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SPEAKERS

Gigi, Roy McCarthy

 Gigi 00:01

by what's been going on? Okay.

 00:04

Well, as you know, there's a shelter that houses youths here in Houston called Covenant House. Yes. And actually, they've been pretty good about taking in the straight youth and the gay, lesbian, bi sexual Youth

 Gigi 00:25

Law. I've heard stories that they aren't so good on the bis.

 00:28

Well, I think that there, at least from what people have told me, they're, they're just kind of tolerated. It just is kind of when those don't ask, don't tell kind of policies. Yeah. But what happened was, there was a 19 year old transgender, that came here. And she had been to several of the other covenant houses at America, she was in the New York Covenant House and the California Covenant House. Now, whenever she came here, she was expecting this Covenant House to be just like the other ones, where she was allowed to be who she is. And not have to conform to cultural gender stereotypes just to be able to stay there while she was wrong. What happened was when she got there, they said, Okay, look, you were born a male. So to be able to stay here, you have a choice, you can either, yeah, tone down the dress, you know, basically dressed pretty much like a guy be dressed as a man answer to the pronouns, he and him and stay in the mill dorm with all the other males. And and you can either do that, or basically you can go on the streets. So what happened was, she was going to some the support group meetings, watch HTA, Brenda Thomas's support group. And she was talking about what was going on that was really uncomfortable for her. So after, after talking about

this, Brenda Thomas contacted Covenant House and asked them just, you know, not specifically about her, but what was their policy towards transgender good. And the director said, there's no problem, everything's fine. There's, you know, there's, there's no, absolutely no problem, everything's gonna be taken care of. We're working on it. And directly after that, apparently, now, the accusation is that the director, the person who's talked to Brenda Thomas, went directly to the 19 year old and said, Look, if we get anyone else, who advocates on your behalf, or calls asking about our policies towards transgender people, you're out of here. So that immediately put us in position, to not be able to even have any dialogue with Covenant House for fear of her being on the streets. So that Friday, Covenant House, talked to the 19 year old and said, Look, on Monday, you have a you're going to have a physical examination, you must admit to it, or you're out. And to top it off, if we find out that your breasts aren't real, you're out of here. So Monday came along, and she had a job interview. So she blew it off, and use the job interview as an excuse to not go there. Now, Tuesday came along, she blew it off. Wednesday, she was out on the streets. Now we found out the Covenant House has a policy, a corporate policy that comes from New York saying that before you and this is like saying when their clients tries to beat up, you know, another client or even a staff member, before they can eject them from the house. They have to find by their own corporate rules, they have to find some other place for this person to go even if they're doing drugs, even if they're stealing and all this stuff. Well, what this person did was they were transgendered. And Covenant House made absolutely no attempts to find any other place for this person to stay. They took all of her bags and stuff, set it outside and just left her there. Brenda Thomas was driving by Covenant House and saw founder sitting on the curb outside of Covenant House.



04:49

Just to break in there that this coincidentally Brenda was on the way to the protest that we were doing the HRC Yeah, about not including transgenders in end. And so, you know, this was a, you know, very big difference here, you've got the HRC federal club, having their dinner where they raised \$150,000 And like three hours or something like that. And then two blocks down the street. There's a transgender sitting homeless on the street corner. And, you know,



05:27

yeah, there's something about this. What's wrong with this picture? Yeah,



05:30

yeah. So what's happened so far as immediately, whenever we found this out, she stayed with me that night, because I literally spent five hours calling every helpline I could find, and anyone that anywhere in Houston that knew that there was a shelter I called. And a lot of the places just had answering services, and did not bother to return the call. Some of the places Clarence Bagby have in gITF helped us call around and actually whenever he was calling some of these places, they were extremely rude to him. And he had to politely and in his own way, explain to them who he was and, and how much he appreciated their



06:25

Lerins can do that. So well. Yes.



