What Pride Means to Me – Pride Month 2022

**Dr Mike Homfray, (He/Him), Gay Man, Cisgender, University Teacher, Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology.**

Pride is still a reminder to me that even though we have made great strides, there

will always be a need not to be complacent and to remember that homophobia and

transphobia remains **real** and always needs to be **challenged**. On a personal level, its perhaps not as important as in the days when I first went down to London, and that feeling of being with thousands of others like me, but there is still a need for Pride. **While homophobia and transphobia exist, so must Pride.**

**Afeefa Kiran Chaudhary (She/Her), Female, PhD Student in Molecular Genetics.**

I consider pride as an **ongoing battle** against comparison on a daily basis. One of the most difficult and dramatic things you can do in this life is to choose to do what is best for you and stop comparing yourself with others. Take pride in yourself and let **no one** make you feel ashamed about being who you are.

**Cristi Garrett (She/Her), Asexual, Management Services Personal Assistant.**

Pride isn’t just this one month of the year, pride is every day, to use whatever privilege and resource I have to improve the world around me for those who aren’t so lucky. To stand up for those who can’t. To speak for those who can’t. To stand beside and listen to those who can. Remember Marsha P. Johnson. Remember all those who have gone before who have fought for the rights so many take for

granted today.

**Darren Mooney, (He,Him), gay man, Diversity & Equality Officer.**

Pride means celebrating my community and remembering how we got to where we are today. It’s about being a visible gay man in Liverpool, about being Out and Proud, about my friends, my partner, and my family.

**Grace McShane, (She/Her), cis woman, Equality & Engagement Administrator**.

For me, Pride means showing my support as an ally to the LGBTQ+ community including my colleagues and our students here at UoL because I want everyone to feel they can work and study in an environment where they can visibly, proudly and safely be 100% of their authentic selves.

**Karen Standley (She/Her), Lesbian, Head of Customer Services, Library.**

For me, Pride is always about love and empowerment.

Pride in...

Being out and being myself.

Holding my partners hand on the street.

Positive relationships with family, friends and neighbours.

Being visible for those who still don’t feel able to come out.

Everything the LGBTQ community has achieved together with our straight friends.

Continuing to fight for equality.

**Stacy Murtagh, She/Her, Queer, Principle Library Assistant (online).**

Pride is a protest. Pride month is an opportunity to celebrate ourselves and identities, and all that we have won so far. Pride is also a time to feel unconditionally loved and accepted.

**David McNamara, He/Him, Lecturer in Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science & Engineering.**

Pride is both a celebration and protest to me. It is a time and opportunity to celebrate all things LGBT+ from our successes and our role models, to our otherness and individuality. It is also a time to look towards ongoing challenges in our community and raise awareness around them and demand action be taken to address these issues. Pride is a vital and important event to the LGBT+ community.