especially with this new generation. And it's like I found myself a little bit older in that sense, like at the beginning, it's like the old generations especially. I got some friends that they say, so what's going on with this new generation is like, are they all gay? And say, why do you say that? They say, just look at how they dress and stuff like these. They you know what dress . If you if you dress like in some ways that doesn't make any clue about your sexual orientation because you can be the most, let's say, masculine face, you know, like wearing a suit and stuff like that and being the gayest person ever. And you could be the opposite. You can feel like a with the most pink dress, nail polish and stuff like that. It's still liking girls at all, even I need, I know drag queens that they are transsexuals, you know, so it it doesn't make any any sense. And I'm loving this new trend to challenge this normativity. I just just feel so proud of this new generation.

**Mo** [00:10:32] I have to I mean, in my experience, especially with my daughter, she's 22 and Britney has met my daughter and she is sometimes very passionate about these issues. And it's funny, like, you know, a lot of times she's correct me and my my wife, if we use the wrong pronouns and or if we say something that, you know, not on purpose, what is not right. She corrects us and she said, no, you shouldn't say this is quite interesting, as you said, how, you know, sort of the role sometimes changes. And another thing what you say Kath about the group when you started the group, we had the same experience with the Many Hands One Heart we just didn't really know if people because I was working in this field for about five or six years and I could just count from one to two fingers, then any person seeking asylum that he was from LGBT plus community. And but we knew they existed. We knew that they're there. But, you know, and I remember the first meeting we had for the Many Hands One Heart, he was in the in the centre, I think was in the central library or the museum next to it. And I we sat there with them, Mimi from Sahir House House and Jenny from the Liverpool university. And I don't know if there was someone from Armistead and we invited some people from Manchester. We're doing the same sort of thing. It's come down and some people from the LGBT community that they were seeking asylum and there was no one there and we just felt embarrassed. Oh, my God. No one is going to turn on what the meeting was like ten o'clock, nobody. Turn one, we have food, some cakes and everything. And like all of the sudden we saw had came, we could all get excited. And one by one they came. And what it was, is they were standing outside, were too scared to come in, and they wanted to make sure nobody sees them actually coming to the meeting. You know, and the amazing thing is, is that the other day I had a meeting with Shereen and she said I asked the question, how many members, many hands on hearts got? And she said 80 over 80. And it's next. My question next question I've got from you is how many members Trans Healt got?

**Kath** [00:12:46] We got some team members that are signed up to like a register service user of the projects, but we we tend to have about twenty five to thirty one, when we meet in, outside of the pandemic. So when we've been meeting and the same with Pride and lockdown. At the moment, on the zoom we meet in the afternoons, which is slightly different, and there's probably about 15 to 16 people come on call.

**Mo** [00:13:11] And I mean the question the next question I got, you know, you sort of touch a little bit in the first question I answered.

**Mo** [00:13:19] It's just what can you tell us about the challenges, some of the issues that they face on day to day life as people face?

**Kath** [00:13:27] Yeah, yeah. Well, the central theme of this show, no problem. So so say, for example, that early on we wanted to look at hate crime against people and transphobia and we had a lot of connexion with police at that point. And then stop, UK you can stop and let people talk about people reporting a hate crime and numbers of the group. I mean, a sizeable majority of the group would say, well, if I was to report on hate crimes, to me that happens every day. I'd be on the phone to the police for the majority of my life. And I haven't got the time to do that. I've got to live my life. So and this is another example of. It's it can be so complicated, so so, for example, there's a sort of it's not outdated, but it's kind of got historical context this term. So there's a term which actually is used in the binary. Understanding of transition, so this is not what we're talking about because we're slightly outside of that boundary finally. Comprehension, boss. There is discussion about passing, so I'm going to ask whether you two are familiar with the term passing, you familiar with the term passing?

**Mo** [00:14:50] No.

**Kath** [00:14:54] So if you this is not the case now, but if let's say up until about five to seven years ago, if you were attending a gender identity clinic. And she wants it to be not in the gender identity that you were assigned for, so you were transitioning and you'd be asked to. So let's take an example of a male person that someone who was assigned male at birth who wanted to transition to be a woman. So in the course of the assessment and in the course of their treatment and all that kind of thing, they will be given support around. Living, working and and expressing themselves in everyday life as awoman.

