

In honesty, I don't really know what else I can add to this debate that hasn't already been canvassed in great depth. But what I do know, is that I need to write something. And hopefully, the something that I write can add a human dimension to an inhuman state of affairs.

Put simply, I don't understand.

I don't understand why the way I was born should automatically disqualify me from attaining what has been reinforced as the pinnacle of happiness my entire life. The same thing that almost all other men and women can achieve.

More importantly, I don't understand what I've done wrong. Whether intended or not, being treated as inferior by my Government can only lead me to think I have done something wrong to deserve it. In absence of any other reason being given, I really, truly cannot understand what it is I have done that allows this situation to exist. Because I didn't do anything. I made no purposeful choice to be gay. I was born gay. And the man that I will eventually marry was born gay.

At what stage did I do something wrong? Did my future partner and I do something wrong? Did any gay person do something wrong? Should we ignore our true selves and conform to prevailing society standards even though our behaviour harms no-one? Is that the outcome Parliament has hoped to achieve?

The interesting thing is the vast majority people endowed with the power to grant me the right to marry never had to experience what I had to. They didn't have the grapple with the realisation when they were twelve that they weren't like everyone else. They didn't have to spend a significant portion of their life being alienated and made to feel abnormal. But I don't think that matters. I have faith that Parliament can empathise. More importantly, I have faith that Parliament will effect change.

If Parliament rejects this Bill it will reaffirm the message I've been sent for most my life; that I'm not equal. Imagine the reverse. Imagine the confidence that will be instilled in young men and women currently coming to terms with their sexuality if their Parliament openly and proudly affirms to those young gay people that *they're* equal. Openly and proudly affirms that *we're* equal.

Because we are.