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Do you wish for your name to be withheld from publication?: No

Do you wish for this submission to be confidential?: No

Your submission:

To whomever may read this, I know that I am only one voice. One 21 year old guy sitting behind his computer at 3:10am with no socks on and a busy day tomorrow, but I felt like I really needed to do something - anything - no matter how insignificant I feel it may be. Still, I truly hope this makes for some positive difference, however small, somewhere.

I remember back in the 20th century lying on my bed and thinking, dreaming, about what great new advances and leaps forward the new century would bring. The 21st century - wow - I was excited and optimistic; I knew mankind can do better than it had. Just as new years day signals the emergence of new opportunities and a brighter outlook, I similarly looked forward to the growth and development of our nation, and the wider world.

So here it is, 2009, and homosexuals still find themselves in a terrible place where African Americans once were, and women before them: denied fundamental rights to equality and fairness.

Honestly, I can't understand why, in this enlightened world, our nation, which prides itself on giving one and all a 'fair go' and accepting its wide and wonderful array of different cultures, can still remain so archaic and ignorant in this matter. Is it fear? Fear that a homosexual partnership is less durable than a heterosexual one? That permitting same-sex marriage will lead to the moral degradation of society? That any children brought into such a partnership will somehow receive inadequate care? Again, I don't understand. I know these things are simply not true. They are borne out of a fear of the different, a fear of change, a fear of the 'other'.

I believe that not allowing two loving human beings, who just happen to be born into a minority, the opportunity to express this love, is the true sign of societal degradation.

Marriage is the recognition of a loving partnership. It is a timeless human tradition that has powerful symbolic value the world over. It is not restricted on the basis of a persons physical appearance, ethnicity, IQ - so why do we refuse those who inherit another genetic quality: their sexual preference?

Please, whoever reads this, if anyone at all, consider for a moment these individuals. Full of love and so eager to have it recognized and shared, and yet living in a world that largely turns its back on them.

Consider too, for a moment, our fortune at having not been born homosexual (an assumption I make of the reader). Imagine the discrimination, the fear, the prejudice, and the difficulties that would pervade our daily lives if we were homosexual. Thankfully, we don't have to personally. But so many humans do.

They do not want to destroy the world, corrupt the youth, or any other, quite frankly, insane assertions that have pervaded popular culture for so long. They want to enjoy a basic right like the rest of us do.

Please, this is the 21st century; let us try and catch up.