06:29

After he got off the phone, he was like, Excuse me, I'm going to step outside and scream at this light. So after that, what we did we immediately called Deborah Dan Berg's office, nice Parker's office. Although, you know, the Houston voice outsmart Texas triangle got on hand that with talking about because the fact was we had no place for this person to go absolutely no place. Miles shelter would take her. Yeah, no one would take her. My living circumstances were that she could stay there maybe a night, two nights top. But then we're going to have to find some other place for her to stay. Well. I was fortunate enough. That very next day, I receive a call from Judy Reeves. Yeah. And she said that she had talked to her sister about this. And her sister, by the way is straight. And she said, I tell you what, bring your hair to my house. You know, she took her in. She took her in a straight person who has never really had much to do with the gay lesbian, bisexual transgender community. Check this person in. And you know that that just floored me took



Gigi 07:55

a real sweetheart. Yes, absolutely. And as a matter of fact, I spent the day and empower the installation for the Gulf Coast archive and museum and Chanel and and Tootsie were both there all day long. To like to school girls together. is incredible. It is incredible to see the two of them together. They have so much fun. And in fact, Tootsie doesn't even want her to leave. Oh,



08:26

really? Yeah. So great. Because, you know, one of the things that I was really concerned about is everyone and this young lady's life that was supposed to be there for her has abandoned her. Everyone right down the line. Her parents kicked her out because she was transgendered. She was faced in the streets because she's transgendered. She got kicked out of shelters because she's transgender. You know what, whenever she goes to try to get a job, she's gonna have some difficulties because she's transgendered that's really gonna have difficulties all of her life because she's transgender, you know,



Gigi 09:01

until she can get a legal name change and all of that she's gonna have a lot of problems.



09:06

Absolutely. And just to find someone who's willing to be there and befriend her, and tanker and do things with her. That's so great. That's so wonderful.

G Gigi 09:18

They were having such they were having a blast.

∅ 09:21

Yeah. So actually, I think it was Friday, I was talking to Covenant House. Say originally, whenever I contacted them you know, they were using Chanel's legal mail name and well, he you know, he was very disruptive. You know, he Well, his manner of dress it was just it was trash transgendered. Yeah, it was it was a definite problem. I mean,

G Gigi 09:55

I think we need to take a moment and You know, we talked about transgendered, and it's a label. And, you know, a lot of times, it's important to look behind the label and see the face and see the lighting, and see what's happening. I mean, I grew up, I am basically intersex. I was born a bit, boy, a little bit, Girl It's rough it is, I mean, I grew up, my father beat the holy shit out of me. You know, I faced isolation, people wouldn't have anything to do with me, because I was, I couldn't fit in with the boys, I couldn't fit in with the girls. And I lived alone, for a long time. It gets really hard. And all of a sudden, there's something in me that just dies. And it's like, you know, you got to, we got to wake people up to this and say, you know, we're, what are we looking at here? These are human beings. These are people. These are people that have something very beautiful and wonderful to share in this. You know, when we're going to look beyond this physical shell that we live in? I mean, gender isn't about a shell. Sex isn't about a shell. A body? I mean, it's partly, but it's something much more spiritual than that. Something that goes much, much deeper. And if we can't learn to look beyond it, then we're all gonna lose.

∅ 12:05

Absolutely. And that was, you know, that was one of the things that, you know, this affected me profoundly, because the thing that I was working on in November, the transgender community is holding a day of remembrance for the transgenders. When does this happen, who, who were murdered over the past year, because they're, you know, because of their gender expression, and no other reason. And while I was going through it, and gathering up these names, and the horrible ways that these people died, I mean, family members paying people to pump their sons or daughters off, because they're transgender expression. I mean, people were set a fire, you know, it was just horrid. And then right after that, we got to the HRC protest, in which we stood outside asking for basic human rights, that the dignity to be able to work to be able to live in some place without having the fear of being evicted, just because you're transgender, just because your self expression doesn't meet our cultural gender stereotypes.

G Gigi 13:23

You know, it's we live in a world that's dichotomous, you're either male, or you're female. You're this or you're that you've got to fit into a hole. And if you don't quite fit with the expectation, what happens? And worse, the problem, it's not with the individual. It's when in

how we define the holes that we try to fit all these people into. Now, if you were born with three hands, people would say, oh, this person has a birth defect. Let's see what we can do to fix it. And I have lately been hearing a lot of transgendered people say, I have a birth defect. And it's only with transgendered people. It takes psychological help, as well as sometimes surgical help to correct that birth defect.



14:33

Yeah, I think that the psychological health is only secondary. I think that the birth quote unquote, defect, it I mean, that's, that's where the, the troubles begin in our society because you have this binary gender steric stereotype because, and any of the problems that we incur are in our pants down in life is because of that some of us us have turned to drugs and alcohol to sex addiction to work addiction to all these other things, all these other coping mechanisms just to get by just to make ourselves fit in that pigeon hole.



