

RAW FILE

MAKING-VISIBLE

LGBTQIA+

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>> IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE CAPTIONS, CLOSED-CAPTIONING THAT WE HAVE, JUST TURN ON YOUR CLOSED-CAPTIONS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN.

LET'S SEE, HE IS -- GREAT.

SO, WE HAVE LIVE CAPTIONING BY DON.

WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE THAT.

YEAH.

OKAY.

SO I SEE ANOTHER RACHEL THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE RACHEL.

>> YOU ARE MAKING ASSUMPTIONS.

>> YOU ARE RIGHT.

YOU ARE RIGHT.

EXCEPT I KNOW RACHEL.

>> OKAY, THIS IS TRUE.

>> OKAY, SO IF YOU HAVE THE WRONG NAME, JUST AGAIN, PLEASE,  
HERE COMES ANOTHER RACHEL.

IF YOU HAVE THE WRONG NAME, PLEASE RENAME YOURSELF.

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THIS HAPPENED.

NO IDEA.

>> WELCOME TO EVERYONE, THOUGH.

>> THERE WE GO.

>> IF YOU WANT TO PUT YOUR NAME AND WHERE YOU ARE CALLING  
FROM IN THE CHAT, THAT WOULD BE AWESOME.

AND THEN PEOPLE CAN WELCOME YOU.

>> THAT'S NOT THE CHAT, THAT'S THE PARTICIPANT.

I HAD SUCH A SILLY DAY TODAY.

>> GOOD, THAT'S PERFECT WITH ALL OF THE RACHELS COMING IN.  
HILARIOUS.

>> I CANNOT, WHEN I SHUT OFF MY VIDEO, A NAME COMES UP.

I CAN'T GET A PICTURE TO COME BACK ANYMORE.

I KEEP TRYING.

>> ANNIE MAHON: HUH.

OKAY.

WELL --

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: WE HAVE MORE RACHEL SWITALAS.

HI, RACHEL.

>> ANNIE MAHON: THE REAL RACHEL.

>> THE REAL RACHEL RAISE YOUR HAND.

>> I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE RACHEL SWITALA.

>> IF EVERYONE IS OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER TO TELL THE TRUTH.

>> ANNIE MAHON: ANOTHER RACHEL.

IF YOU HAVE THE WRONG NAME, REMINDER AGAIN, PLEASE RENAME YOURSELF.

IF YOU CAME IN WITH THE NAME RACHEL, AND YOU ARE NOT RACHEL, PLEASE RENAME YOURSELF.

>> OH, MY GOSH, I'M SORRY, EVERYONE.

>> ANNIE MAHON: IT IS NOT ANYTHING THAT YOU DID.

THAT'S SO WEIRD, WHAT HAPPENED?

>> I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT WAS ME, I THOUGHT IT WAS RACHEL.

(LAUGHTER)

>> I WAS WONDERING WHY MY FACE WASN'T ON --

>> CAN'T SHE JUST GO BACK AND RENAME HERSELF.

>> ANNIE MAHON: EVERYBODY CAN RENAME THEMSELVES.

CLAIRE, GO BACK IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE NAME RACHEL.

GO BACK TO CLAIRE.

>> ANNIE MAHON: DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I WILL LOG OUT AND LOG BACK.

SEE YOU LATER.

DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WE HAVE A LOT OF RACHEL SWITALAS.

>> OKAY, I GET IT.

A TRIBUTE TO RACHEL.

(OVERLAPPING CONVERSATION).

>> ANNIE MAHON: YES, I SEE SOME MORE RACHEL SWITALAS,

PLEASE RENAME YOURSELF IF YOU HAVE THE WRONG NAME.

>> WE LOVE YOU, RACHEL.

>> ANNIE MAHON: YEAH, SO I SEE, CAMILLE, WELCOME, CAMILLE,

IN D.C. AND KAREN IN ARLINGTON.

VERONICA IN, OKAY, SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON.

AJ, HI, AJ FROM MISSOULA, MY EYEBALLS.

BOB AND PHILL FROM SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA.

YEAH, MARY.

BOB AND PHILL, HEY, FROM CALI.

>> LISA, ALEXANDRIA, DID YOU SAY THAT?

I DIDN'T HEAR?

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: UH-HUH.

LINDA, RHODE ISLAND.

JUST LETTING IN SOME MORE RACHELS, HANG ON.

>> HI.

CLAIRE, D.C. HI, CLAIRE.

(LAUGHTER)

>> I WILL JUST MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ONE MORE TIME.

IF YOU CAME IN AND YOUR NAME ON THE SCREEN IS RACHEL SWITALA, YOU KNOW YOU ARE NOT RACHEL SWITALA, A TECHNICAL GLITCH THROUGH ZOOM.

PLEASE RENAME YOURSELF SO YOUR CORRECT NAME IS ON THERE.

IF YOU LOG OUT AND LOG BACK IN IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: NO.

WE TRIED.

>> RACHEL RIGHT NOW.

>> ANNIE MAHON: LIGHTENS UP THE MOOD A LITTLE BIT.

>> THAT'S WHY, I WAS SURPRISED.

I SAID WHY IS MY NAME RACHEL?

DID I SIGN INTO THE WRONG WEBINAR.

>> HOW DO YOU RENAME YOURSELF?

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: GO ON THE TOP, YOU HAVE THREE DOTS, AND, AND -- IT WILL DISPLAY SOME OPTIONS.

YOU HAVE THERE THE OPTION TO RENAME.

I THINK IT IS THE THIRD OPTION.

>> NOT SEEING THE THREE DOTS.

THAT IS OKAY.

>> RACHEL, THE THREE DOTS.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: ON THE TOP, AND IN YOUR OWN  
SCREEN, IN YOUR SQUARE WHERE YOU ARE --

THERE ARE THREE LITTLE DOTS.

>> OKAY, GOT IT.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: YEP.

>> I CAN FIND MYSELF NOW.

THANK YOU.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: YOU ARE WELCOME.

DEAR FRIENDS, IT IS 7:05.

WE HAD LIT EXTRA TIME ON CHECKING IN.

IF YOU DON'T MIND MAKING SURE YOU ARE MUTED WE WILL BEGIN  
WITH A VERY SHORT GUIDED SITTING JUST TO HELP US SETTLE IN.

(BELL TOLLS) (BELL TOLLS)

(BELL TOLLS).

>> ANNIE MAHON: SO WHEREVER YOU ARE JUST LET YOURSELF BEGIN  
TO REALLY SET KNEEL YOUR BODY.

FEELING WHATEVER IT IS YOU ARE SITTING ON.

NOTICING WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE NOTICING YOUR FEET ON THE  
GROUND.

OR WHEREVER YOUR FEET ARE IN THE MOMENT.

NOTICE YOUR BACK AND YOUR SHOULDERS.

SENSE YOUR HANDS AND WHAT YOUR HANDS ARE TOUCHING RIGHT  
NOW.

AND SENSE YOUR ARMS.

AND SENSE YOUR HEAD AND YOUR FACE.

SENSING DOWN INTO YOUR HEART CENTER AND YOUR LUNGS AND YOUR  
BELLY.

AND ALL THE WAY DOWN TO YOUR GROINS.

YOUR WHOLE BODY.

LIKE YOU ARE COMING BACK HOME.

I AM HERE, DEAR BODY.

AND NOTICING THE INHALE WHEREVER THAT IS FOR YOU, WHEREVER  
YOU FEEL THAT AND THE EXHALE.

FEELING YOUR OWN INHALE AND YOUR OWN EXHALE.

AND ALSO SENSING THE INHALE AND THE EXHALE OF EVERYONE HERE  
ON THIS CALL TOGETHER.

BREATHING TOGETHER.

AND REALLY ARRIVING TOGETHER.

(BELL TOLLS).

>> ANNIE MAHON: SO DEAR FRIENDS WE ARE SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU  
ALL HERE.

I AM GOING TO TURN THIS OVER, MY NAME IS ANNIE MAHON, I WILL TURN THIS OVER AND INTRODUCE OUR FIRST SPEAKER, BUT I WILL JUST SAY WE HAVE TWO SPEAKERS TONIGHT FOR THIS FIRST MAKING VISIBLE WEBINAR ON LGBTQIA+ AND OUR SECOND SPEAKER THIS EVENING WHICH WILL COME AFTER OUR FIRST SPEAKER IS HAIAN WHO IS A FRIEND OF MINE FOR A WHILE. AND THEY WERE A MONASTIC IN THE THICH NHAT HANH TRADITION, NOW LIVING OUTSIDE OF THE MONASTERY IN CANADA, AND THEY WILL BE SHARING SOME STORIES AND EXPERIENCES IN THE, IN THE LATER PART OF THE WEBINAR.

SO WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE.

I WILL TURN IT OVER TO ADRIANA TO INTRODUCE OUR FIRST SPEAKER.

BOWING OUT.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERYONE FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT WITH US.

AND JUST BEFORE I -- I SHARE WITH YOU SOME DETAILS ABOUT LAUREN, PLEASE THERE ARE SOME NEW PEOPLE JOINING US.

AND IF YOU PLEASE CHECK YOUR NAME, BECAUSE, YOU ARE ARRIVING WITH A DIFFERENT NAME.

SO, WE HAVE A LOT OF RACHEL SWITALAS, CHECK YOUR NAME AND RENAME YOURSELF.



THAT WILL BE REALLY NICE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

AND, I AM ADRIANA, I AM MEXICAN AND I AM HERE, VERY HAPPY TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR SECOND, YOU ALREADY HEARD ABOUT HAIAN, ABOUT LAUREN BARKUME.

LAUREN IS A WHITE LESBIAN WOMAN LIVING IN CAPITAL HEIGHTS, MARYLAND, A PHOTOGRAPHER, SPECIALIZING IN LGBTQ+ WEDDINGS AND PERSONAL BRANDING.

AS WELL AS AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL.

LAUREN HAS SPENT NEARLY NINE YEARS IN SOUTH AFRICA WORKING TO DEVELOP BUSINESS OF ARTISANS AND ENTREPRENEURS IN THE REGION.

WHILE IN SOUTH AFRICA SHE PHOTOGRAPHED AND PUBLISHED ARTICLES ON THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES IN CURE MAGAZINE, OLT, AND LAUREN IS AN ACTIVIST AND CARES DEEPLY ABOUT THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

SHE HAS BEEN PRACTICING, ACTUALLY, WE HAVE THE HONOR TO PRACTICE WITH HER, MINDFULNESS IN THE TRADITION OF THICH NHAT HANH SINCE 2017, AND, LAUREN IS THE ADVISER FOR MAKING-VISIBLE FOR OUR SERIES ON LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES.

LAUREN, WELCOME, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP WITH ALL OF THIS.

HAIAN, THANK YOU.

AND YOU HAVE THE SPACE FOR YOU GUYS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> THANK YOU FOR THAT LOVELY WELCOME.

I AM GOING TO SHARE MY SCREEN.

AND GIVE ME A MOMENT.

SO TODAY I HAVE THE HONOR OF INTRODUCING THIS SERIES AND  
TOPIC.

MAKING VISIBLE LGBTQIA-PLUS.

AND THIS TOPIC IS ABOUT SHOWING, BRINGING LIGHT TO THE  
INJUSTICES THAT DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES FACE.

SO WE WANTED TO FOCUS ON THIS TOPIC FOR THIS NEXT SERIES OF  
WEBINARS BECAUSE ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS  
IN THE LAST 60 YEARS OF LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR THIS  
COMMUNITY, RECENTLY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS LED  
SEVERAL ANTI-LGBTQ POLICIES AND MANY STATES HAVE FOLLOWED  
SUIT.

THERE ARE STILL MANY SUITS THAT DON'T OFFER FULL LEGAL  
PROTECTIONS FOR THIS COMMUNITY.

SO I WILL, IN THIS TALK I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOME CONTEXT TO  
FRAME THE WHOLE SERIES.

BOTH GLOBALLY AS, TO SHOW YOU WHAT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

ARE FOR THIS COMMUNITY AS WELL AS SOCIALLY.

I'LL ALSO TALK ABOUT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE U.S. AND SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE IN THE U.S. AND THEN ALSO GOING TO BE TELLING YOU MY STORY.