**Kath** [00:15:41] But there were. Kinds of outdated. Understanding what a woman might look like that that was that was quite perceived to be, you know, I'm going to say long hair, long nails, I don't. That's really simplified. But they'll be like this. If you're a woman, you will maybe look like this. And if you're not going out looking like that, then you're not serious about your transition. Right. And that was really hurtful to people and actually and really, really cause loads of confusion and kind of got people back in various closets and and also created a bit of competition sometimes between people, you know, about how. How well they passed or not, how good they looked or didn't, and that could be that could be around finances, whether you could financially support yourself to get nice wig or what you could financially support yourself to get electrolysis to get you your naturally grown hair removed and stuff like that was very. Could be very problematic for some people, and then for me personally, I took a call from someone who was transitioning to become a woman who lived in a very rough area of Liverpool, and they were saying, I can't walk out my front door looking right now. I feel like that I want to be there. But if I walk out my front door looking that way, I will be bated by my neighbours.

**Kath** [00:17:11] And I know that that was probably true of where the rest of these things would be nice to people. And it was it was very person centred. So I think it's got more person centred at the gender identity clinics to look at how people might want to express who they are and. And what have they might want to identify that and then it kind of took the pressure off people a little bit. To not feel that they have to have surgery and also not everyone can have surgery, might not be magically able to have surgery, might not want

surgery, you might be able to feel yourself free now by just socially transitioning. So whatever that means, you know, that can mean just wearing something different that makes you feel as you want to feel, as you in your identity, as the individual you feel you are. So I think it just needs to get really individuated and more person specific because it's very different if you were brought up back in the 30s in a working class home. For example, I know that my mom and dad had very, very, very clear identities as to who was a man, who was a woman and how that looked and all that kind of thing. And then all the languaging around someone who might be effeminate have feminine identities, someone who, like a woman who might be strong, have all the language that that woman might be called, all this inappropriate language that we have for someone who's stepping outside of my perception of what maybe you should be or how you should behave. We need to dismantle all of that. And it takes time.

**Mo** [00:18:57] And my next question, because when I came to your group, I actually came, if I remember rightly, I can with the and a member of the Many Hands One Heart it we did talk about you as a trans man and we talk about the issues, they face.

**Mo** [00:19:16] And the question is actually to both of you, you know, because I know you've come across a lot and many people seeking asylum that are from trans or trans men or trans women. And also I know that Britney has got them. Well, we both members in Many Hands One Heart in them and from that community. But also I know that they know that there are people outside the group that they are seeking asylum. Just wanted to sort of like if you touch on what are the main issues, barriers for them adopting here or in the passing case or what do you say about the transition and everything? I start with their Britney and then I'll come back to you Kath. Is OK with you?

**Kath** [00:20:02] Oh, yeah. Yeah.

**Britney** [00:20:05] You know, I think in my particular case, what I can talk about in my own experience people is I know it's like tricky. A lot of people say that people is not honestly well educated in these matters, especially if for transgender people, people are not educated for people with gender. non conforming, it's even worse because we are almost like invisible in this sense. You know, it is a struggle to be a transgender man or woman and to come across this transition. But like. Like Kath said, there are some people like like me, we don't want to transition, so people don't quite understand that, that the thing is it's like, so why you don't look more feminine? or why you know, you don't stick on the masculine stuff? What do you want it to be and stuff. But that kind of. I'm not saying because for some them this kind of curiosity is not like a healthy curiosity, I would say, because there is the kind of curiosity you're doing, because you try to educate yourself. There is the other kind of curiosity that you are doing, because that is like a taboo topic, if that makes sense. So in that sense, people try to speak about my gender identity and expression, not because they wanted to educate themselves. It was because they are like. They found this, I would say entertaining or something like that, and I'm not a clown for that, but this ends and, you know, in my particular case that for now the challenge I've been experimenting, especially with people that I as I said, they don't they don't. They get shocked when they they they read my name or something like that. And it's like. So people say and I read the usually social media doesn't affect me and I pick up all the negative stuffs, something I could use to learn and to use as example of what we need to improve. But there's when my case came out, I read across social media this comment like a lot people saying if. They say he or they he say usually they say if he cannot accept himself, how we expect to accept them is not like that.

**Britney** [00:22:47] It's not like I don't I don't accept myself, I know what I want it to be and I know what I what I am. So it's not that I'm not accepting me. I'm trying to reach that person. That is actually me. So for people, it's really difficult to understand that I'm not I'm not accepting my body. It's not like I'm not accepting myself. What what it means is I wanted to be the person I wanted to be. And so it's a little bit more complicated. I've got it. I'm trying and maybe I'm being a little bit minimalist in this, but I think that's something we need to raise a lot. That is not like we are not accepting ourselves. We just want it to be what we want it to be.