Gigi 15:21

And I say birth defect. I know that's not going to be popular with every transgender, but I use that because I think for the average American, they can put this all in perspective, and look at it a different way, rather than, Oh, that's a man in a wig. Well, I'd like to back up a minute and say, you know, a lot of people don't realize this, but all of us start out with the same building blocks for gender. When we're inside the womb, before we're born, the first six weeks, nobody knows what you're going to be. Absolutely, because there's identical building blocks, and they aren't going to change until a lot of other forces come into play. Everything from hormones to cells that can receive those hormones to the right chromosomes to a whole big conglomerate of activities that occur. Gender is not a simple thing. No, no, it's a very complex picture we're looking at. And to say that there's only two genders. It's wrong to say and lesbian people ought to know that. Yeah. But to say that there's an you know, I believe this and that in some transgenders may kind of feel a little funky with this. Yes. But I think there's a whole spectrum of genders out there. Oh, yes. And I think it's like a zero to six just like the Kinsey sexual Oreo. I think it's like zero to 6 million.



17:09

I mean, for every gender Express. Sure.



Gigi 17:14

And, you know, even to this day, I'm appalled that they won't put my true gender on my driver's license. I need to interrupt now I'm listening to your hours on KPFT, Houston, and ke O 's College Station. Actually, I don't even get to pick my gender, they picked it for me.



17:39

And you must conform to those stereotypes that we placed on your gender or else you're going

ori,

Gigi 17:45

baby, I have confirmed. But when you get to be intersex, that's, that's an entirely different story. And I don't even think transgender is truly a birth defect. What I think it is, is another form of nature's way of expressing gender to gender variants that doesn't quite fit male doesn't quite fit female. Many times. And it doesn't, I mean, you know, how, look at it, we've got a whole damn big industry out there, making pink and blue bullshit. Everybody into when they're not born yet, when the baby is not born, the colors yellow? Because I don't know if it's gonna be pink or blue

18:41

shirt are you wearing by the way, Tammy pink? My favorite

18:45

color?

Gigi 18:49

But, you know, I have a little blue horse on it. What does that count? Blue Horse. When I heard blue horrors in it, when I first started reading this story on the internet, and then I talked to Melanie and then Chris came in. You know, to me, I want to put out a wake up call to people. You know, one of these days, we've got to get over this nonsense, I think so too. And we've got to look a little bit beyond and see the human spirit in each person. And understand that we have freedom of expression in so many realms in our life. But when it comes to gender or sexual orientation, it's cut off every time I think that we've made great strides, something like this happens and the little 10k Yeah, and the little tic case. I don't know that's gonna be a mess for years now because some idiot

19:54

judge talk about negating intersex people. Yeah, that's just enough. face you're legally nothing. I mean, like

20:05

you legally do not exist You're impossible

Gigi 20:08

according to that culture intersex people aren't human. Yeah, at all. Well, that's what

according, according to that ruling intersex people may not marry yeah, at all. Well, that's still to be determined. Yeah.



20:17

ruling is based, whatever the doctor put on your birth certificate as what you must conform to the rest of your life. And so



Gigi 20:30

no, that's Well, you see, what if he put down the wrong male, and your chromosomes aren't that



20:37

serious, as a matter of fact, there's something called androgen insensitivity syndrome. And what you basically have, for all intents and purposes is a baby female. Looks like a female walks like a female everything from birth, they have X, Y chromosome, male chromosomes. So they're they're going to grow up with female stamped on the birth certificate. But if a chromosome test is ever done, they're going to be male. And so how do they figure that out? Else?



21:09

Well, according to them, that condition does not access. Yeah, that's



21:13

impossible.



Gigi 21:16

And that doesn't exist. I've seen a lot of farm women kind of fit. Yeah, baby lick out. I know, there's been enough. I've done enough blow jobs to know that people know I exist. There's no denying that special. Sometimes when it comes to sexuality, there's no denying existence.



21:45

I want to go ahead and give me a covenant houses. contact information. Please do. Please, please, please, please, please make your opinion known. If you want to contact the Covenant House in Texas at 1111 Lovett Boulevard. Houston, Texas 77006. That's their address. Now, the directors name is Rhonda Robertson. Robinson, Rhonda Robinson. And the chairman is Douglas E. Swanson. The phone number is 713-523-2231. That's 713-523-2231. Please, please, please

call them let them know how you feel. Because actually, whenever I talked to Covenant House, originally, I spoke with someone who asked me not to give their name out not to even hint at who this person was. Because they were afraid they're going to lose their job. They said to me that this has been a problem for a long, long, long time. And that they were really glad that it was getting this sort of attention, because they just felt that it was wrong that had been going on for too long. And so please,

