

WHY I HAVE PRIDE



Name
MUPELA MUMBA

Age
24

Identifies as
QUEER



Pride to me is being fearless. Being a young, black, female queer in society today is an incredible, scary and yet exciting experience, and you have to be completely fearless. Over the past few years

I have been on an exploration of who I am and who I would like to be. It's difficult enough being a female in today's society – then there's being a black female in society. And then there's being a black queer female in society. That's a hard one to handle sometimes.

To be honest, from my personal experience, the LGBTQ+ community is not an easy one to navigate when you're first coming out as a person of colour. Initially, I didn't find a connection or relate to the community because people like me were rarely in the spotlight. Only a very small part of our community was acknowledged. I am lucky now that I discovered and can share in UK Black Pride. It provided me with a light of hope, telling me that I am beautiful the way I am.

In all honesty, my mother, being African, had a tough time understanding when I came out. It's not easy for parents of a traditional ethnic background to understand. Remember to love yourself even more during this stage. As a black female, coming out can be one of the most difficult stages in our lives. But we must stay strong and love ourselves harder than we ever have before.

“MY COMING OUT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE COMING OUT. IT FELT LIKE MORE LIKE I WAS ACCEPTING WHO I WAS BECOMING.”

The story of black queers is an important one: we started this Pride movement, yet we don't acknowledge that, or see that enough, in today's society. I think it's important to speak about it more and show that our Pride truly does stand strong and shine.

Being a black female and queer, and coming to terms with accepting myself as that, isn't always easy. There are times I doubt myself but I know I'm still growing and I'm on a journey of self-discovery. Nothing is final: life changes, we change, we grow and evolve. Titles fade but our stories continue to develop. I have learnt that nothing has to be certain right now. What's important is to enjoy life and live the change I want to see.