SO, I AM AS ADRIANA MENTIONED A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO FOCUSES ON LGBTQ+ PEOPLE.

SO, I WANT TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT WITH YOU HOW THIS COMMUNITY IS PART OF ME.

AND SO I WILL SHARE SOME ABOUT THAT.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW, LGBTQIA, STANDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER INTERSECTS, ASEXUAL, AND THEN THE PLUS STANDS FOR ANY AND ALL OTHER LABELS WHICH PEOPLE WOULD LOOK TO OR NOT LIKE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES.

SO THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT INCLUDES BOTH SEXUAL ORIENTATION, WHICH IS THE ATTRACTION OF WHICH GENDER YOU ARE ATTRACTED TO, AND, GENDER IDENTITY WHICH IS HOW YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL HAVE A SENSE OF YOURSELF AND WHAT YOUR GENDER IS.

SO THEY -- OFTEN INTERACT BUT THEY ARE DIFFERENT THINGS.

THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT COMES TOGETHER TO HELP GET PROTECTIONS FOR, FOR THIS COMMUNITY.

SO I AM GOING TO START WITH A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME.

MY NAME AGAIN IS LAUREN BARKUME.

MY FIRST HAT IS A, TRAINING DIRECTOR AT ARTISANS, I HAVE BEEN WORKING IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR FOR 13 YEARS.

I DESIGN AND RUN TRAININGS FOR ARTISAN BUSINESSES.

AND BASED IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR A LONG TIME.

I AM ALSO A PHOTOGRAPHER.

I STARTED MY PHOTOGRAPHY BUSINESS IN 2015.

I HAVE BEEN PHOTOGRAPHING LGBTQ WEDDINGS, PERSONAL BRANDING AND FAMILIES FOR A WHILE NOW.

AND THEN, THE LAST PHOTO IS ME AND MY PARTNER, KAREN.

SHE'S HERE, SO, HI, KAREN.

AND, SO I AM PART OF THIS COMMUNITY.

IDENTIFY MYSELF AS LESBIAN AND QUEER, I USE BOTH OF THOSE TERMS TO IDENTIFY MYSELF.

BUT ONCE UPON A TIME I DID IDENTIFY AS BISEXUAL.

AND SO THIS IS, SOMETHING THAT -- YOU KNOW, LABELS ARE, WHAT PEOPLE CHOOSE TO IDENTIFY AS.

AND SOMETIMES THOSE CHANGE DURING SOMEONE'S LIFE.

I'M ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.

SO THAT IS ABOUT ME.

AND, I WANT TO START WITH A LOVELY QUOTE FROM THICH NHAT HANH.

THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND, THE MORE YOU LOVE.

THE MORE YOU LOVE, THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND.

SO I WANT TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT WHAT ARE THE, THE LAWS AND THE SOCIAL ATTITUDES THAT LGBTQ PEOPLE HAVE TO, HAVE TO FACE AND DEAL WITH IN AN EVERYDAY LIFE.

SO I WILL START WITH THE GLOBAL LEGAL CONTEXT.

THIS IS A MAP THAT SHOWS YOU THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION LAWS OF -- OF GLOBALLY AROUND THE WORLD.

IF YOU WILL NOTICE HERE THERE ARE BLUE AND RED AREAS.

THE BLUE AREAS WHERE THERE IS PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

THE DARKEST BLUE COUNTRIES ARE WHERE IT IS PROTECTED CONSTITUTIONALLY.

SECOND DARKEST BLUE AREAS ARE WHERE THERE IS A BROAD PROTECTION.

THE THIRD IS WHERE THERE IS A LITTLE BIT LESS PROTECTION AND, IN THE STATES YOU WILL SEE IT IS, NOT THE STRONGEST BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY STATES WHERE THERE IS NOT AS MUCH PROTECTION.

IN OTHER STATES.

IN THIS BEIGE AREA, IT IS WHERE IT IS UNCLEAR OR THERE IS NO PROTECTION, BUT NO CRIMINALIZATION.

AND THEN, MOVING INTO THE RED, YOU WILL SEE THAT -- THE ORANGE IS WHERE -- CRIMINAL, THERE IS CRIMINALIZATION OF CONSENSUAL SAME SEX ACTS BETWEEN ADULTS.

AND THOSE INCREASE IN SEVERITY IN WHICH COUNTRY YOU ARE LOOKING AT WITH DEATH PENALTY BEING THE MOST SEVERE PENALTY FOR THE DEEPEST RED COUNTRIES.

26 COUNTRIES HAVE A SENTENCE OF TEN YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR CONSENSUAL SAME SEX ACTS BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS.

SO THIS, JUST HAVE A LOOK AND SEE.

LIKE WHERE IN THE WORLD IT'S BLUE AND WHERE IT'S RED.

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR AND HAVE TO LIVE IN HIDING BECAUSE OF WHO THEY ARE AND WHO THEY LOVE.

AND FOR FEAR OF BEING -- PUT IN JAIL OR PUT TO DEATH.

BUT THERE ARE MANY PLACES THAT HAVE PROTECTIONS AND THERE IS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER UNFORTUNATE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PROTECTIONS.

JUST THIS LAST YEAR OR TWO, WE HAVE SEEN SEVERAL COUNTRIES BE ADDED TO THE LIST.

WHERE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE HAS BEEN LEGALIZED.

SO I ALSO WANT TO LOOK AT LAWS RELATED TO GENDER IDENTITY.  
SO THIS IS A MAP THAT SHOWS THE RIGHT TO CHANGE SOME ONE'S  
LEGAL GENDER.

SO THIS IS --

LIGHTEST GREEN WHERE IT IS LEGAL RECOGNITION OF WHATEVER  
IDENTITY, GENDER IDENTITY YOU WOULD LIKE, BUT YOU DO NOT  
REQUIRE SURGERY.

WHERE IT IS DARKER GREEN, SURGERY IS REQUIRED, ALTHOUGH  
LEGAL, ALTHOUGH SURGERY IS REQUIRED.

AND THE RED COUNTRIES IT IS ILLEGAL.

AND IN THE GRAY COUNTRIES, IT IS UNKNOWN OR AMBIGUOUS.

SO AGAIN -- THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LAWS BETWEEN SEXUAL  
ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY ARE DIFFERENT.

ALTHOUGH DISCRIMINATION HAPPENS CERTAINLY ACROSS THE ENTIRE  
COMMUNITY.

SO IF WE LOOK AT THE SOCIAL ACCEPT ABC OF -- OF  
HOMOSEXUALITY, PEW RESEARCH CENTER ASKED THE QUESTION, THE  
PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WHO SAY HOMOSEXUALITY SHOULD OR SHOULD  
NOT BE ACCEPTED BY SOCIETY.

SO THIS IS A LIST OF COUNTRIES -- AND THE GREEN HERE IS THE  
PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN THAT COUNTRY WHO SAY THAT  
HOMOSEXUALITY WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

SO, HERE IS SOME OF THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES.

THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE IN SWEDEN WITH 94% OF THE POPULATION SAYING IT SHOULD BE ACCEPTED.

OTHER NOTABLE EXAMPLES ARE, THE PHILIPPINES, EVEN THOUGH IT IS VERY CATHOLIC COUNTRY, A HIGH ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

AND, THE U.S. IS AT 72%.

THE LOWEST COUNTRIES ARE, NIGERIA, WHERE ONLY 7%, AND, KENYA.

SO, YOU WILL FIND THAT DEPENDING ON SORT OF WHICH REGION YOU ARE IN THERE IS MORE OR LESS ACCEPTANCE.

THIS HAS IMPROVED OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS.

SO WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE BETWEEN --

LIKE, 5 AND 15 PERCENTAGE POINTS IN MOST, IN PRETTY MUCH ALL OF THE COUNTRIES.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

TURNING TO THE U.S.

AND THE LEGAL CONTEXT IN THE U.S.

THIS IS A MAP ON THE LEFT IN 2010 OF THE POLICIES AND LAWS THAT HAD A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON LGBTQ PEOPLE, STATES LISTED IN RED.

ON THE RIGHT IN 2020 HOW THIS HAS CHANGED.



SO THE RED IS -- HAVING A NEGATIVE LGBTQ POLICY ON A COUPLE OF KEY AREAS OF LAW AND POLICY WHICH I WILL GO INTO IN A MINUTE.

ORANGE IS LOW.

UP TO GREEN WHICH IS THE HIGHEST.

SO YOU WILL SEE THAT -- MANY OF THE STATES WHICH WERE LIGHT GREEN OR DARKER GREEN HAVE GONE UP TO, TO -- A HIGHER POLICY PROTECTION FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE.

BUT MANY STATES IN THE CENTER AND, OF THE COUNTRY AND THE LOWER HALF OF THE COUNTRY ARE STILL IN RED.

AND NEGATIVE POLICY TOTALS.

BUT THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.

BREAKING THIS DOWN INTO SEXUAL OR YEN TAGS VERSUS GENDER IDENTITY.

ON THE TOP YOU CAN SEE THE NUMBER OF STATES IN 2010 THAT HAD NEGATIVE LGBTQ LAWS AND POLICIES.

THAT DROPPED DRAMATICALLY FROM 17 TO 2 FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION ON THE TOP.

IT DROPPED ALSO FOR GENDER IDENTITY FROM 45 TO 18.

HOWEVER YOU WILL STILL SEE THERE IS A LOT MORE IN THE NEGATIVE COLUMN FOR GENDER IDENTITY.

SO, GENDER IDENTITY HAS BEEN A TARGET OF -- THIS CURRENT ADMINISTRATION --

AND IT HAS BEEN -- THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

THAT HAVE -- INTRODUCED NEGATIVE LAWS AND POLICIES THAT, THAT WILL HARM PARTICULARLY TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY PEOPLE.

SO LOOKING AT THE KEY AREAS OF THIS STUDY LOOKED AT.

THESE ARE THE KEY AREAS OF LAW AND POLICY.

THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON LGBTQ+ PEOPLE.

FIRST WANT TO MENTION IS CRIMINAL JUSTICE STILL MANY, MANY LAWS ON THE BOOKS THAT CRIMINALIZE HIV SO THIS IS SOMETHING THAT -- I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT BEFORE THE, BEFORE RESEARCHING THIS.

AND I HAVE TO MENTION THAT I AM NOT AN EXPERT ON, ON LAWS AND POLICY VERSUS JUST A -- A COLLECTION OF RESEARCH.

THERE IS A LOT OF RESEARCH BEEN DONE IN THIS AREA.

SO CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

THERE HAS BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT.

SO IF YOU CAN SEE THIS IS A AGAIN, FROM 2010 TO 2020.

HOW THINGS HAVE IMPROVED.

SLIGHTLY.

AND IN THE STATES OF THE U.S.

IN HEALTH CARE, THERE HAS BEEN A LOT LARGER IMPROVEMENT,  
WITH THE, INTRODUCTION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WHICH,  
PREVENTED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GENDER IDENTITY IN HEALTH  
CARE.

WHICH IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT.

BUT THERE IS, THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF CHALLENGES AROUND  
HEALTH CARE AND MEDICALLY NECESSARY HEALTH CARE THAT  
TRANSPeOPLE ARE BEING EXCLUDED FROM.

THIRD RELATIONSHIPS AND PARENTAL RECOGNITION.

IN 2015, GAY MARRIAGE WAS LEGALIZED IT WAS WONDERFUL.

AND IT WAS -- IT HAD ERASE AID LOT OF STATE LAWS THAT HAD  
BANNED, SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.

SO THERE WAS A, A BIG IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONSHIP LAWS.

HOWEVER, PARENTAL RECOGNITION STILL A PATCHWORK OF LAWS  
THAT RELATE TO ADOPTION PROCESSES FOR SAME-SEX PARTNERS,  
AND, RECOGNIZING THE DIVERSITY OF LGBTQ+ FAMILIES.

WE ALSO HAVE LGBTQ YOUTH.

SO ONE OF THE BIG IMPROVEMENTS HERE WAS THAT 18 STATES HAVE  
NOW BANNED CONVERSION THERAPY WHICH IS A HARMFUL PRACTICE  
TO TRY TO CHANGE YOUTHS GENDER IDENTITY OR SEXUAL  
ORIENTATION.

