My Gender Journey

Presented by Natalie Moncada (She/They)
11/7/2023

Contact info: emoncada37@ucla.edu
Who is she?

- Mexican immigrant
  - Born in La Barca, Jalisco
- Moved to the US in 2001
  - Wichita, Kansas
- Started undergrad at UCI in 2014
  - This would be the start of my gender journey
- Graduated in the summer of 2019
- Started grad school (UCLA) immediately after undergrad (oof)
My gender journey

• Started by using they/them pronouns in undergrad
• Most of my growth came during covid
• Started to work through a lot of other issues
  • Deconstructed a lot of social structures
• Started to explore with “women” clothes
The birth of my confidence

- Exploring myself helped me feel more connected
- The depression and darkness that engulfed me started to break
- I started to walk with my head held high
Unionizing graduate students

- I gave speeches about my gender journey
- Started to get more involved with Student Researchers United (now 2865)
- Became elected to represent graduate students at the bargaining table
Using my platform to advocate for LGBTQ rights

• I shared my story in OP-EDs
• Helped to change the language in our contract to be more inclusive
  • Ensure that LGBTQ rights were protected
Safety concerns in a growingly hostile environment

• What does this mean for queer people?
• Growing fears can lead to worsening mental health

For the First Time Ever, Human Rights Campaign Officially Declares ‘State of Emergency’ for LGBTQ+ Americans; Issues National Warning and Guidebook to Ensure Safety for LGBTQ+ Residents and Travelers

by HRC Staff • June 6, 2023
Increasing number of anti-LGBTQ bills

The ACLU is tracking 506 anti-LGBTQ bills in the U.S.

Choose a state on the map to show the different bills targeting LGBTQ rights and take action. While not all of these bills will become law, they all cause harm for LGBTQ people.

View past legislative sessions.
How is healthcare affected?

• Trans youth are not able to access the care that they need
• Prevents insurance and Medicaid from covering gender affirming care to people
• Block funding to medical center that provide gender affirming care
What does this all mean?

- Limits where someone can live
- Negative impacts on mental health
- Increases the need of activist and advocates
- Limited access to healthcare
Puberty can be so scary
Imagine yourself being forced to grow into someone you do not want to be
What thoughts go through your mind?
A future is forced on you
The illusion of free will breaks
An unimaginable future