

Project hope

I have always been an idealistic person, and when I was younger, I had much more perfect view of the world. I thought magic was real, men and women were equal, and the color of your skin didn't determine how you were treated. As a middle class Caucasian in the United States, I have grown up in my own bubble of privilege that I didn't realize I was living in.

Through growing older which naturally expanded my horizons and becoming increasingly involved with politics and civil rights in this country, my bubble popped. I realize now that my experience is not the same as someone of a different background, specifically, someone of color, from the LGBTQ+ community, or from a poorer community.

I realize now that our society treats me differently than it treats a lot of other people, for having done nothing except being born into these circumstances, and that really disturbs me. Through this, I have realized my passion for expanding the rights of women and transgender people, specifically people of color. I feel very strongly about giving a voice to those who do not have one, but also recognizing not to speak over someone or overstep and tell their story. These revelations I have come to have helped me to live my life with a much more open mind. When I come across something that goes against what is normally accepted by society, I do not allow my ignorance to turn into fear and intolerance. I now have a different

perspective. My new goal is to understand where someone is coming from, to put myself into their shoes, and to hear their about their experiences that have brought them where they are today. I ask questions and educate myself on issues so I can embrace everyone's amazing ways of self-expression and identification. I am still learning and on a path of self- growth to being educated on various human rights issues. Everyday I work to be an even more aware and accepting person than I was the day before, and I am excited to never stop learning or fighting for human rights.

I think that many young people today are coming to the same realizations and conclusions, and are more passionate than ever. We are the new generation and we are ready to make serious and everlasting change.