THERE ARE STILL STATES THAT DO NOT PROTECT THAT.

THERE HAS BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.

NONDISCRIMINATION, THIS SHOWS AN IMPROVEMENT, BUT IT DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THE JULY 2020 SUPREME COURT RULING THAT INCLUDED EMPLOYMENT, NONDISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR BOTH SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY.

SO A HUGE WIN THAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR.

AND OUTLINES AGAIN, WHY THE SUPREME COURT IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF, OF, PROTECTIONS FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLE.

LAST THING, IDENTITY DOCUMENTS.

SO THIS IS -- POLICIES THAT HELP MAKE IT EASIER FOR, PEOPLE WHO WANT TO CHANGE THEIR GENDER IDENTITY ON THEIR DOCUMENTS TO BE ABLE TO DO SOME WHAT EASILY.

THERE WAS A LOT OF IMPROVEMENTS TO HELP MANY STATES CHANGE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS.

SO ONE AREA WHICH DID NOT IMPROVE WAS RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LAWS.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LAWS ARE -- POLICIES AND LAWS THAT ALLOW PEOPLE TO DISCRIMINATE BASED ON RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

AND SO -- IN 2010 THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN ONE STATE THAT HAD A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LAW.

A PUSH OF NEW RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LAWS BEING ADDED TO THE

STATES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

12 STATES HAVE ADDED LAWS FOR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION.

THERE IS CONCERN THERE WILL BE MORE IF THERE IS A NEW  
CONSERVATIVE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ADDED.

SO THIS IS A SLIDE HAT SHOWS THE SOCIAL CONTEXT.

SO WE HAVE STILL THIS MYRIAD OF LAWS.

THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE  
WHO ANSWERED THE QUESTION, HOMOSEXUALITY SHOULD BE ACCEPTED  
IN SOCIETY.

YOU CAN SEE THEY STARTED, TRACKING THIS DATA IN 1994.

WITH, 49% OF AMERICANS SAYING, IT SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED.  
IN SOCIETY.

AND SLOW LOW THAT DROPPED DOWN.

AND INCREASED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO FELT THAT  
HOMOSEXUALITY SHOULD BE ACCEPTED IN SOCIETY.

NOW AT 72% OF THE POPULATION OF THE U.S.

BELIEVES THAT HOMOSEXUALITY SHOULD BE ACCEPTED.

THIS IS A HUGE IMPROVEMENT.

NOT NECESSARILY REFLECTED IN ALL OF THE LAWS.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR -- FOR  
PEOPLE, NOT JUST IN -- WHEN THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT  
PARTICULAR LAW, AN LGBTQ POSITIVE LAW CAN IMPROVE THE LIVES

OF LGBTQ+ PEOPLE FAR BEYOND LEGAL PROTECTIONS.

SO THERE IS MANY STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE --

THEY HAVE SHOWN THAT LGBTQ+ PROTECTIVE LAWS REDUCE THE RATES OF HATE CRIME, THEY HAVE ALSO FOUND THAT -- PEOPLE REPORT BETTER HEALTH AND WELL BEING, LGBTQ+ PEOPLE REPORT BETTER HEALTH IN STATES THAT HAVE PROTECTIVE LAWS.

WHEN THERE WERE STATE-LEVEL BANS ON GAY MARRIAGE, THIS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ALCOHOL DISORDERS BY NEARLY 2.5 TIMES FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE.

AND OTHER STATES THAT HAD EXTENDED THAT MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES SAW A 7% DECREASE IN SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY ADOLESCENTS.

SO, IT IS NOT RELATED TO BEING ABLE TO GET MARRIED BUT JUST HAVING LAWS THAT IMPROVE, IMPROVE LIVES AND MAKE PEOPLE FEEL PROTECTED HAS A MAJOR IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELL BEING. SO, THAT'S ALL OF THE LEGAL CONTEXT.

NOW I WANT TO TELL YOU MY STORY.

SO THIS IS ME.

IN THE MIDDLE.

I CAME OUT IN 2004 WHEN I WAS AT UVA.

AND I HAD DATED ONLY MEN PREVIOUSLY.

AND WHEN I WAS COMING OUT IN MY SENIOR YEAR OF COLLEGE I

HAD COME OUT AS BISEXUAL AND JOINED THE QUEER STUDENT UNION.

AND IT WAS -- IT WAS LOOK REALLY EXCITING TO JOIN A COMMUNITY.

BUT I FELT VERY ALONE.

SO I HAD LONG HAIR AS YOU CAN SEE.

I DRESSED VERY FEMININE.

AND I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I KNEW ANYONE WHO WAS LIKE ME.

EVERYONE THAT I KNEW AT QUEER STUDENT UNION WAS IN A COUPLE.

THERE WAS ONE OTHER LESBIAN WHO WAS SINGLE WHO I DIDN'T WANT TO DATE.

AND SO I, I JUST FELT LIKE I HAD NO IDEA WHERE I WAS GOING TO FIND ANY, ANYONE TO DATE.

AND SO, I REALLY THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT LIKE HOW I PRESENTED MYSELF AND HOW PEOPLE SAW ME.

AND I REALLY FELT INVISIBLE AT THE BEGINNING.

I FELT LIKE A NEED FOR CONNECTION.

SO ONCE I STARTED DATING MY FIRST GIRLFRIEND WHO ENDED UP BEING MY ROOMMATE WHO IS ON THIS CALL, HI, SARAH, STILL MY BEST FRIEND.

WHEN I JOINED HER IN HARTFORD CONNECTICUT, I REALLY DOVE

INTO THE, THE GAY COMMUNITY.

AND I SURROUNDED MYSELF WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE LIKE ME, I STARTED GOING TO PRIDE, AND, I ALSO STARTED PHOTOGRAPHING THE COMMUNITY AROUND ME.

SO I WENT TO THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE NORTHAMPTON DYKE MARCH IN 2009, ALSO THE YEAR THAT I MOVED.

I MOVED TO JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, AND I WAS THERE FOR WORK.

BUT I ALSO JOINED A GAY COMMUNITY.

SO THE VERY FIRST WEEK THAT I, THAT I GOT THERE, I WAS INTRODUCED TO A, LIKE A LESBIAN DINNER, 10 LESBIANS.

IT WAS JUST LIKE THE NICEST WAY TO COME INTO A NEW CITY WHERE I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY, IN A WHOLE ANOTHER COUNTRY. RIGHT OUT OF THAT I JOINED A LESBIAN SOCCER TEAM.

AND FOUND A COMMUNITY.

AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I STARTED DOING IS I STARTED PHOTOGRAPHING PRIDE.

AND THE GAY COMMUNITY.

SO THIS IS -- PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CHOSEN FEW WHICH IS A BLACK LESBIAN SOCCER TEAM THAT SENDS PEOPLE TO THE WORLD CUP OR THE GAY GAMES WORLD CUP.



AND THE -- THE STARK DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOW MY BLACK LESBIAN FRIENDS AND WHITE LESBIAN FRIENDS WERE TREATED WAS INCREDIBLY APPARENT.

ONE OF THE THINGS I LEARNED ABOUT WHEN I MOVED THERE THE PRACTICE OF CORRECTIVE RAPE.

AND CORRECTIVE RAPE IS A TERM WHERE IT IS A HATE CRIME THAT IS PERPETRATED AGAINST NONGENDER CONFORMING WOMEN AND LESBIANS PRIMARILY BLACK WOMEN IN TOWNSHIPS.

AND IT IS A REALLY HORRIFIC CRIME.

AND THESE -- AND IT WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM MY EXPERIENCES AS A WHITE PERSON.

SO A LOT OF THESE -- THESE, USE -- YOU KNOW, TOUCH ME AS A PERSON WHO IS -- PRIVILEGED.

MUCH MORE DIFFERENTLY THAN PEOPLE WHO ARE TRANS, OR PEOPLE WHO ARE OF COLOR.

ARE AFFECTED BY LIVING IN SIMILAR SOCIETY.

THIS IS IN A COUNTRY WHERE IT IS PROTECTED IN THE CONSTITUTION AND THERE IS -- THE RIGHT TO -- SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.

IN 2017, I FOUND MY WAY TO A PLUM VILLAGE RETREAT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD COME TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH LARRY AND

PEGGY WARD AND SISTER PEACE.

AND I JUST REALLY DOVE INTO A PRACTICE RIGHT AWAY.

I JUST FELT LIKE IT WAS A WAY TO REALLY FIND MYSELF.

AND, THAT WAS IN 2017.

IN 2018, I DECIDED TO MOVE BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

AND TO WASHINGTON DECEMBER TAOES TO BE CLOSER TO MY FAMILY.

MY PARENTS ARE HERE, HI, MOM, DAD.

AND THE DAY BEFORE I MOVED -- I HAD TAKEN MY -- MY BEST

FRIEND NICKI TO GET ALL OF HER HAIRCUT OFF.

SHE HAD LONG HAIR.

SHE DECIDED SHE WAS CUTTING IT OFF.

AND --

SHE LOOKED SO HAPPY WHEN SHE CUT ALL HER HAIR OFF THAT I

JUST SAID, WHY HAVE I NEVER CUT ALL OF MY HAIR OFF, YOU

KNOW I HAD LONG HAIR UP TO THAT POINT.

AND -- I HAD ALWAYS HAD THIS SORT OF FEELING OF

INVISIBILITY.

LIKE I WASN'T SEEN BY MY COMMUNITY.

THAT I WASN'T RECOGNIZED.

AND SO, ON A WHIM, THE DAY BEAVER I FLEW, I CUT ALL MY HAIR

OFF.

SO THIS IS THE PHOTO RIGHT AFTER I CUT ALL MY HAIR OFF.

AND IT IS, HAS JUST BEEN SO NICE TO HAVE -- RECOGNITION  
FROM MY COMMUNITY.

AND SO THAT --

THAT, THAT'S MY STORY OF, TO 2018.

AND SO NOW -- I WANT TO SHOW YOU A LITTLE BIT OF --

WHY I DID WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY.

THIS IS A, ONE OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES.

TRUE LOVE IS LIKE THE SUN, SHINING WITH ITS OWN LIGHT, AND  
OFFERING THAT LIGHT TO EVERYONE.

SO, WHEN I STARTED PHOTOGRAPHING WEDDINGS, IN SOUTH AFRICA,  
I DID A SEARCH FOR TO FIND WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO ARE  
ALSO PHOTOGRAPHING SAME-SEX WEDDINGS BECAUSE IT WAS LEGAL  
THERE IT HAD BEEN SINCE 2007.

I REALLY EXPECTED TO FIND SOME.

I FOUND A WEBSITE WHICH HAD A LIST OF THREE PHOTOGRAPHERS  
THAT THEY RECOMMENDED THAT WERE ON THIS GAY WEDDING  
PLANNING WEBSITE.

ALL THREE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS HAD USED HETEROSEXUAL  
COUPLES AS THEIR EXAMPLE IMAGES.

I WAS SO UPSET AND OFFENDED BY THIS THAT I DECIDED I HAD TO  
SPECIALIZE IN SAME-SEX WEDDINGS.

SO I DECIDED I WANTED TO BE THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICA BASED

LGBTQ+ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER WHO SPECIALIZED AND CENTERED  
THESE LOVE STORIES.

BECAUSE WEDDINGS FOR ME, IT'S LIKE --

IT'S THIS BEAUTIFUL SPACE IN TIME WHERE YOU HAVE ALL OF  
YOUR FRIENDS AND ALL OF YOUR FAMILY, OFTEN MEETING FOR THE  
FIRST TIME.

AND CELEBRATING LOVE.

IT IS A TIME THAT SHOULD BE JOYFUL.

AND -- AND HAPPY, AND SURROUNDED BY -- BY LOVING.

FROM YOUR FAMILY AND FRIEND.

SADLY I HAD LOTS OF -- COUPLES WHO HAD PARENTS WHO REFUSED  
TO COME TO THEIR WEDDINGS.

OR -- FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE REALLY DIFFICULT TO THEM.

