

Young people raise their voice to support same-sex marriage

Derbyshire students campaign for equality for same sex couples across the world

Following a change in law in March 2014, which legalised same-sex marriages within the UK, students at Derby Moor Community Sports College in Derbyshire used their Giving Nation project to campaign for the rights of gay, lesbian, bi- and transsexual people in countries where same-sex marriages are still prohibited. Their campaign also aimed to promote the new legalisation, with students wanting to tackle the negative prejudices of some members of the public.

Choosing the right audience

Joining forces with other campaign teams, the students chose to get their message across by organising a 'marketplace' event at their school. By inviting people with power and influence in their local community they hoped to highlight the issues faced by gay, lesbian and transsexual people across the world.

After a successful marketing campaign within their local community, students secured attendance from (among others) the Mayor of Derby, the Council Equality Office, School Inclusion Officers, local councillors and a representative from the local police force.

In-depth research

Having thoroughly researched their topic students were able to speak with authority and confidence, sharing current research and statistics from countries who have legalised same sex marriage and those that haven't. Delegates were then invited to engage in a thought-provoking question and answer session.

'Participating in Citizenship campaigns as part of the Giving Nation Challenge inspired our students to reach outside their comfort zone. With the incentive of campaign foci being shared nationally and internationally, they produced materials that looked professional.'

Carol Ezis, Head of Citizenship,
Derby Moor Community Sports
College



'These young people deserve to be the voice of the future and have the potential to become effective leaders because of the confidence bestowed by this work.'

Carol Ezis, Head of Citizenship,
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What next?

The market place event was such a success that the council's Equality Officer invited students to represent Derbyshire Council as part of National Equalities Day. Whilst there they were asked to raise a flag at Council House to represent gay, lesbian, bi- and transsexual people in Derbyshire.

Students were also invited to attend the first same-sex marriage ceremony to take place in the city.