**Mo** [00:23:34] Kath, You want to add anything to.

**Kath** [00:23:35] So it's about challenges, wasn't it? It was asylum seekers challenges. So I wonder that when someone comes into the country, this is just someone who has transitioned or is in the process of transition. I wonder when someone comes into the country seeking asylum on the basis of being harassed or at risk of death or transitioning at home. So. You would presumably want to produce papers that show that you're in the process of transitioning your concerns, maybe guessing if you're if you are on bridging hormones, having your hormones continued, and if you have heart surgery, having your GP, you understand what the surgery was and what follow up, because it's all a process. So what followable might need to happen and how do you get onto the relevant lists? How do you get to the relevant specialisms? How do you get your how do you get the Clinical care that you might need in the process of seeking asylum as well, then you go and potential language situation, so that's difficult to too. And all languaging around someone transitioning or being non non gender conforming may be completely different to someone else's languaging around that. So just try and have an understanding of that. And then if someone has come in. Who has said, I'm going to use the words trans history and I'll explain that. So some women, for example, some men who are trans women, trans women, trans men might say I'm a trans woman, might say I'm a trans man, but some people might say I'm a woman with a trans history or I'm a man with a trans history because actually I'm now fully male in my mind. So the transition happens and I'm so at different point. But medically, those people may need screenings such as cervical cancer screenings, such as this is screening for people who were.

**Kath** [00:25:56] People who.

**Kath** [00:25:58] Were assigned male at birth because of that, quote unquote, male characteristics, so certain screenings that you might need, biologically speaking, if that makes sense, but if you if your medical history starts from the point of you being a in your now preferred gender, there's no understanding of your previous history. Your screening might get missed. But you might feel that you don't want to share that with anyone, and so that needs to be some comprehensive understanding. As we discussed last time, I'm sure we were talking about professional discussions about, you know, that everybody has equal access to the to the preventative health care that we need to have. So so I think it's really multiple. You know, I think there's so many barriers that everybody's trying to hopefully overcome and understands. So there would be barriers that that I maybe I will be aware or some will bring that up for me as we go along. Very open to anyone talking to me about things. You know, it's important that I know as well.

**Mo** [00:27:09] The cases I've had and the ones that I'm going to mention let's say just Mr R you know, one of the people that I brought in, I came to the group know, and he was from Iran, you know, and I think the number one problem he told me was about and here

the medical GP that they didn't believe that they wanted to prove that he was going through the transition.

**Mo** [00:27:35] So you have to do some sort of a test with the hormones and all. And there was a delay.

**Mo** [00:27:40] And for him to get the hormones, the delay with so long that he stopped, you know what? And his voice to start changing a little bit and his breast was coming back. And I still think that he was telling me that it was obviously not very pleasant. And I don't think, as I remember, he told me it was about he wasn't the centre wasn't in Liverpool.

**Mo** [00:28:02] He was over the water. Was that right? Was in the Wirral he had to go for it.

**Kath** [00:28:08] Yes. There's an endocrinologist in Wirral Port Sunlight,.

**Mo** [00:28:13] Which again, for someone who is not from here and we only get thirty five pound and all of that, that was a challenge itself. Later on, he sort of told me because he was from a very religious family born in a woman's body and in family, that the women, you know, like if there was a funeral or there was a wedding all separated and he was always with the women and especially like sometimes the public bath and all because of that, he became a recluse. He just would not go to any any public gathering of the family at all. And obviously, his confidence was quite low and it was unfortunate. I mean, one of the things later on happened to him. Would you be upset if he was in a shared accommodation with other men, one of the men basically tried to sexually assault him, which was you know, he was you know, it was terrible and he didn't want to talk about it. And that's that are the issues that I came across. But also the friend that the British got and a member of our group, you know as well, I think there's a lot of times as well, as you said, when they come here, they don't have any choice where they're going to be. And you were just talking about someone in the north at north end of Liverpool in an area. The weather was quite rough wherever that has happened to some of the trans women that they come to here and seek asylum because they don't have any choice in the area that they're the case I'm talking about.