IT WAS REALLY HARD TO SEE YOU KNOW THE, THE PAINFUL EFFECT  
THAT FAMILY MEMBERS CAN HAVE JUST BY REJECTING THEIR  
CHILDREN AND THEIR LOVE.

SO THAT'S WHY I DESIGNED TO, TO FOCUS ON -- LGBTQ WEDDINGS.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF MY PHOTOGRAPHS OF COUPLES THAT I  
HAVE SHOT OVER THE YEARS.

AND, WHAT I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH IS THIS QUOTE.

YOUR PURPOSE IS TO BE YOURSELF.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN ANYWHERE TO BECOME SOMEONE ELSE.

YOU ARE WONDERFUL JUST AS YOU ARE.

THANK YOU, MY NAME IS LAUREN BARKUME, YOU CAN FIND ME AT  
LAUREN BARKUME.COM.

AND I WILL PASS IT ON TO HAIAN.

>> THANK YOU, LAUREN, SO NICE TO GET TO KNOW YOU A BIT  
MORE.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE INFORMATION AND PERSONAL LIFE.  
BEFORE I START SHARING I JUST WANT TO GIVE US A MOMENT TO  
BREATHE.

AND SEE WHAT'S LANDING IN OUR BODIES BECAUSE WITH YOUR  
GORGEOUS PHOTOS AND STORY, I FELT A LOT OF UPLIFT.

WITH ALL OF THE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS WAS DEFINITELY  
FEELING SOME, SOME PAIN AND SORROW.

AND LIMITATIONS.

I IMAGINE I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE.

WHO WOULD LIKE A FEW BREATHS.

I WILL INVITE A SOUND OF THE BELL.

AND WE CAN JUST ENJOY THAT.

AND GET CURIOUS ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCE.

(BELL TOLLS) DEAR TEACHER IN ALL OF US, DEAR TEACHER THICH  
NHAT HANH.

I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED.

THANK YOU TO THE ORGANIZERS OF MAKING-VISIBLE, ESPECIALLY, ADRIANA AND ANNIE FOR THE INVITATION AND THANKS FOLKS FOR SHOWING UP.

I AM GOING TO SHARE STORIES.

I DON'T HAVE, I AM JUST, YEAH, AGAIN SO GRATEFUL, LAUREN FOR YOU TO HAVE REALLY TAKEN US IN AND GIVEN US CONTEXT AND GIVEN THAT THIS IS A LARGELY BUDDHIST COMMUNITY, I AM GOING TO BE SHARING LARGE LOW AROUND MY EXPERIENCE AS A MONASTIC. AND QUEERNESS IN -- IN BUDDHIST CONTEXT, ESPECIALLY A CONVERT BUDDHIST CONTEXT, WESTERN PRACTITIONER, WHITE PRACTITIONER, HOPEFULLY MAKING PARALLELS AND CONNECTIONS BEYOND MY OWN PERSONAL VERSION OF EXPERIENCE.

SO I WAS GOING TO START WITH RETREATS, BUT, YOU KNOW WHEN WE HEAR ABOUT WHEN PEOPLE CAME OUT THAT IS USUALLY, THAT IS OFTEN WHERE WE HEAR STORIES SORT OF BEGIN WHEN WE ARE HEARING SORT OF QUEER HISTORIES.

BUT OF COURSE THERE IS SO MUCH BEFORE THAT.

AND, WHAT IT MEANS ALL OF OUR TIME BEFORE COMING OUT I WAS RAISED IN A MIDDLE-CLASS WHITE FAMILY IN THE SUBURBS OF WINDSOR INDUSTRIAL CITY IN THE SOUTHERN TIP OF CANADA, SOUTH OF DETROIT.

AND YOU KNOW I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

BUT I ALSO WITNESSED THE ONLY PERSON WHO WAS SO EFFEMINATE  
IN MY HIGH SCHOOL HE COULDN'T BE IN THE CLOSET.

I WITNESSED THE VIOLENCE HE EXPERIENCED.

AND HIM DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL THE HARASSMENT WAS SO BAD.

I NEVER SAID IT OUTLOUD, I JUST KNEW I COULDN'T COME OUT  
UNTIL I WAS LATE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

AND IT JUST WASN'T A WEIGHT IT WAS THIS REALITY OF, OH THAT  
IS JUST HOW IT IS.

AND AGAIN, RECENTLY REALIZING OH MY FIRST LOVE WAS MY BEST  
FRIEND WHO WASN'T IN LOVE BACK WITH ME.

SO MY, MY MONTHS OF CRYING HEARTBREAK OF MY FIRST, MY FIRST  
BROKEN HEART, IT DIDN'T DAWN ON ME THAT I COULD TELL ANYONE  
ELSE.

THAT WAS JUST THIS NORMALITY THAT -- THAT I HAVE REALIZED  
AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE, LIKE ACTUALLY, THERE IS, THERE  
IS -- STUFF THERE THAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF EVEN  
WITHOUT SOME OF THE MORE OVERT VIOLENCE THAT, THAT OTHER  
FRIENDS AND FOLKS EXPERIENCED.

JUST LOOK THERE WERE SO MANY NUANCES THERE.

I AM TALKING A LOT OF THE SMALLER NUANCES.

BUT I STILL WANT TO NAME THERE, THERE IS JUST SO MANY  
DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES.

I WAS RAISED CHRISTIAN.

I LEFT THE TRADITION WHEN I WAS 13.

AND, IMMEDIATELY STARTED LOOKING FOR SPIRITUAL PRACTICE,  
WAS REALLY DRAWN TO PAGANISM.

I SAW AN EMBRACING OF THE FEMININE.

I SAW A VERY SQUIRE FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

BUZZ I JUST WANTED NOTHING.

I KNEW THAT I WANTED -- SPIRITUAL TRADITION.

I KNEW THAT I WANT AID COMMUNITY.

AND I KNEW THAT I HAD NO INTEREST IN JOINING ANOTHER  
TRADITION.

THAT WAS GOING TO DISMISS AND DISCREDIT MY OWN EXPERIENCE,  
HALF THE HUMAN RACE, I DIDN'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE NEAR IT.

I REALLY ENJOYED A LOT OF THE TIMES IN COMMUNITY AND  
COLLECTIVE RITUAL, IN MY DAILY LIFE I WAS STILL LOOKING  
FOR, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TRANSLATE IT OUTSIDE OF FORMAL  
RITUAL TIME.

I CAME ACROSS ONE OF THICH NHAT HANH'S POEMS ON THE  
INTERNET.

BLEW ME AWAY.

I STARTED READING.

I'VE GOT SO EXCITEDMENT I STARTED GOING TO MEDITATION



RETREATS .

AND THEN I WAS LIKE, OH, WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

AND I REALLY WAS ON SOMEWHAT HIGH ALERT IS THIS GOING TO BE ANOTHER PLACE THAT LOOKS GOOD AND, IS ACTUALLY GOING TO BE REALLY HOMOPHONING AND TRANS-PHOBIC?

SO I JUST HAD THIS CLEAR MEMORY ON MY FIRST RETREAT WITH ANY MONASTIC PRESENCE, I HAD THE CHANCE TO GO TO, THAILAND WHERE, IT IS A, FAIRLY FAMOUS MONASTERY.

AND I MEAN I WAS IN THE WESTERNER ENGLISH RETREAT SIDE, BUT SOME OF THE MONASTICS WOULD COME OVER TO GIVE TEACHINGS. ONE OF THE DAYS THERE WAS A TALK THAT WAS REALLY, REALLY SEXIST.

AND I WAS THEN, ALSO WHEN I GOT THERE, I REALIZED THAT THE DORMS WERE SEPARATED BY GENDERMENT I WAS LIKE WHERE ARE THE TRANS FOLKS GOING TO GO.

JUST ALL OF THE STUFF AROUND CELIBACY, HETERONORMATIVITY, I WAS SO EXCITED.

I DON'T WANT ANY OF THIS STUFF?

LIKE I REALLY, I, I -- I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE RETREAT.

I WAS SO MAD.

BUT I GOT TO TALK TO ONE OF THE SORT OF ASSISTANT TEACHERS WHO WAS LIKE, YEAH, THERE IS A LOT OF PROBLEMS HERE.

AND THE PRACTICE IS REALLY AMAZING.

SINCE YOU ARE HERE YOU COULD FINISH THE RETREAT AND GO DO SOMETHING WITH WHAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT SEXISM AND BUDDHISM AND HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA, I WAS LIKE, OH, OKAY.

AND I DID STAY AND I JUST, I FELT SO -- FELL SO IN LOVE WITH THE PRACTICE.

ALWAYS THIS CONFLICT OF I CAN'T EVEN BE FULLY MYSELF AND LOVED ONES OF MINE WOULDN'T EVEN COME BECAUSE I HAD A NUMBER OF GOOD FRIENDS WHO HAD TRANSITIONED OR WHO WERE MORE, MUCH MORE GENDER FLUIDLY, NONBINARY THAN MYSELF, WHERE I WAS LIKE, WELL, DON'T, NOT REALLY ONE OR THE OTHER. BUT IT -- I DON'T PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE GENDER DYSMORPHIA, THE PAINFUL EXPERIENCE OF BEING PERCEIVED AS -- AS A DIFFERENT GENDER THAN WHAT ONE LIVES.

I HAD FRIENDS WHO LIVED THAT REALLY ACUTELY.

SO I KNEW THAT -- THAT WASN'T MY EXPERIENCE.

BUT -- I WAS QUITE, QUITE ATTENTIVE TO SPACES AND GENDER DIVISIONS, SEGREGATION, AND, SO I ALWAYS FELT CONFLICTED.

I ALWAYS FELT CONFLICTED.

MY HEART WAS MOVED BY THE TEACHINGS AND LIFE WAS TRANSFORMED BY THE PRACTICES.

AND, SO COMING ACROSS THAI'S TEACHING'S AND I SAW HE WAS

COMING IN 2005 TO TEACH RETREATS IN NORTH AMERICA, I REALLY WANT TO GO.

I HADN'T CLUED INTO IT BEING SO MONASTIC, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GETTING IN FOR.

ON THE REGISTRATION PAGE, I SAW LOOK THEY HAD CHOICES OF WHAT KIND OF DISCUSSION GROUPS YOU COULD BE IN.

SO THERE WAS AN LGBTQ+ DISCUSSION GROUP.

I WAS LIKE THIS IS GREAT.

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY WELCOMING COMMUNITY.

AND -- ALSO NOTICING THERE IS A LOT OF VERY WHITE BUDDHISM, WHITE UPPER MIDDLE-CLASS BUDDHISM.

I SAW THERE IS A RETREAT OFFERED BEFORE THE RETREAT AT DEER PARK.

AWESOME.

SEEMS LIKE REALLY GOOD SIGNS.

THAT FIRST DISCUSSION GROUP WAS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR ME BECAUSE I WAS JUST -- I JUST FELT, LIKE, OH IT LOOKS GOOD.

BUT YOU KNOW ARE THERE GOING TO BE DAGGERS?

COMING OUT FROM BEHIND BACKS, YOU KNOW?

I HAD HEARD THE COMMENTS, THE DALI

LLAMA MADE, 2003, 2004, HOMOPHOBIA STATEMENTS.

IF THIS GUY IS SAYING THAT STUFF IT COULD BE ANYWHERE.

YEAH, JUST TO SAY THERE WAS ALWAYS THIS TENSION.

YET THE DHARMA DREW ME IN SO DEEP FROM THE START EVEN BEFORE MY FIRST RETREAT.

REMEMBER TELLING A FRIEND, DO YOU THINK I WANT TO BECOME A MONASTIC, THAT IS INSANE, I WOULD NEVER DO THAT.

THAT'S THE LAST THING I AM INTERESTED IN.

THIS IDEA KEEPS COMING TO MY MIND.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW IF IT IS ANCESTRAL, OR KARMIC, I DON'T KNOW WHAT, BUT MORE LIKE THE DRAW TO MONASTICISM, HAPPENED TO ME MORE SO THAN SOMETHING THAT I THOUGHT THROUGH AND CHOSE.

SO THAT EVEN MY FIRST VISITS TO PLUM VILLAGE, I WAS -- OVER THE MOON DELIGHTED TO GET TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF THICH NHAT HANH, I WENT TO PLUM VILLAGE FOR THREE MONTHS IN WINTER OF '06-'07.

