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## Essay Two: Diversity Issues Reflection

### **INTRODUCTION**

Gender can be difficult to define, but one way it can be referred to as the role of a male or female in society, which is known as a gender role, or an individual's concept of themselves, or gender identity. However, sometimes an individual's genetically assigned sex doesn't match with their gender identity. These individuals might refer to themselves as transgender, non-binary, or gender nonconforming (Newman).

In today's time, the term gender could be considered more complex rather than simple. Gender could also be referred to as the socially constructed characteristic of women and men, such as; norms, roles, and relationships of and between groups of women and men. It can vary from society to society and can be changed (Newman). There are individuals in the L.G.B.T. community who are treated unequally due to their gender. Since becoming aware of the unfortunate situation, it has caused me to look at the people differently from the resources I've read and from a classmate sharing a small portion of what she had encountered.

### **L.G.B.T. COMMUNITY TREATED UNEQUALLY**

The New York Times article discusses how likely the L.G.B.T. are to be a target, as well as, how high the hate crimes are against them. The individuals who study hate crimes mentioned that part of the reason for violence against L.G.B.T. people might have to do with a more

accepting attitude toward gays and lesbians in recent decades. While the majority of society becomes more tolerant of the L.G.B.T. individuals, others who oppose them have become more radical (Park).

The Washington Post article discusses how Gavin Grimm was not given access to use the school restrooms due to Grimm being transgender. A group of parents and community members had heard that a “female” was using the boys restroom and began to complain. Due to this situation, it has been taken to the Supreme Court (Grimm).

An Australian comic, Hannah Gadsby reshapes standard stand up by pairing punchlines with personal revelations on gender, sexuality, and childhood turmoil (“Hannah Gadsby: Nanette.”). It is discussed how women and queer individuals like Gadsby, and anyone else who might behave or look “other”, get treated, dismissed and silenced. Gadsby reveals her own gender and the sexual trauma that she experienced. Which include her story about an assault at a bus stop to the predatory violations in her childhood and young adulthood (Ryzik).

### **PERSONAL BELIEFS AND ATTITUDE**

The connections that I have made with the articles was that these individuals of the L.G.B.T. community are not being treated fairly as they should be. These articles are sharing the stories of those that have been treated unequally and to make it known to others of what the individuals of the L.G.B.T. community is enduring.

I believe that each person should have the right to do things that make them happy and not have others look down on it. I find it extremely sad that is not the case in most circumstances. I can never understand why some individuals feel the need to look down on others and be cruel to them just because they are who they are. I often wonder if they don't like

it, is it really hard to mind their own business? I hope more will be more accepting of those in the L.G.B.T. community and have them to be treated the same as those who aren't in the L.G.B.T. community.

### **RESOURCES TECHNIQUES**

Between the few articles, I have noticed that they have in common were how certain individuals were being mistreated, as well as their human rights not being taken into serious accountability. The few articles are focusing on separate issues in the L.G.B.T community, however, they are connected with a similar concept. A couple of the articles is about individuals sharing their personal experiences that they had to endure from others who weren't treating them with respect that they deserve. While the other article shows different statistics of how likely the L.G.B.T individuals are more likely to be targets of hate crimes than other minority groups.

### **CLASSMATE(S) COMMENT**

A discussion comment from week nine had really stood out to me. Janessa Burge had mentioned that she knew for a fact that there was a lot of hate crimes towards the L.G.B.T. community due to her being part of it. Janessa and her wife had other individuals participate in hate crimes towards them, luckily there weren't physically harmed. She gives a small insight that involved herself, as well as her friends about the time that they decided to come out that they were gay. Janessa had mentioned that a few of her friends were kicked out of their household due to being gay, while Janessa herself was disowned from her family.

Reading her comment made me angry to those who weren't open minded and understanding. I had found it absolutely horrible that Janessa and her wife have experienced hateful crimes. It's so wrong that people are treated the way that they are, and I think it needs to

stop. Everyone should be accepting and open minded of others around them. People shouldn't have to be afraid of coming out and being who they are. There's no reason for people to treat others badly because they are different from them.

## **CONCLUSION**

There are individuals in the L.G.B.T. community who are treated unequally from others around them due to their gender. Since becoming aware of the unfortunate situation, it has caused me to have a different outlook on the world from the resources that were available to me, as well as, some of my classmates sharing a small portion of their personal stories. Now than ever before, I'm definitely more open minded and understanding of those who may appear "different" to others around them.

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