**Mo** [00:29:43] And the person was not only outside Liverpool was in the middle of nowhere in a in a in a town, a very small town, that they had no visible LGBT community. There's no gay bar. And that's itself was you know, if you're frightened. Well, considering that you come from a country that is a violent crime here and you got to get out of your house and people call you names obviously don't speak the language. All that was, you know which one I'm talking about Britney. Just so this is one of the some of the issues that I've come across in the last few years that I thought and Britney wanted to say something as well, I think. Is that right?

**Britney** [00:30:25] Oh, yes. And, you know, I'm talking about also about the proper asylum process.

**Britney** [00:30:32] I think I would say also the Home Office. Sometimes they doesn't follow their own guidelines. The Home Office has like a sexual orientation and gender orientation guidelines like I kind of to follow when a person defines themselves as LGBT, but they don't follow those guidelines. Honestly, in my particular case, even when I brought the situation that I felt non binary, they never asked for my pronouns, a, they never asked for that. And they still continue to treat me as a gay man. Even when I got letters from my caseworker, from my therapist at Sahir House, and from many people that say, you know, this person

has evolve, that has grown out and now. So this is this freedom process is those that have defined themselves as non binary, the Home Office completely ignore that and they continue to come into this game. So when I came to the final appeal with the judge, the first thing she asked me to ask the home office, what we still talking to this person as a gay man, why you didn't ask them for their pronouns. So it's like they failure to follow their own procedures so they cannot stick to their own procedures. What you guys would do, kind of speculate on a situation that they are out of the procedures. So it's like horrible to seek asylum and being LGBT because it's like like you say at the beginning Mo, when you were in Many Hands One Heart started, people say we know exist, but we know where they are. You know, it's like so the same with with with transgender people and Non binary like me. Like, yeah, you got like, the Home Office probably got this big idea. But they don't realise are they are in the system already, you know, and they are failing to follow the process across there. And, and I feel a little bit grateful in the sense that when my case, my case came out, it's like give us visibility to this reality that the Home Office completely ignoring the reality of non binary people seeking asylum.

**Mo** [00:32:54] One of the things, sorry kath you wanted to say something.

**Kath** [00:32:57] No

**Mo** [00:32:58] One of the things actually I've got to say to you, Britney, because even before I start doing this job, I had some sort of a contact with the Home Office in regard to the cases, you know, not just LGBT plus people in any cases.

**Mo** [00:33:11] And I was a freelance interpreter in a previous life. And one of the things actually progressed and got better with regard to the Home Office is the questioning used to be very, very intrusive, especially when it came to the sexual activity. You know, as interpreters, sometimes I used to actually could not believe the questions they were asking, you know, in regard to what position you were doing, how did you do it? What did you do to the person? And that's sort of like, you know, I believe it starts, you know, but they.

**Kath** [00:33:47] Probably question that, you know Mo.

**Mo** [00:33:50] You don't think it's has stop now or what I know is there was one case that it was an Iranian file that instead they asked him those questions, but he was too scared to say, sorry, I'm not answering that question. So I think if they ask that question, if the people know they're right, they could actually say that's got nothing to do with it. Another thing was, is that because sexuality is so difficult to prove, you know, some solicitors actually sort of like welcome the question because then you would actually talk about which I think is terrible to say, advise you to go graphically, explain. And I think there was one or two cases, actually, someone filmed himself having sex with the partner, and I'm sure it was approved.

**Kath** [00:34:36] I've heard that.

**Mo** [00:34:37] But, you know, that's something that used to happen quite a lot. You know, again, the question goes, you as you said, you think this is all happening. Did you have that sort of experience yourself Britney when you were questioned by my home office?

**Britney** [00:34:53] It's interesting because a.



**Britney** [00:34:56] I hear from some disgusting questions to people I know, even people from the group, but in my particular case it was kind of interesting.

**Britney** [00:35:10] I remember when I came out to the first interview with the very first interview and when you give them evidence, she told me we're not going to accept any explicit evidence.

**Britney** [00:35:23] So if you got something with a partner or something like that to prove that, we're not we're not going to accept that. I was not bringing that up, of course.

**Britney** [00:35:31] But it's like if I was, I put a picture on my file that was kind of funny, let's say, because I was with a massive carrot licking in it, pretending it was a dick, though they say, no, this is explicit. We cannot take this. So it's like a.