MY FIRST LONG STAY.

TO STAY THERE YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE, REGISTER TO STAY WITH THE MONKS IN UPPER HAMLET, MILES AWAY FROM THE SISTERS AT LOWER AND NEW HAMLET AND ALL THE, YOU CAN'T, EVEN THE GUESTS SORT OF HAD PRESSURE TO UPHOLD THE GENDER DIVISIONS THAT ALWAYS JUST FELT AWFUL.

AND YET THICH NHAT HANH WAS THE WISEST TEACHER I HAD EVER

COME ACROSS.

AND ALL OF MY OTHER INTERESTS AND FORAYS INTO COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ACTIVISM HAD SUCH A NEGATIVE SPIRAL OF ANALYTICAL, CRITIQUE, LIKE, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE THAN CRITIQUING EVERYTHING.

I WAS BURNING OUT, VERY, VERY QUICKLY.

WELL I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING MORE.

I JUST NEED TO EXPLORE THIS EVEN THOUGH --

THERE IS PROBLEMS AND OVER THE YEARS --

THE CALL JUST GOT STRONGER AND STRONGER.

I ACTUALLY HAD A PARTNER AT THE TIME WHEN THE CALL TO ORDANE JUST STARTED BECOMING A SCREAM RATHER THAN A WHISPER.

ACTUALLY, WITH THAT PARTNER, ON OUR VERY FIRST DATE BEFORE, OBVIOUSLY WE WERE PARTNERS, WE WERE POLYAMOROUS, SHE HAD A PARTNER AT THE TIME.

I SAID THAT'S AWESOME.

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DHARMA IS A BIG PART OF MY LIFE.

THOUGH I WASN'T DATING SOMEONE ELSE.

THIS IS GREAT, WE REALLY HAVE TWO -- BOTH HAVE TWO SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS.

THAT FEELS BALANCED.

I WAS HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

THAT'S HOW I SAW THE DHARMA IN MY LIFE AT THAT TIME.

AND I TOLD MY PARTNER -- LIKE, JUST SO YOU KNOW IT IS  
PROBABLY NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN.

BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN I DREAM ABOUT BECOMING A MONASTIC  
AND I GO ON RETREATS A LOT.

YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW THIS ABOUT ME.

SO EVEN IN THE LAST RELATIONSHIP, I KNEW IT WAS SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT TO SAY YET PART OF ME NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD  
HAPPEN.

YET, A KNEW YEARS LATER THE CALL JUST GOT REALLY, REALLY  
LOUD.

SO I WENT BACK TO PLUM VILLAGE.

I BROCK UP.

I GOT RID OF MY JOB.

AND MY CAR.

AND, IT WAS THIS WHOLE THING.

AND WHEN I WOULD WITNESS ORDINATION CEREMONIES, THE  
CEREMONY MOVED ME TO NO END.

THEN I WITNESSED MY FIRST FULL ORDINATION CEREMONY WHERE  
THERE WERE QUESTIONS OF ARE YOU A HERMEPHRADITE, ALSO ARE  
YOU A GHOST?

THERE IS ALL THESE THINGS.

AND IT WAS, THERE WAS PARTS OF IT THAT WERE --

QUITE CONSCIOUSLY LIKE -- WHAT?

YET, I KNEW ABOUT OTHER TRADITIONS IN SOME TRADITIONS THEY  
WON'T OR DANE ANYONE WHO IS QUEER, DEFINITELY NOT, STILL  
MOST TRADITIONS WON'T ORDANE ANY ONE, IT IS WRITTEN, IN THE  
WHOLE CELIBACY THING IS BUILT AROUND TWO SEPARATE GENDERS,  
AND HETERO-NORMATIVITY, FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T AWARE OF THE  
WORD, IT MEANS HAVING THE NORM BEING HETEROSEXUALITY AND  
EVERYTHING BASED AROUND IT.

AND AT SOME POINT I HAD INSPIRATION LIKE I CAN HELP CHANGE  
THIS.

JUST, JUST -- OF ALL OF THE THINGS TO PUT LIVENER GEE TO  
THAT'S JUST WHAT GOT ME REALLY PASSIONATE, I LOVE THESE  
PRACTICES, I THINK THIS IS WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS.

THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS I WILL JOIN SO I CAN HELP CHANGE  
IT.

AND I REALLY WANTED TO MAKE CHANGE FOR MORE GENDER

AND -- AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION INCLUSIVITY, AND SO, I  
ORDANED, WHICH IS, ITSELF WAS A YEAR'S LONG PROCESS.

NOT LOOK YOU JUST SHOW UP AND THEY ORDANE YOU, A YEAR AND A  
HALF PROCESS.

I HAD WRITTEN INTO LETTERS, MENTIONING MY QUEERNESS BECAUSE

I JUST WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR IF THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT  
WON'T ORDANE HOMOSEXUALS GREAT.

I AM LEAVING.

LIKE I WAS JUST, I WAS SO CLEAR ON THAT.

I DIDN'T WANT TO JOIN, PERPETUATE, CONDONE, OR AVOID.

THAT'S WHERE I WAS.

AND SO I THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY CLEAR.

AND JUST TO ADD THAT IT WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS IN THAT I FOUND  
OUT THERE WAS QUITE A BIT OF CONTROVERSY BETWEEN SOME OF  
THE NUNS WHO DIDN'T WANT TO ORDANE ME, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY  
IN THE END THEY WERE WON OVER BY OTHERS.

BUT THERE WERE ALL THESE -- THAT WAS LATER DOWN THE ROAD.

BUT THERE ARE OTHER FACTS LIKE AT PLUM VILLAGE THERE WAS  
THE --

UPDATING OF THE MONASTIC CODE.

DONE ABOUT, 18 YEARS AGO.

THE ONLY COMMUNITY THAT HAS EVER DONE THIS INTENTIONALLY.

I LOVED THAT ABOUT THICH NHAT HANH, IN THE MONASTIC CODE,  
SELL BASE IS PART OF THE PRACTICE, STRONG RULES AGAINST ANY  
TYPE OF SEXUAL CONTACT.

AND AS CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS, I ACTUALLY FOUND IT VERY

PROGRESSIVE THAT IN THE UPDATE OF THE RULES, WHERE



TRADITIONALLY, OPPOSITE SEX, SEXUAL RELATIONS WERE MUCH MORE PUNISHABLE WHEREAS SAME-SEX RELATIONS WERE MISDEMEANORS BASICALLY.

IN THE UPDATE AT PLUM VILLAGE THEY MADE THEM ALL THE SAME. SAME-SEX AND OPPOSITE SEX.

WHICH, TO OUTSIDE MAY SOUND KIND OF CRAZY A AGAIN I THOUGHT IT WAS LIKE, OH, THAT'S, ACTUALLY -- FOR TRADITIONAL CELIBATE COMMUNITY PRETTY PROGRESSIVE TO, TO NOT BE DIFFERENTIATING.

SO I HAD BEEN LOOKING, I THOUGHT I HAD DONE MY RESEARCH. GREAT, I THINK THIS IS A REALLY QUEER FRIENDLY SPACE AS MUCH AS YOU ARE GOING TO GET IN A FAIRLY TRADITIONAL MONASTIC COMMUNITY.

I ORDANED, STARTED GETTING ALL OF THE TRAINING IN, MONASTIC ETIQUETTE, THE MAJORITY OF TRAINING WE GET.

IT WAS ALL, LARGELY AROUND HOW TO BE BEAUTIFUL.

THERE IS A SORT OF HYPER FEMININITY THAT JUST FELT LIKE A STRANGLEHOLD FROM THE BEGINNING.

I WAS NEVER SUPER BUTCH, NEVER SUPER FEM, SORT OF ANDROGYNOUS IN MY PRESENTATION AND PLAYED A LOT WITH GENDER PRESENTATION.

BUT THE CONSTANT LOOK, OH, NO, WALK WITH SHORTER STEPS

BECAUSE IT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL.

AND YOU SHOULD, YOU KNOW, SMILE MORE BECAUSE IT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL.

AND SO THAT -- I WAS JUST LIKE WHERE AM I?

I STARTED NOTICING BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WITH, THE SAME HAIRCUT AND THE SAME ROBE, PEOPLE WERE JUST ASSUMING I WAS STRAIGHT LEFT AND RIGHT WHICH FOR ME WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY NEW.

I USED TO HAVE LOTS OF PIERCINGS, SPIKY HAIR, COMBAT BOOTS, AND FIVE PATTERNS OF CLOTHING.

I LOOKED --

OUTSIDE OF THE NORM OF MANY -- MANY, BLUE, PURPLE, GREEN HAIR IF I HAD HAIR.

YOU KNOW I WAS -- DEFINITELY NOT LOOKING TO, TO MATCH UP TO ANY FEMININE IDEAL, STANDARDS.

USUALLY I WAS TAKEN AS QUEER.

IT WAS SO STRANGE AND KIND OF PAINFUL IN THE MONASTERY.

I WAS HAPPY TO BE CELIBATE.

BUT TO NOT, TO NOT BE RECOGNIZED AND NOT FEEL A CONNECTION TO QUEER COMMUNITY WAS ACTUALLY INCREDIBLY PAINFUL.

BUT I STILL HAD A SENSE OF LOOK I CAN HELP MAKE IT BETTER.

AND I, YOU KNOW, I WAS HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH SOME MOON

ASICS.

AND I WAS ABLE, ESPECIALLY TO TALK TO GUESTS.

WHO CAME AND WERE HAVING SOME OF THEIR OWN GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION STUFF COMING UP AND JUST TO BE ABLE TO SAY LIKE, HEY, I'M PART OF THE QUEER COMMUNITY IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO SOMEBODY, TOTALLY HAPPY TO SIT WITH YOU.

IT WAS SO POWERFUL TO GET TO OFFER THAT WHICH I STILL REGRET I'M NOT IN THE MONASTERIES TO HAVE THAT PRESENCE.

AND YET, I WANTED TO END WITH TWO STORIES.

THERE WAS, I EVENTUALLY WAS SENT TO BLUE CLIFF MONASTERY. IN 2015, 2016, 2017, I THINK, THERE WERE, MEDITATION SITS ORGANIZED DURING THE PRIDE FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK.

I GOT TO BE PART OF A GROUP THAT WENT.

IT WAS JUST I HAD THIS MOMENT OF LOOK -- OH, MY GOSH, HERE WE ARE IN ROBES LIKE PARTICIPATING IN PRIDE, HELPING TO, TO, WE FELT WE WERE HELPING TO BREAK DOWN SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS TRAUMA.

AND SEPARATION OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND QUEER COMMUNITY. JUST FELT SO MEANINGFUL AND WONDERFUL.

AND THEN THE NEXT, I KNEW THAT WE WERE COMING SORT OF WITH THE PERMISSION AND BLESSING OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AT BLUE CLIFF.

GIVEN PERMISSION TO GO.

HAPPY FOR US TO GO.

AWESOME.

I HAD HEARD LITTLE BITS OF HOMOPHOBIA, WELL PLENTY OF  
TRANS-PHOBIA, ALL COMING UP.

BUT JUST FELT MINOR.

UNTIL I CAME BACK THE NEXT DAY FROM THAT EVENT.

FEELING ON THIS CLOUD NINE OF LIKE, THIS IS MY INTENTION,  
THIS IS AWESOME.

ONE OF THE SENIOR SISTERS BORN AND RAISED IN VIETNAM.

HER ENGLISH IS GOOD, OBVIOUSLY, AT ONE POINT SHE ASKED ME,  
SO WHAT DID YOU GO DO YESTERDAY?

I WAS LIKE, OH, WE WENT TO GAY PRIDE.

AND SHE WAS LIKE, OH, WHAT'S THAT?

I SAID, GAY, LIKE, HOMOSEXUAL.

OH, SHE, WE GOT PERMISSION TO GO, WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING.

IT PROBABLY WASN'T JUST HER.

AND SO, I SAID, GAY PRIDE.

HOMOSEXUALS, YOU KNOW LIKE TRYING TO FIND THE WORDS.

