

My Dream for the Future

With the words "I have a dream...", Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ignited the spark of the Civil Rights Movement in the hearts of Americans. Through non-violent protests and public awareness, he fuelled the spark to spread like a wildfire resulting in a major change - equal rights for African-Americans.

Inspired by Dr. King, I dream of an America where people of all sexual orientations are accepted and have equal opportunities. Even in today's times, awareness about the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community is limited. Not many avenues for LGBTQ inclusivity exist. For example, many public places including public schools do not have gender-neutral bathrooms, use of gender-neutral pronouns isn't a common practice, and there are few events celebrating the LGBTQ community, particularly in small towns.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with one small step. Following Dr. King's work, I've taken small steps like addressing people by their preferred pronouns, talking to my friends about LGBTQ inclusivity and participating in LGBTQ community events to realize my dream of the LGBTQ community equality and inclusiveness. I'd like to research public opinion about the availability of gender-neutral bathrooms in my town and submit a proposal to the town about building these bathrooms.

Old ways don't open new doors. To bring out the best in someone, it is important to love and respect them and make them feel like a part of the team. My dream for the future is to live in an America where everyone including the LGBTQ community are loved, respected and included in the mainstream. To bring out this major change, I must believe in my dream and work diligently. As Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman said, "For while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us."