



Thank you so much for your interest in contributing to 'Sections'.

The aim of this project is to explore how anti-gay legislation such as Section 28 has impacted those who grew-up under its shadow, with a particular interest in any long-term effects on mental health and wellbeing.

Words and phrases from these completed questionnaires will be used within a spoken-word performance and exhibition during my residency at Chisenhale Studios this September. The finished work will be a collage of voices and experiences combined to form a first-person monologue. It will be performed within an immersive sketchbook of quotes gathered from these questionnaires, as well as from political speeches, legislation, and press cuttings.

Please feel free to answer as many, or as few, of the questions as you wish, and as elaborately or concisely as you see fit. Any contribution, whether whole sentences or single words, will be immensely valuable. All responses will be kept anonymous. If you would like to be named as a contributor, you may indicate this at the end of the form. By submitting this questionnaire, you give permission for your words to be used in this project.

Each respondent will be entered into a draw to win one of 20 original, signed, postcard collages by myself, and invited to the live performances at Chisenhale Studios, London, at the beginning of October (Covid permitting).

Please return completed questionnaires by **6th September 2021** to sections@paulcoombs.co.uk

Thank you again,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul' followed by a small 'x' mark.

PAUL COOMBS

Year of birth:

Gender identity:

Sexual orientation:

At around what age did you first become aware of your sexuality?

Can you provide 3 individual words that best describe how you felt about your sexuality at this time? (ie: 'Proud', 'Afraid', 'Excited', 'Nervous', 'Confused')

How old were you when you 'came out'?

How did you feel about the idea of 'coming out', and what reaction did you get from friends or family?

Were you aware of any of the following anti-gay laws during your years at school? Please tick all that apply.

- Section 28
- Differing ages of consent for heterosexual and homosexual people
- Inability for gay couples to marry
- Inability for gay couples to adopt children
- Lack of protections for gay people in the workplace
- None of the above

In your own words, can you expand on how awareness of these laws made you feel?

Do you remember seeing positive Queer role models on TV, in music, on film, in books etc during this time?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If yes, please name them here:

Were you able to find any information or guidance about non-heterosexual life during this time?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Considering your answers to the previous two questions, can you describe how this made you feel?

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

I felt able to openly express my sexuality whilst at school.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

I felt I would be supported if I came out whilst at school.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please elaborate on your answers here if you can:

Do you think that anti-gay legislation/homophobia has had a lasting **detrimental** effect on you regarding any of the following? (Please tick all that apply, and add your own if you'd like)

- Self confidence
- Self-esteem
- Self worth
- Trust in others
- Trust in my own instincts
- Ability to form relationships
- Maintaining of relationships
- Ability to form friendships
- Maintaining of friendships
- Ambition
-
-

Please elaborate on one or more of your answers here if you can:

Do you have any persisting behavioural patterns that you consider were learnt due to homophobia or from growing-up under anti-gay legislation? Please tick all that apply and add your own if you wish.

- Deflecting attention away from myself
- Nervousness in divulging my sexuality
- Job security
- Lack of expectation to love or be loved
-
-
-
-

If you can, please elaborate on one or more of your answers here:

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

'My experiences growing up under anti-gay legislation have had a lasting impact on my mental health.'

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please elaborate on your answer here if you can:

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

*'I would now be in a better place **personally** if it hadn't been for the anti-gay legislation/homophobia that I experienced.'*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

*'I would now be in a better place **professionally** if it hadn't been for the anti-gay legislation/homophobia that I experienced.'*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

'I still struggle today with the effects of the anti-gay legislation I experienced.'

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Can you provide 3 individual words that best describe how you now feel about the anti-gay legislation/homophobia that you experienced?

If you could say something to those who defended/promoted anti-gay legislation, what would you say?

If you would like to elaborate on your answers, or add any more thoughts, comments or reflections, or to tell me to shut-up and mind my own business, please do so below:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide additional thoughts, comments, or reflections. The box is currently blank.

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, your contribution is very much appreciated.

If you would like to be included in the list of contributors, please state the name you would like listed here:

If you would like to be kept updated on this project and associated events, please provide a contact e-mail address here:

Please return completed questionnaires by **6th September 2021** to:
sections@paulcoombs.co.uk

Each contributor will be entered into a draw to win one of 20 original collaged postcards. The draw will take place on the 18th September 2021.

Love

xxx

www.paulcoombs.co.uk