I SAW HER, LIKE THIS, LIKE -- I SAW HER KIND OF FREEZE.  
AND PULL BACK.

I HAD MY OWN LIKE -- OH, GOSH, OH.

I WAS JUST SO -- QUITE STUNNED AND THEN --

WE HAD THIS WHOLE CONVERSATION WHERE SHE BROUGHT UP MORE MOMENTS OF -- OF HOW MUCH HOMOPHOBIA EXISTS IN THE MONASTIC COMMUNITY WHICH WERE KIND OF A PUNCH TO MY STOMACH.

AND YET, BY THE END OF THE CONVERSATION SHE WAS LIKE, OH, WELL, OKAY.

YOU KNOW, LIKE, SHE WASN'T FREAKING OUT.

SHE WASN'T TELLING ANYONE THAT WE WERE GOING TO HELL.

WASN'T LIKE A CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALIST, HOMOPHOBIA, LARGELY LACK OF EXPOSURE KIND OF EXPERIENCE.

WITH HER AND SISTERS THAT I WAS GETTING TO KNOW BETTER WE WERE HAVING CONVERSATIONIZE STILL FELT THIS LIKE, OKAY, IT IS WORTH IT.

AND THEN --

I THINK IT WAS JUST A MONTH LATER ALTHOUGH MAY HAVE BEEN THE NEXT SUMMER, YEARS BLEND INTO EACH OTHER IN THE MONASTERY.

THERE WAS ACTUALLY, YEAH, ONE OF THE SONGAS HAD COME TO VISIT AND FACILITATING THEIR OWN, DISCUSSION GROUP AND INVITED ME TO JOIN THEM.

SO IT WAS GREAT.

I WAS SITTING DOWN.

AND SOME ONE, A MONASTIC LEADING THE DISCUSSION.

THE FIRST TIME I HEARD SOMEONE TO INVITE US TO OFFER OUR GENDER PRONOUNS WITH THE INTRODUCTION.

AND I WAS SO STUNNED, SO MOVED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF IT, THAT WHEN THE CHANCE CAME TO ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.

I DIDN'T EVEN SAY PRONOUNS BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY IN MY MIND.

I WAS LOOK I WOULD LIKE TO ACTUALLY USE THEY, I AM A NUN, EVERYONE CALLS ME SISTER.

I GOT SO USED TO CUTTING OFF PARTS OF MYSELF.

THAT -- THE INTRODUCTIONS WENT AROUND.

THE DISCUSSION STARTED.

FOR AN HOUR I JUST STARTED SOBBING.

I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO STAND UP AND LEAVE.

I WAS LIKE, OH, GOD.

I DENT WANT TO, BUT I -- AND FOR THREE DAYS I ACTUALLY STARTED SOBBING BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED THAT I'M NOT JUST HERE TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, I AM ACTUALLY BEING DAMAGED BY THESE CONSTRICTIVE GENDER NORMS. EVEN THOUGH I INTENTIONALLY WENT IN THINKING I KNOW IT IS NOT GOING TO BE A GOOD FIT IN SOME WAYS BUT I THINK IT IS WORTH IT.

I THINK I KNOW, THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO,  
RIGHT.

AND YET, EVEN THEN --

IT WAS STILL QUITE DAMAGING.

AND IT WASN'T THE ONLY REASON THAT I LEFT.

BUT --

IT WAS ONE OF THEM.

I LOST A SENSE THAT I WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE MUCH  
CHANGE.

AND SAW I HAD TO MAKE THAT BALANCE OF -- MY OWN HEALTH AND  
WELL BEING.

AND I STILL, AND, YOU KNOW I WOULD MEET PEOPLE WHO, WHO  
JUST WOULDN'T GO, COME TO THE MONASTERY BECAUSE IT IS A  
GENDER DIVIDED PLACE.

AND I JUST -- MY HEART BROKE.

BUT I GOT IT.

YEAH, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HELP THIS MORE.

AND STEPS WERE MADE AT BLUE CLIFF, REALLY GOOD STEPS.

BUT IT STILL -- IS FAR FROM REAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY, SO  
I HAVE NO RESOLUTION, NO POINT, NO CONCLUSION, NO THESIS,  
BUT, I JUST WANTED TO -- LIKE SHARE HOW NUANCED AND MIXED  
AND CHALLENGING THE EXPERIENCE CAN BE JUST TO NAME THAT FOR

I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE IF THERE IS AN INVOLVEMENT IN A BUDDHIST OR ANY RELIGIOUS PRACTICE THERE CAN BE DISCOMFORT OR -- DISTANCE OR -- A WHOLE LIKE -- NOT A HOME THAT IS SAFE AND COMFORTABLE.

ESPECIALLY THE MONASTERIES, BUT EVEN -- EVEN OTHER PARTS OF THE -- THE RITUALS AND TRADITIONS AND LANGUAGE AND -- AND SO MUCH THAT, IS HARMFUL AND YET THE POWER OF THE TEACHINGS ARE SO PROFOUND THAT SOME OF US DECIDE TO STILL BE THERE AND SOME DON'T.

AND I JUST HOPE THERE CAN BE UNDERSTANDING AN APPRECIATION THAT -- THAT EVERYONE IS SORTING OUT -- HOW WE NAVIGATE THESE LINES ALL OF THE TIME.

IT IS A LOT OF ENERGY.

AND THAT'S SAID, I WAS COMING IN WITH, EDUCATED WHITE PRIVILEGE.

AND I FACED A LOT LESS BRUNT THAN SOME OTHER FOLKS WHO HAD LESS PRIVILEGE THAN ME.

AND THERE IS, COMPLICATIONS.

MAYBE I CAN JUST END WITH --

I HAD BEEN CONCERNED TO TALK ABOUT THIS IN THE PAST BECAUSE A LOT OF THE HOMOPHOBIA CAME FROM MY VIETNAMESE MONASTIC SIBLINGS, AND JUST BAYS A WHITE PERSON COULD SO EASILY TURN



INTO A RACISM OF LOOK, OH THOSE PEOPLE ARE SO BACKWARD.  
THAT'S NOT, I JUST, I WANT TO SAY THAT'S NOT THE CASE.  
EVERY COMMUNITY IS -- IS FULL OF PEOPLE OF ALL DIFFERENT  
TYPES OF TEMPERAMENTS AND UNDERSTANDING AND IDEOLOGY AND --  
AND YET I FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO NAME THIS EXPERIENCE  
BECAUSE THERE ARE BOUND TO BE OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TO  
THE PRACTICE AND HAD SIMILAR CHALLENGES BUT MIGHT STILL BE  
SITTING THERE GOING, WHY IS THIS SO HARD FOR ME WHEN IT  
SEEMS LIKE IT ISN'T HARD FOR OTHERS.

IT SEEMED WORTH IT TO NAME THIS.

AND I HOPE THAT'S BEEN THE CASE.

AND THANK YOU SO MUCH.

FOR YOUR LISTENING.

>> ANNIE MAHON: DEAR ONES, THANK YOU SO, SO, SO, SO MUCH.  
FOR YOUR SHARINGS, YOUR COURAGEOUS AND BEAUTIFUL STORIES.  
WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE A BREATH AND SIT WITH THREE SOUNDS  
OF THE BELL TO SORT OF ABSORB, SUFFERING AND THE BEAUTY AND  
ALL OF THAT WE HAVE JUST TAKEN IN.

(BELL TOLLS)

(BELL TOLLS)

(BELL TOLLS) (BELL TOLLS) SO, A LOT OF BEAUTIFUL COMMENTS  
IN THE CHAT.

PEOPLE APPRECIATING THESE STORIES.

SO, HOPEFULLY, HAIAN AND LAUREN WILL SEE THOSE.

AND READ THOSE.

APPRECIATION FOR THE COURAGE AND JUST HEARING THE STORIES.

SO, NOW WE CAN OPEN FOR QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS THAT PEOPLE  
HAVE HAD.

IF YOU WANT TO PUT YOUR QUESTION OR YOUR INSIGHT INTO THE  
CHAT, YOU CAN DO THAT.

OR IF -- SEEMS LIKE WE DON'T HAVE TOO, TOO MANY PEOPLE THAT  
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU COULD UNMUTE AND ASK YOUR QUESTION.  
IF OR YOUR COMMENT.

KEEP IN MIND WE ARE RECORDING THIS.

SO THIS IS BEING RECORDED AND WE WILL BE SHARING IT ON THE  
WEBSITE AS WELL AS TO THE

OTHER PEOPLE WHO REGISTERED WHO COULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT.

ADRIANA, DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING ELSE BEFORE WE OPEN  
FOR QUESTION STPH-Z.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: NO, THANK YOU AGAIN, HAIAN,  
LAUREN, IT WAS SO TOUCHING AND BEAUTIFUL.

AND SO, GENEROUS OF-UP TO SHARE WITH US YOUR LIFE STORY AND  
THANK YOU, THANK YOU AGAIN.

NOW I JUST, CAN SAY, ANNIE, I DON'T KNOW IF, IF SOMEONE

WANTS TO AS YOU SAY UNMUTE THEIR, THEIR SELF, AND START TALKING, WE WILL ALSO BE CALLING, CALLS FROM THE, FROM THE CHAT.

SO WE CAN DO ONE-ON-ONE IF SOMEONE WANTS TO OPENMENT I JUST WANT TO ASK THAT LAUREN -- OPEN.

I JUST WANT TO ASK, LAUREN AND HAIAN, IF YOU ARE OKAY WITH THAT SYSTEM?

IF YOU ARE OKAY WITH PEOPLE UNMUTING THEMSELVES AND ASKING, AND SHARE?

AND IF NOT WE CAN GO JUST WITH THE CHAT, WHATEVER YOU PREFER?

>> LAUREN BARKUME: YES THAT WORKS FOR ME BOTH.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, LAUREN.

WE ARE OPEN.

>> THANK YOU TO THE ORGANIZERS FOR THIS VERY PRECIOUS SPACE.

THANK YOU TO LAUREN AND HAIAN FOR THE COURAGE AND THE VULNERABILITY THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT YOURSELF HERE TO BE SO OPEN.

AND LAUREN, THANK YOU FOR INVITING YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND YOUR PARTNER TO BE HERE.

WHO ARE YOUR PARENT, CAN THEY WAVE THEIR HAND AND LET US

REALLY ENJOY KNOWING WHO THEY ARE AND SAYING THANK YOU FOR,  
FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL BEING IN LAUREN, IN CREATING SO MUCH  
KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATING US.

HAIAN, I AM TOUCHED TO THE CORE OF MY HEART, IN HEARING  
YOUR STORY AS I HAVE WALKED THIS PATH WITH YOU SINCE PLUM  
VILLAGE, LOWER HAMLET, UPPER HAMLET, NEW HAMLET IN THE  
WINTER RETREAT OF 2011.

AND SEEING YOU AT BLUE CLIFF AND WALKING WITH YOU IN THE  
STREETS OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS IN NEW YORK CITY.

AND ALL OF THE SPACES THAT WE HAVE SHARED.

YOUR WORD OF HOW NUANCED AND HOW MIXED AND HOW CHALLENGING  
THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN FOR YOU SHOWS A LOT OF COMPASSION  
TO ALL THAT YOU HAVE COME ACROSS.

IN ALL OF THE EXPERIENCES.

AS A VIET WOMAN, AS A MOM TO MY OWN TRANSGENDER DAUGHTER AS  
AN OI MEMBER THIS IS MY PASSION.

THIS IS MY WORK.

AND SO, EVERY WHERE AND ANYWHERE I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO STEP INTO THE SPACE WITH MONASTICS, SPEAKING IN  
VIETNAMESE ORING ENLOGE TO REALLY PRESENT THE SITUATION AS  
I SEE IT, AS A PRACTITIONER, I DO.

I TAKE IT.

AND I JUST WANTED TO THANK EVERYONE WHO SHOW UP HERE IN THIS SPACE, AND TO ASK YOU TO STEP ON TO THAT ALLYSHIP AND REALLY HELP ALL OF US TO ENLARGE THE SPACE THAT IS SAFE FOR EVERYONE WHO COME TO TAKE REFUGE AT OUR MONASTERIES.

