

Chime in Youth Ambassador Call 11.4.15

Kelly asked everyone to share their thoughts on what it feels like to be at this stage of the hero's journey, becoming the hero version of yourself.

Mariah says she sees things unapologetically, loving herself and being kind to herself.

Cat says she's stressful but it looks good, happy and enlightening to be able to create meaningful projects. She sees there's so much to do and also sees she's making an impact.

Susan says she's been looking into airport information for group members and is seeking information from the rest of the group so she can check on the possibility of free or discounted tickets.

Then it was Cat's turn to give her presentation. She went to University in Newcastle and in Liverpool and received a degree in international business. She is a LGBT activist and has been involved in a number of campaigns in this area, including working for LGBT rights in the Middle East. She's taken up this cause because of her own experiences with gender inequality and false assumptions about her sexuality and believes that all the sustainable goals are affected by the issue of gender inequality. Her own parents were supportive of her when she came out but she has friends who were not as fortunate and seeing their suffering also has empowered her to be outspoken and open to those who are oppressed and discriminated against.

She also spoke to the oppression of LGBT people in non-Western countries and the affect of Caitlyn Jenner's transition on transgender awareness. She believes that people are becoming more accepting of LGBT people in the UK at this time as even a generation or two ago it was illegal to be gay. She holds workshops to help others seek acceptance and feel protected and to promote greater understanding of self.

Manda said she has gay friends in Mongolia who hide themselves and had to confront a teacher who told her class that being gay was wrong. She was discriminated against as a result. LGBT people are not accepted as much in Mongolia as they are in other countries.

Jeetan has heard about frustrations and discrimination from his gay and lesbian friends in Vermont. He never heard anyone in Nepal ever talk about gay and lesbian issues, probably because there is no support in Nepal for LGBT issues. He applauds people like Cat who bring up these issues.

Cat feels that by being more self expressed she is more compassionate to others and not judgmental.

Jeetan struggles with being fully self expressed in regard to his girlfriend. He has to deal with cultural concerns because she comes from a different caste and that makes it difficult for him to be public with his love for her.

The discussion turned to fundraising. Susan was able to come to the fundraiser that Kelly held this past Sunday night. Funds were raised to built two more houses and a lot of awareness was raised about the organization and the projects that everyone is doing around the world. Kelly is feeling very positive about the trip and is hopeful of raising additional funds for airline tickets for everyone. She encouraged everyone to create their own fundraisers as time is running out for being able to buy discounted tickets. Susan said some airline miles were donated to her and asked for others if they know of anyone who can donate miles. She will also send out an email template of a letter that everyone can send out to help with the fundraising efforts and how to donate air miles.