

Interview with a local activist – Cesare Bonifazi Martinozzi (Italy)

Cesare is a local activist in Livorno and even the secretary of the local LGBTIQ+ association called "Arcigay Livorno"



Photo (shoot at the Toscana Pride 2019 in Pisa) of Cesare (left) and Martina (right) who is the President of Arcigay Livorno.

1. Name: Cesare

2. Surname: Bonifazi Martinozzi

3. Age: **

4. Where are you from?

I'm from Montepulciano but I live in Livorno

5. What organisation are you involved in?

I'm in Arcigay Livorno

6. What kind of activist are you?

I consider myself as an activist of LgbtiQ+ rights

7. Why did you choose this kind of activism/this field?

I chose to be an activist, in my own way, cause I felt discriminated when I was younger and because I have an high level of sense of justice

8. Do you remember the moment when you felt the need to get involved? Can you describe it?

I think It was more a process, not a moment. I always wanted to be part of my community, part of my country. So I always thought that politics was the right way to do it. Parties disappointed me so I decided to put myself, what I am, in the fight for a better future.

9. Why is activism important for you?

Activism is so important for me cause everyone needs a cause to fight for. I do it for sense of responsibility, for me and for the people like me.

10. Do you note homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in your local area?

I think the worst thing about homophobia in my local area is that it's hidden. I don't see beatings or assaults very often, but people think Lgbtiq+ community is to be discriminated

11. What is the biggest challenge in your work?

The biggest challenge in my activism is to talk to people. Sometimes I have to confront myself with someone who thinks Lgbtiq+ people is different. SO I have to stay calm, reflect and find a way to make them understand why they are wrong

12. What are your main goals right now?

My main goal now is to make visible the Lgbtqi+ fight in sport

13. Do you think prejudice about LGBTQIA+ community are decreasing?

No at all. We are now more visible but people still think the same things of 30-20 years ago. That means they just don't speak much about us but the discrimination is still among us

14. Did you ever wonder if what you do is actually useful? Do you remember a particular moment of disappointment/hopelessness?

I always think that my work is useful. Everything, even failure, is useful for the cause. No one has recipe for winning every fight, so I tell myself and the group I'm in to keep on try.

15. Is there a person, an activist, a figure, that inspires you?

My inspiration is not in activism but in music: I always thought that David Bowie was one of the most important figure in pop culture on freedom of speech and freedom to express the inner part of ourselves

16. "A fair society needs no heroes" How much do you agree with this sentence?

Heroes, how could we define an hero? I think everyone of us is an hero. We struggle, we fight against our lives everyday... Even in a fair society we have to put ourselves in a condition to be someone to everybody. As David Bowie said "we are just mortals with potentials of supermen". In the Friedrich Nietzsche way of this sentence, we need heroes, we need to increase our minds, our senses, our perception of reality. We have to be force us to be the best we can be, heroes in a certain way.