THERE ARE MONASTIC WHOSE ARE VERY AWARE AND UNDERSTANDING, WHO ARE AWARE AND NOT ABLE TO SAY IT, BECAUSE THEY FEEL REPRESSED, WHO ARE AWARE AND ARE NOT UNDERSTANDING AND THEREFORE COMING OUT VERY HOME PHONING AND TRANSPHONING, I HAVE BROUGHT FRIENDS UP TO BLUE CLIFF FROM NEW YORK CITY WHERE I LIVE, WHO ARE IN THE QUEER COMMUNITY, WHO JUST LOVE THE SENSE OF ACCEPTANCE, BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN, THERE LONG ENOUGH TO FEEL AND TO SEE THE DIFFERENCES.

AND SO, I AM -- RIGHT THERE IN -- IN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EVEN HAVE THIS SPACE TO TALK. TO EVEN HAVE SONGA, WHICH IS THE VERY FIRST SONGA THAT WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT SITS WEEKLY THURSDAY NIGHT AT 8:00 P.M. AND ONCE A MONTH WITH ALLIES. SO IF YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF THAT YET, PLEASE KNOW, AND WE WILL U. I WILL PUT THAT ON THE CHAT.

I WILL ASK MY FRIEND, COLE TO ADD THAT TO THE CHAT.

AS COLE AND I ARE, AND NICOLE ARE THE THREE WHO STOOD UP AND SAY WE, NEED THIS SPACE.

WE KNOW THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR THIS SPACE.

AND WE WOULD LOOK TO DO THIS.

AND, IT IS HAPPENING.

IT HAS BEEN MANIFESTED.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, HAIAN, LAUREN, AN, ADRIANA, ANNIE FOR  
CREATING THIS SPACE.

NOW I AM BOWING OUT.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: THANK YOU.

I WILL READ ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT COMES IN THE CHAT.  
THAT HAVE COME IN IN THE CHAT.

SO, SARAH SAADIAN, HOPE TO PRONOUNCE CORRECTLY, WHAT ARE  
SOME THINGS WE CAN DO IN OUR DAILY LIVES TO HELP MAKE  
LGBTQ+ PEOPLE AND ESPECIALLY TRANS PEOPLE, FEEL MORE  
ACCEPTED?

HAIAN, LAUREN, DO YOU WANT TO --

>> LAUREN BARKUME: HAIAN, DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT?

>> HAIAN: YOU CAN START IF YOU WANT.

DO YOU HAVE SOME THOUGHTS?

>> LAUREN BARKUME: ONE OF THE THINGS IS TO SORT OF AMPLIFY  
VOICES OF LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE LOOKING AT LIKE THE LEGAL CONTEXT  
AND, AND, MAKING SURE THAT -- SENATORS AND CONGRESS PEOPLE

AND, YOU KNOW, ELECT OVED OFFICIALS ARE BEING HELD TO ACCOUNT.

FOR, LGBTQ+ POLICIES AND LAWS.

AND SO, AS MUCH AS YOU CAN JUST SORT OF NOTICING WHEN THERE ARE LAWS IN PLACE, OR POLICIES IN PLACE, IN THE STATE THAT YOU LIVE IN, AND, AND TRYING TO YOU KNOW ALSO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR -- FOR, FOR THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

>> HAIAN: TWO THINGS THAT COME TO MIND.

HOPEFULLY THE FIRST ONE IS OBVIOUS.

BUT ALWAYS GOOD TO SAY THAT, THAT ANY COMMUNITY IS MADE UP OF INCREDIBLY DIVERSE GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS.

SO THERE IS NO ONE LGBTQ+ EXPERIENCE.

AND ESPECIALLY WHEN WE GET INTERSECTIONAL WITH RACE AND CLASS AND CITIZENSHIP AND ABILITY LOOK -- THERE IS NO ONE, I USE THE WORD QUEER, THERE IS NO ONE QUEER EXPERIENCE JUST LOOK THERE IS NO ONE BLACK EXPERIENCE, NO ONE, NO ONE ELDERLY EXPERIENCE.

SO --

AS ALWAYS, PLEASE, TRY TO GET CURIOUS ABOUT PEOPLE AND REMEMBER YEAH THERE IS DANGERREN A SINGLE STORY.

SO, SO, TO, TO COME INTO THE MULTIPLICITY.

AN THE SECOND THING, ESPECIALLY FOR BUDDHIST AND SPIRITUAL

COMMUNITIES, WHERE IT CAN GET EASY TO SAY, OH, WELL WE KNOW  
ON THE ULTIMATE DIMENSION THERE IS NO IDENTITY OR  
IDENTIFICATION IS -- IS, IS WHERE SUFFERING COMES FROM.  
AND TO GET CLEAR THAT -- THE GRASPING OF IDENTIFICATION IS  
DIFFERENT THAN THE STATING OF HERE IS MY LIVED EXPERIENCE  
THAT IS NOT GRASPING, THAT IS TRUTH TELLING.  
AND I SAW IN THE MONASTERY SPECIFICALLY THAT AS, A  
ESPECIALLY AS I STARTED TO GET TOLD, OH, WELL NOW YOU ARE  
MONASTIC, WE LEAVE BEHIND ALL OUR IDENTITY.  
MORE THAT MY QUEERNESS GOT ERASED THE MORE IT WAS LOCK  
REALLY IMPORTANT.  
AND SO, TO SUPPORT, YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT A SUPPORT TO  
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LET GO OF THEIR IDENTITIES.  
HOPEFULLY THAT'S COME ACROSS LOU THE SERIES AS WELL.  
BUT JUST WANTED TO NAME THAT.  
THANK YOU.

>> ANNIE MAHON: THANK YOU.

A SKWR-FPL, DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION, I SEE YOU HAVE A  
QUESTION.

WOULD YOU LOOK TO ASK THAT OUTLOUD OR RATHER I READ IT?

>> SURE, THANK YOU, ANNIE.

SO, JUST IN MY SONGA COMMUNITY HERE I HAVE BOTH SUGGESTED



AND MODELED USING PERSONAL PRONOUNS WHEN WE DO A GO-AROUND.  
IN OUR DHARMA SHARING.

AND, I WOULD SAY IT HAS BEEN, I DID HAVE ONE WOMAN  
AFTERWARDS, TWO WEEKS AFTERWARDS TELL ME HER DAUGHTER IS  
TRANS AND HOW MUCH IT MATTERED TO HER THAT I HAD SAID MY  
PRONOUNS.

AND BUT NOBODY ELSE, THERE WAS ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON IN THE  
CIRCLE THAT, THAT --

THAT SAID THEIR PRONOUNS AND THEN -- WHEN I HAVE BROUGHT  
THIS UP FOR DISCUSSION, IT'S BEEN MET WITH YOU KNOW THIS  
ISN'T IMPORTANT, KIND OF INDIFFERENCE.

AND I SUSPECT REALLY THERE IS OPPOSITION TO IT.

LIKE WE SHOULDN'T GET CAUGHT IN OUR IDENTITIES, SIMILAR TO  
WHAT HAIAN WAS JUST SPEAKING ABOUT.

IT IS A HETERO-NORMATIVE COMMUNITY.

I HAVE WATCHED PEOPLE THAT APPEAR -- QUEER, COME AND GO.  
OF COURSE THAT IS A PERCEPTION EACH OF DON'T REALLY KNOW.  
BUT I FEEL LOOK WE ARE NOT A QUEER FRIENDLY COMMUNITY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OR THOUGHTS ON THIS.

>> HAIAN: THIS IS MAY A LITTLE OUTSIDE OF WHAT ANSWERS  
OFTEN COME UP.

BUT I THINK --

IT IS WONDERFUL TO WANT TO BE IN COLLUSIVE.

AND EXPECTING GROUP CULTURE TO CHANGE QUICKLY JUST ISN'T  
VERY USUALLY VERY REALISTIC.

OF COURSE YOU WANT TO BE WELCOMING TO ANYONE WHO COMES.  
BUT THE SLOW EDUCATION, THE SLOW CONVERSATIONS, EVEN IF IT  
DOESN'T RESULT IN DRAMATIC CULTURAL CHANGE OVERNIGHT, I  
DON'T KNOW, WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW, I JUST THINK THAT IS SO  
IMPORTANT.

RATHER THAN TRYING TO JUMP ON --

THIS THING TO DO.

I MEAN INTRODUCING WITH PRONOUNS CAN BE UNDERFUL.

I KNOW TRANS, FOLKS DON'T WANT TO STATE THEIR PRONOUNS.  
NOT EVERYBODY.

NOT ACROSS THE BOARD.

FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT.

AND, AND HELPING FOLKS TO, TO, TO WALK WITH NUANCE.

I THINK, I THINK CAN GO A LONG WAY.

I DON'T KNOW, THAT'S MY TAKE.

I WILL BOW OUT.

>> THIS IS SUSAN, BOWING IN.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING VOICE TO ALL OF THIS.

AS SOMEBODY WHO HAS BEEN IN THE COMMUNITY FOR 20 YEARS OR

SO, I AM FINDING INCREASING FRUSTRATION IN BEING INVISIBLE.  
AND I ALSO WANT TO SAY PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE  
INTERSEX AND ASEXUAL PEOPLE IN -- WHEN, WHEN WE ARE  
SPEAKING ABOUT THE COMMUNITY.

BECAUSE PART OF THE BIGGEST PAIN FOR US IS TO BE INVISIBLE.  
SO WHEN WE EXCLUDE SOME OF THE INITIALS AT THE END, WE ARE  
JUST INCREASING THE INVISIBILITY.

I GUESS MY QUESTION IS --

WHAT DO WE CONTINUE TO DO FROM HERE OTHER THAN SPEAKING SO  
THAT --

SO THAT WE REDUCE THE INVOICABILITY AND THE, THE  
HETERO-NORMATIVE CULTURE?

BECAUSE FOR ME THAT IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST FRUSTRATIONS IN  
BEING IN THIS COMMUNITY.

AND I HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN, YOU KNOW SHARED THIS WITH HAIAN,  
I ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN JOINING IN THE COMMUNITY A LITTLE BIT  
MORE BECAUSE IT FEELS A LITTLE MORE INCLUSIVE.

SUSAN, BOWING OUT.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME.

>> MAY I SAY SOMETHING?

>> ANNIE MAHON: CAN I JUST, THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO SO  
WANT TO SHARE.

WOULD YOU MIND IF WE -- IF WE LET, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE  
GOOD, MICHAEL HAS ASKED TO COME ON, WOULD YOU MIND?

>> NO.

PLEASE.

>> MICHAEL, DO YOU WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING?

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, HAIAN FOR GIVING VOICE TO YOUR EXPERIENCE AND TO  
MY EXPERIENCE AS A PRACTITIONER AND THANK YOU FOR BEING ON  
THIS SANGA TODAY.

I HOPE YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR COMMITTEE AND TALK AGAIN IN  
A NEW WAY -- TALK AGAIN IN A NEW WAY.

I HAVE BEEN GOING TO VIETNAM FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS AND I  
VISIT AND HAVE BEEN TO THAI PLUM VILLAGE, BORDEAUX  
PLUM VILLAGE AND JUNE, 2016, A FEW OF THE MALE MONKS FOR  
THE FIRST TIME PROBABLY JOINED A BREAKAWAY LUNCHTIME  
TOGETHER.

WE HAVE A RETREAT CENTER AND SANGAS THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND  
WHERE I LIVE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

BUT THE INVISIBILITY REMAINS.

AND IT IS AS THOUGH WE ARE FOCUSED ON THE NONDUAL ISMENT OR  
THE ULTIMATE -- NONDUALISM AND THE ULTIMATE INSTEAD OF THE  
RELATIVE OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

THICH NHAT HANH ACTUALLY WROTE, WE ARE OF THE SAME WAVE, WE ARE JUST DIFFERENT WAVES.

HAIAN, YOU HAVE CUT OPEN MY HEART AGAIN.

NOT AGAIN FROM YOU, BUT AGAIN FROM ANOTHER SPIRITUALITY, DIVINITY, ORGANIZATION.

MY SPIRITUALITY STARTED ABOUT SEVEN YEARS OF AGE AND MY SPIRITUALITY WAS MY ATTRACTION AND THEN MY SEXUALITY.

