



Today we mark a major milestone in human and, specifically, LGBTQ rights. Fifty years ago, a police raid of the underground gay bar, the Stonewall Inn in New York, stirred a resistance, as customers and others outside the bar took on the officers.

Over several more days, protests followed. The raid, and subsequent uprising, marked a turning point for the LGBTQ rights movement and put the subject into the global spotlight.

Fifty years on, and as we remember those who have fought to get us to this place, there is much to celebrate. In most Western societies there is much more acceptance of LGBTQ rights, attitudes have significantly shifted and many of our rights are now enshrined in law.

As a gay woman and someone who has benefited from these changes, I never take the progress we have made for granted. Therefore, it is painful for me that there are still far too many reminders that we have quite a way to go before we have genuine equality.

We have watched the dispiriting protests about whether primary school children in Birmingham should learn about different family profiles that exist in our diverse world; multiple damning remarks about LGBTQ people made by those in high office and with public profiles; and witnessed the recent physical attack on a same-sex couple on a bus in London.

Despite all the progress we have made, there are still people who don't agree with LGBTQ equality.

At Westway Trust, we believe that it is important to stand together as a community and support each other. We have launched [#NorthKenPride](#) today to celebrate LGBTQ people of North Kensington; and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our community in promoting acceptance without exception.

LGBTQ colleagues and the LGBTQ community should feel safe and be accepted for who they are in our spaces, at our events and activities, and in the workplace.

Alex Russell

Joint CEO, Westway Trust

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