



Never take your freedom for granted, Says the person who lived and grew up in a country that imprison LGBTQ+ people “for acting against the nature” Also Never forget that pride started as a riot and it started at Stonewall The Stonewall Inn in New York City is not just a bar, it’s a symbol of resistance, of courage, and of the queer fight for the liberation. In June 1969, LGBTQ+ individuals, many of them trans women of color, drag queens, and unhoused queer youth, refused to be silent in the face of police brutality and societal oppression.

The Stonewall Uprising wasn’t just a protest, it was a declaration that queer people would no longer live in fear. These pioneers many of whom are now our elders fought battles we can barely imagine. They lived through a time when simply existing as LGBTQ+ could get you arrested, brutalized, institutionalized, or worse.

And yet, they stood their ground. They marched, rioted, organized, and laid the foundation for the rights we have today. The senior queer population we see today are not just survivors they are living gems. They are the reason many of us can love openly, dress freely, and walk through the world with pride. Their bravery carved out space for queer joy, queer rage, and queer existence. We owe them more than gratitude we owe them our continued resistance, our visibility, and our promise to never let their struggles be erased. They made it possible for many of us to choose life, expression, and community over silence, shame, and fear.

And lastly I want to thank Bradley, Hamacher, John Ribson, Nicole Ramirez and my very good friend Naomi Nadea And VERY big thank you to The Well because The Well is the only safe space for us in London Ontario.

Sincerely
Odai Obaid
Leader of the Rainbow Party Of Canada