MY SEXUALITY IS MY SPIRITUALITY.

AND I'M BEING TOLD THAT THE CORE ESSENCE OF MY BEING IS NOT -- NOT RECEIVED.

I'M NEAR THE COMPLETION OF A WEBSITE FOR LGBT PEOPLE WITHIN THE THICH NHAT HANH PRACTICE.

AND I WILL SOON SHARE THAT WITH THE FOUNDATION.

THANK YOU, THICH NHAT HANH.

THANK YOU, HAIAN.

THANK YOU, LAUREN.

BRAVO.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: THANK YOU, MICHAEL.

A QUESTION IN THE CHAT, DO YOU WANT TO -- UNMUTE YOURSELF? AND READ IT?

>> SURE, THIS IS NIGEL BOWING IN.

SO -- THE QUESTION, SISTER HAIAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR

WHAT YOU JUST GAVE US.

WHICH WILL RESONATE FOR --

FOREVER I HOPE.

THE QUESTION WAS, THE STORY YOU TOLD WAS YOUR SPECIFIC STORY AND THEREFORE, SPECIFICALLY ABOUT BLUE CLIFF.

DO YOU THINK THE SAME CAN BE TOLD ABOUT ALL OF THE PLUM VILLAGE MONASTERIES?

IN OTHER WORDS, IS THIS A PLUM VILLAGE ISSUE OR A BLUE CLIFF ISSUE OR SOMEWHERE BETWEEN OR IS IT WE DON'T KNOW?

>> HAIAN: AN ISSUE AT ALL PLUM VILLAGE MONASTERIES, NOT JUST A PLUM VILLAGE ISSUE, A HUMAN ISSUE, A RELIGIOUS, ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE ISSUE.

AND ANOTHER THING I DIDN'T GET TO SAY, BECAUSE THIS IS SO MUCH, THERE IS SO MUCH THAT COULD BE SAID, THERE IS A LOT OF GROWTH THAT I, I AM REALLY GRATEFUL FOR.

THAT CAME THROUGH THIS POINT OF WAIT A MINUTE.

I WAS HOPING TO FIND A SPACE THAT WAS GOING TO BE FREE THUMB THIS OPPRESSION, FROM, FROM, AND, THAT JUST DOESN'T EXIST.

AND, MY, MY PLACING MY SENSE OF OKAYNESS IN NEEDING MY CHOSEN ENVIRONMENT TO BEA CERTAIN WAY WAS ACTUALLY VERY FREEING TO LET GO OF THAT.

AND TO RECOGNIZE THERE IS A POINT TO WHICH IT WAS DAMAGING ME.

SO BOTH -- BOTH HAVE THEIR VALUE.

OF LIKE, OKAY THAT WAS ACTUALLY, IN SOME WAYS WAS DAMAGING.

IN OTHER WAYS IT WAS ALSO JUST VERY COMING INTO A DEEP COMPASSION OF -- OR JUST LOOK A REALITY CHECK OF -- GROUPS OF PEOPLE, ARE ALWAYS MESSY.

AND EXPECTING THEM TO NOT BE, LEAVES US IN A LOT OF SUFFERING AND DILUTION.

WHICH IS NOT -- WHICH IS NOT A REASON TO NOT PUSH FOR CHANGE, RIGHT, BUT THAT, THAT INNER EXPECTATION THAT -- THAT IF I SEARCH HARD ENOUGH I WILL FIND THE PLACE THAT'S, HAS NO PROBLEMS.

THAT WAS THE PART I REALLY -- ACTUALLY, BENEFITTED A LOT FROM HAVING TO LET GO OF THAT.

AND IT HAD TO BE HEARTBREAKING.

OTHERWISE I WAS STILL CARRYING THE, THE UNSPOKEN EXPECTATION THAT IF I JUST, FOUND THE RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT? SO.

BOWING OUT.

>> ANNIE MAHON: DEAR FRIEND, WE HAVE TIME FOR MAN ONE MINUTE COMMENT OR QUESTION.

WE HAVE SOMETHING IN THE CHAT, DID YOU WANT TO SAY

SOMETHING, WANT TO HAVE THE LAST WORD?

BOWING OUT.

>> CERTAINLY NOT THE LAST WORD.

BUT JUST TO SAY THAT -- A LOT OF QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN

RAISED.

IN THIS TOPIC, FROM OUR COMMUNITY JUST BEING HERE.

AND A LOT OF IT HAS TO DO, I FEEL, IN LOOKING INWARD AT

WHERE I AM, WITH ALL OF THIS TOPICS AND UNDERSTANDING AND

SEEKING KNOWLEDGE.

SO A LOT OF IT IS KNOWLEDGE.

A LOT OF IT IS -- TRY TO FIND OUT WHERE TO FIND THIS

INFORMATION IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE AND KNOW MORE IN ORDER

TO KNOW HOW, HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS.

AND, BECAUSE I, I, WORK WITH PFLAG, NEW YORK CITY IN THE

SUPPORT SERVICES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH, THAT'S MY WORK

NOW.

I WILL LEAVE MY, MY -- EMAIL HERE IF THERE IS ANY

INFORMATION THAT I COULD BE A BRIDGE AND A CONDUIT TO SHARE

OUT.

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO THAT.

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT I COULD ANSWER ALSO, BASED ON



WHAT HAIAN SAID, IS I AM HELPING TRANSLATING FROM  
VIETNAMESE TO ENGLISH, AND STORY OF A LESBIAN WOMAN,  
PRACTITIONER, WHO HAD SHARED HER LIFE STORY TO A MONASTIC,  
SO I HOPE IN THESE KIND OF WAYS WE COULD REALLY BRING TO  
LIGHT, JUST LIKE THE TOPIC OF MAKING-VISIBLE, MORE  
CONVERSATIONS CAN BE DONE.

CAN REALLY BE HAD AND MAKE SPACE FOR, FOR, EVERYONE TO BE  
SEEN.

SO, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

THIS IS A CAPTIONING TEST.

THIS IS A CAPTIONING TEST.

>> I JUST WANTED TO SAY, HAVING A DAY OF MINDFULNESS ON  
SUNDAY IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED.

FOR ANY BODY WHO IDENTIFIES, LGBTQIA, PLUS.

WERE YOU GOING TO SHARE ABOUT OUR NEXT SESSIONS ON THE  
TOPIC.

DID YOU WANT TO DO THAT?

THANK YOU, EVERYONE.

OUR NEXT SESSION, WILL BE, IT WILL BE --

SORRY ON THE DATES.

I THINK OCTOBER 23RD, IF I AM CORRECT, IS THAT OKAY?

I THINK IT IS, IT IS OCTOBER 28TH.

AND, 21.

RACHEL CAN YOU HELP?

>> THE 14TH.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: 14TH.

THANK YOU.

OUR NEXT SESSION, WE HAVE THREE SESSIONS ALREADY.

THIS WAS THE FIRST ONE.

THANK YOU ALL, FOR YOU BEING HERE.

THEN RACHEL WE HAVE, OCTOBER 14TH.

AND THEN, OUR NOVEMBER 18TH.

NO?

THOSE ARE OUR, OUR -- OUR TWO NEXT SESSIONS.

AND THEN WE WILL MAYBE ADD ANOTHER ONE IN DECEMBER.

WE WILL, ANNOUNCE THAT SOON.

AND I HOPE YOU CAN ALL ENJOY YOURSELF AND CONTINUE WITH  
THIS CONVERSATION BECAUSE IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US  
TO, TO LEARN HOW TO BE -- A GOOD, A GOOD ALLIES, AS LAO WAS  
TELLING US.

THANK YOU, JUST TO THANK EVERYONE FOR BEING HERE.

ANNIE, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING ELSE?

>> ANNIE MAHON: ANNIE, BOWING IN.

YES, I LOVE THIS.

I FEEL LIKE THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SANGA.

YOU KNOW PEOPLE CONNECTING IN THIS WAY IS REALLY IMPORTANT.

SO -- AND THERE ARE SO MANY QUESTIONS DIDN'T GET ANSWERED.

SO THOSE QUESTIONS --

MAYBE, WE'LL, WE'LL SAVE THOSE FOR NEXT MONTH.

WHEN WE -- I DON'T KNOW IF THEY ALL ARE APPLICABLE, BUT,

LAO WILL BE HERE AS PEOPLE HAVE SHARED THEIR PART OF LAO'S

SANGA WHICH -- SO YOU WILL GET TO IF YOU DON'T KNOW, LAO,

YOU WILL GET TO MEET IN OCTOBER.

BUT I THINK THAT'S EVERYTHING EXCEPT JUST TO THANK, LAUREN

AND, HAIAN AGAIN.

FOR BEING SO WILLING TO SHARE YOUR STORIES HERE.

IT'S SO APPRECIATED.

AND IT REALLY -- IS -- IS TRANSFORMATIVE.

IT REALLY IS TRANSFORMATIVE TO BE IN THIS SPACE AND HEAR

THESE STORIES TOGETHER.

AS A SONGA.

SO -- REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.

AND AS ALWAYS, YOU CAN HELP US WITH OUR MISSION HERE TO

SHARE STORIES LIKE THESE BY DONATING TO MAKING-VISIBLE.

MAKING-VISIBLE.ORG, MAYBE, ADRIANA PUT THAT IN THE CHAT IF

YOU DON'T MIND.

YOU CAN DONATE SOMETHING, EVEN IF IT IS JUST A FEW BUCKS,  
IF WHATEVER YOU CAN IS HELP TO KEEP US GOING.

>> YOU HAVE A VENMO, ANNIE.

>> WE DON'T YET.

MAYBE WE NEED TO.

RIGHT NOW, JUST: 00 ON THE SITE, FILL IT OUT THROUGH  
OUR -- CLICK ON SITE, FILL IT OUT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE.

WE HAVE AN INSTAGRAM, FACE BOOK, MAKING-VISIBLE.

AND YOU CAN FIND THOSE ON OUR WEB SITE TOO.

THOSE ONES.

AND, A SHOUTOUT TO RACHEL.

RACHEL SITWALA, MANY HAD HER NAME.

RACHEL DOES ALL OF THE MARKETING AND EMAILS AND EVERYTHING  
BEHIND THE SCENES FOR MAKING-VISIBLE.

EXCEPT, AND, CLAIRE WHO IS ALSO ON THIS CALL, DOES A LOT OF  
THE, SOCIAL MEDIA AS WELL.

SO --

>> YES, I WAS GOING TO THANK YOU, CLAIRE, THANK YOU, RACHEL  
AS ALWAYS.

WE ARE A TEAM.

AND -- AND, WE CAN MAKE IT WITH, WITH, WITH YOU GUYS.

AND WITH EVERYBODY.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> AND I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS CLEAR, LAUREN ACTUALLY, IS THE ONE WHO HELPED US TO GET THE SPEAKERS FOR THE SERIES.

AN HAS BEEN PART OF THE ORGANIZING TEAM FOR THIS SERIES.

SO, YEA.

SO, YES, IT TAKES ALL OF US TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

SO, AND ALL OF YOU FOR COMING WITHOUT YOU WE WOULDN'T BE HERE.

>> RIGHT, EXACTLY.

>> ALL RIGHT, I KNOW WE ARE RUNNING COUPLE MINUTES OVER.

ONE SOUND OF THE BELL AND SAY OUR GOOD-BYES.

SO FROM THIS EVENING TOGETHER, MAY ALL OF US IN THIS SPACE,

THIS ZOOM ROOM AND ALL BEINGS EVERYWHERE, LIVE WITH EASE

AND HAVE SAFETY AND SECURITY AND HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AND

MAY ALL BEINGS EVERYWHERE BE FREE FROM SUFFERING AND THE

ROOT CAUSES OF SUFFERING.

(BELL TOLLS).

>> ANNIE MAHON: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, EVERYONE.

>> ADRIANA ARIZPE MARTIN: THANK YOU, EVERYONE.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

>> THANK YOU, ANNIE.

THANK YOU, ADRIANA.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, LAUREN.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> ANNIE MAHON: I DIDN'T CALL OUT DON.

>> DON, ARE YOU STILL THERE?