

Speak OUT! Stories of growing up, coming out and dealing with difference.

YouthAction Northern Ireland's Out and About Group is a personal development programme for young women aged 16 – 25 years who identify as other than straight. The group has been going for 12 years now and gets involved in lots of different projects to help support young LGB&T people as well as raising awareness and providing training around equality and inclusion issues.

Research indicates that despite increased equality and legislative protections that many young LGB&T people continue to feel 'different' because of their minority sexuality or gender identity. Our most recent project 'Speak OUT!' sought to record the stories of young LGB&T people and make them publically available online. We hoped that this local online library of audio stories might be of interest to other young LGB&T people; that such stories would make them feel less alone, isolated or different. We also hoped that the archive might be a resource for those who work with young people (e.g. teachers, youth workers, social workers etc) providing them with an insight into some of the issues that young people growing up and coming out in Northern Ireland continue to face.

To date we have recorded stories from young people in Belfast, Derry and Fermanagh and are hoping to continue adding to this archive. If you would like more information about the project or know a group who would like to take part please contact gail@youthaction.org

To hear the stories use the following link - <https://soundcloud.com/outnabout-1> or simply search for Souncloud Out and About.

We hope you enjoy listening to our stories

Casey and Amy
(Out & About group members)