**Britney** [00:35:50] They say there was too explicit, but at the same time to other people, they are requesting them. We want you to actually see you having action. So it's like it doesn't make any sense for going in. It's like a double speech my in my point of view. But for some people, they say, you know. We want to pretend to be correct, to do the right things, but wait for people to say, we don't believe you. If you don't prove me, you like man, sucking a dick, I don't believe you. So it's like it's just horrible in that sense.

**Mo** [00:36:23] Yeah. I'm just I mean, the last question I've got, unless you want to say something else, Kathy, you know, it's there was a survey I used to be involved with the Mental Health Consortium, and there was a LGBT plus group there, you know, Claire Stephens's chair. And they said in regard to the LGBT plus community in Liverpool. And one of the things that came out of that, that it was actually, you know, the gay there was lots of sort of like racism and in in that community in regards to other people from other countries and all that sort of thing. And I didn't see that when I came to group the people seeking asylum with another person seeking asylum. I just wanted to see if you actually, you know, be honest. I was very surprised when the results of the survey came because I just thought people who have been, you know, discriminated, I've been a victim of a hate crime. They should be more understanding to. You know, I didn't see that in your group. But have you had any sort of issues on how did you dealt dealt with it? If you have.

**Kath** [00:37:35] Personally speaking, we've not had any issues. And so I think you have I think that could be because. You know, there's the fight, if that's the right word, not everybody sees transition as a fight or right. It's just a life. It's just my life. It's just who I am. But some people see it as a supply war campaign. So that's a global campaign, isn't it? And actually, more than anything, in my experience, people have been interested in what other people's transition looks like in another country or what it looks like to be doing nonconforming and gender nonconforming. And we were interested in people that are there to meet one another, support one another. And the quite clear on that we have Adr... Sorry Arthur, I'm so sorry. Arthur may. I think it would be interesting to see what what you can say about this, but Sahir tries to consciously create a inclusive atmosphere, actually, kind of like in the spaces and places that are not just in one to one, but actually around the area. So I can drop in and in the reception area and all that kind of thing, and kind of quite often do updates to their volunteers and updates to the staff and updates to service users and stuff around issues such as this. And there is codes of conduct around people who may. Hurtfully say things that could be considered a hate crime or who may? Because of a lack of understanding or education, say the same thing, and I guess in those each case will be dealt with individually both. There is a code of conduct that everybody has to have and agree to. In my experience, I've not had anything like that personally. People are just

more interested, not even a curiosity. It's just it's a genuine interest. And just to say something about just go back to something that was said before, I think that I've just got a very keen awareness of that. People crossing the line between curiosity and criticism and just kind of really held in that boundary for people because.

**Kath** [00:40:07] Yeah, because it's just the safety aspects of health in a group for me that, OK,.

**Mo** [00:40:14] Have you Britney, have you ever had experience, any sort of racism in from gay men or LGBT community in in Liverpool or.

**Britney** [00:40:27] I think I would say across this three years I've been here in Liverpool, I not been able to move out of my safe space for many reasons.

**Britney** [00:40:39] The reasons for this is like every time I travel, I only travel to the charities that support me and stuff like that because I couldn't afford a bus ticket, so I needed the travel expensive. So it's like I was not a person of going out and stuff like that because I never had money for it, honestly. So in that sense, I only move out into my safe space network and that's the only people I met across these three years, so. And I hear from people, from Many Hands One Heart, how that they found some struggles with because of their skin colour or the way they express themselves. But in my particular case, as you say, I haven't had the opportunity to explore outside of my bubble. I would say especially now with covid, it's impossible. And so but for now, the only thing I could say is positive stops. And once the real world comes back, I'll come back and say, yeah, yeah, I know.

**Mo** [00:41:53] I'm just going to just one thing is, actually, I remember one member from Muslim community was saying that, you know, when he goes to any gay bar, you know, he goes to Karpoff. But, you know, I usually tell people that he's from Latin America or Spanish because he doesn't want to people start asking questions about Islam and, you know, about his religion.

**Mo** [00:42:17] And it's just that he doesn't want to really talk about that. So anyway, thanks very much for your participation. I really enjoyed your explanation. I'm dealing with a lot of my issues regarding, you know, LGBT community and gender identities. And I feel a lot more confident. And I think if anyone who's got sort of issues like that, it's got to sort of like listen to the people opposite from that group and to sort of expand the knowledge and experience.

**Kath** [00:42:50] Thanks very much for your time. For your time. Thank you. Oh, it's really great to be home. Thank you.