

Read through these speeches that have been made about LGBTQ+ rights and develop your active reading skills to:

**Highlight:**

* Key words
* Powerful language

**Discover:**

* synonyms for the words we have highlighted in blue (TIP: Synonyms – a word that is different but means the same thing)

**Consider and Respond:**

* Write a speech yourself to express your own thoughts on any issue or challenge surrounding the LGBTQ+ community and their rights. Use some of the language techniques you have spotted, or that you already have.

**Email your responses to** **e.skelon@alderchs.uk** **and** **a.howarth@alderchs.uk** **and there will be Amazon vouchers up for grabs for the most powerful and considered responses.**

**Baroness Williams – LGBT Conference 2019**

For most of us, holding our partner’s hand is a small, simple act of love, and yet for too many same-sex couples doing so requires asking the questions: Will we be judged? Will we be heckled? Actually, will we be attacked?

For most of us, going to the bathroom when out and about is no more complicated than finding the nearest department store. But for Trans men and women it requires planning, risk, and courage.

For most of us, going on holiday is a matter of finding a sunny beach and a cheap flight. But for LGBT people it’s also about checking that they won’t be thrown in prison for who they are, or who they love.These are just some of the issues that were raised time and time again by the 108,000 people who responded to last year’s survey.

The obstacles that LGBT people face are as varied as the LGBT Community itself. And yet every day, in the face of judgement and intimidation, people stand up to these challenges and meet them head on. But they shouldn’t have to. Holding your partner’s hand should not be an act of defiance. Going to the bathroom should not be an act of bravery. And going on holiday should not mean hiding who you are.

The National LGBT Action Plan provides firm commitments and programmes to tackle many of these issues, but as you will hear today, measuring success is much more than just about statistics. It is about giving people the freedom to live their lives, realise their potential, and love who they love.

**Ellen Page – Actress – Human Rights Campaign Conference**

I’m here today because I am gay, and because… maybe I can make a difference. To help others have an easier and more hopeful time. Here I am, an actress, representing – at least in some sense – an industry that places crushing standards on all of us. Standards of beauty. Of a good life. Of success. Standards that, I hate to admit, have affected me. You have ideas planted in your head, thoughts you never had before, that tell you how you have to act, how you have to dress and who you have to be. I have been trying to push back, to be authentic, to follow my heart, but it can be hard.

There are pervasive stereotypes about masculinity and femininity that define how we are all supposed to act, dress and speak. They serve no one. Anyone who defies these so-called ‘norms’ becomes worthy of comment and scrutiny. The LGBT community knows this all too well.

You’re here because you’ve adopted as a core motivation the simple fact that this world would be a whole lot better if we just made an effort to be less horrible to one another. If we took just 5 minutes to recognize each other’s beauty, instead of attacking each other for our differences. That’s not hard. It’s really an easier and better way to live. And ultimately, it saves lives. Then again, it’s not easy at all. It can be the hardest thing, because loving other people starts with loving ourselves and accepting ourselves.

I am tired of hiding and I am tired of lying by omission. I suffered for years because I was scared to be out. My spirit suffered, my mental health suffered and my relationships suffered. And I’m standing here today, with all of you, on the other side of all that pain. I am young, yes, but what I have learned is that love, the beauty of it, the joy of it and yes, even the pain of it, is the most incredible gift to give and to receive as a human being. And we deserve to experience love fully, equally, without shame and without compromise.



**Hope – “Black Trans Lives Matter” - BBC**

I've had incidents with the police where my transness came up as well as my blackness. And it was very scary.

I've had police throw my things on the floor and ask me to pick them up. I've had police make fun of me, berating me for being black and trans. What we find is that the broader movement doesn't have the same sort of empathy when it comes to the black trans women who are being killed.

And we're extremely tired. We're tired of appeasing people. It just gets to the point where we want to back out of the fight.

We're starting to see black queer and trans people who are saying, 'I don't want to march. I don't want to protest. I don't want to do anything because no matter what I do, black people don't want to march for black trans people.

We just want to feel seen. Our skin colour is the very thing that makes white folks hate us and when we turn around we can't even talk to our black brothers and sisters because they feel the same way about us based on who we sleep with or how we identify – and that's a huge problem.

The Black Lives Matter movement needs to be very intentional about including the voices and struggles of black queer and trans people – because those are the struggles of black people too.