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Gay Male

Washington, D.C.

Public Relations

Third Creating Change



Why are you here?

I felt this year was key due to the fact that it's taking place during a very unique administration at the White House. And I wanted to see what millennials had to say, in terms of how they feel about their rights and privileges being represented by the current administration and environment of the spaces where they live.

What issues are important to you?

Homelessness. I think our youth experiences unacceptable rates of homelessness. And I believe that a lot of the funding that takes place by non-profits should be going to ensuring that LGBT youth are not without a home. I have, myself, experienced homelessness, and the institutions that were in place in the communities that I lived in really provided me with the tools and encouragement that I needed in order to get back on the saddle and find a viable platform to be self-sufficient.

How much of a threat is Trump to the LGBTQ community?

Well, as we know, he has actively kept the LGBTQ community out of the conversation and the dialogue by uninviting LGBTQ members of the press to the holiday celebration at the White House, and by pulling down the White House LGBTQ sub-page. There's something to be said about the advancements that we have achieved and met in the last eight years of the past administration, and see it being taken away at his whim. I think it's quite hurtful.

What are you personally doing to create change?

In my everyday life, I look for opportunities within the community to engage in being an active component of creating change, whether that is participating in a food drive or participating in an initiative that attends the needs of the homeless in the city, and providing meals or clothing or medicine if needed, or medical attention they may not be able to access. I think that's how I create change. Change has to come from within the community, and through those acts, then you create a movement.

Riley, J., Shulman, R., Vogt, B. (2018, February 2). Faces of Change: 30 amazing people looking to create change LGBTQ community: Activism, Donald Trump, and Creating Change in the LGBTQ Movement. Retrieved from <https://www.metroweekly.com/2018/02/faces-of-change-creating-change-lgbtq-conference/>