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Gigi 23:10

please also want to bring up another element and all this. Yes. You know, when you turn to someone for help. And you know, it takes a lot to have to admit and say, oh, I need help. Yes, that's true. And so you walk into the door. And I did this when I was a teenager. I suffered a lot of abuse at home. And I'd suffered a lot of problems as suicidal at that point in my life. So I turned some people for help. And I called them up I went to their house and that talked to them. And they seemed sympathetic. They listen. And I wasn't out the door out their door five minutes before they were on the phone to my parents explaining everything they'd said to me. I walked into the door when I got home and got the living crap beat out of me and was told never to tell anybody. Um, you know, when you reach out for help, that can hurt deep and not hurt me very deep. Yeah, it took all the courage I had to reach out for help. And that night I tried to kill myself. In a we've got to wake up on these days and realize that when people reach out their hand for help, it's not a joke. It's for real.

♀

24:53

Yeah, I mean I really, really feel that And

G

Gigi 25:00

when you're in the helping business, you don't belong there, if you can't be there for people, absolutely. And that's where I feel if a place is going to be there to be a helping hand, they damn better will be there for everybody. Because otherwise, people are gonna die.

♀

25:23

And that tell you after after dealing with this, after hearing about the Littleton thing, I swear, I was talking about this at the meeting, I was depressed for about three days out. I mean, I was laying on the couch, I was crying. It was just, I've never felt it'll be rated marginalized in my life. Ever. I mean, and I, I tell you, whenever I was a teenager, and I reached out for help, for the first time, I found in the back of a twit magazine, an address to write to for transsexual support. So I wrote this letter, pouring out my heart, what's going on where I'm at, and trying to the best of my ability, describe what's going on. And what I got back was a critique of my grammar, usage and spelling and punctuation. I'm not kidding. No, I'm not. And I was crushed. I was absolutely crushed.

♀

26:22

Is your mic on? Jamie?

Gigi 26:24

I cannot believe anybody would do that.

26:28

Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely. And that was horrible. That was a horrendous experience for me. And you're talking about being suicidal. And actually, through this, this issue with Covenant House, and putting the word out, I got a message from Michelle Meyers. She had contacted me. And she's the one who actually saved my life. And I got to thank her for that. The night that I had planned, I had written out the note and decided what I was going to do. And everything. I, you know, she she got a hold of me, and sat there. And she had to, she had to get up at six o'clock in the morning, and she took the time to talk to me until two o'clock in the morning, about everything that was going on with me. And that's the reason why I'm here. And, and I feel, I absolutely feel there is my duty as a member of the human rights to be there unconditionally for people whenever, whenever they need it. You know,

Gigi 27:34

and I have to say, since you talked about Michelle, and she, she used to be here on the show. She's in San Antonio, you're yours is not the only life she saved. She, I know, many nights. All her nighttime hours talking to somebody because they needed to. They needed it. They needed her. And she was there. She never said no.

28:02

Yeah, and I think actually, that's where I had heard about Miss gel. Myers was at the show. A really

Gigi 28:13

in a see all this and it's like, once again, you know, I've heard a lot about Covenant House. And you know, when kids come to your door, they're especially vulnerable. Absolutely. And it's like, there's no business of this. Yes.

28:42

Yeah. I mean, basically what I've heard was that this is that covenant houses policy, basically, all over America is to be open to trans transsexuals, transgenderers, intersex people, all the other places seem to have policies set up to deal with transgendered people and that that's okay, that's an acceptable form of life.

G

Gigi 29:10

And then I'd like to kind of say, you know, because this is the bisexual show, and I think it goes even beyond just transsexual or or anybody that's gender variant. Anybody that expresses their gender slightly outside the norm. No matter how you express your gender which I express mine in many different fun ways. There has to be a place for all of us. And we have to have a safe world, a safe environment. Um, So I used to be a social worker. And there's an ethics that ethics has been breached.

♀

30:10

Yeah, absolutely, absolutely. I had talked to Covenant House this Friday, this last Friday, and they said, I talked to their public relations person. And she said that they okayed it for some of the members of the transgender community to come in there and and educate them about gender variants. And actually, that was one of the things that I asked them about their one of the first questions, whenever I spoke to them originally was, well, is this person's breasts real? And immediately, you know, they they started talking about this person wanting to wear a dress and and that that's disturbing to the other people.

G

Gigi 31:00

Excuse me, but do they check every female that come in? Absolutely. They have silicone implants.

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31:08

What is your policy concerning intersex people? And I said, No,

G

Gigi 31:11

I'm talking about straight women that come in.

♂

31:16

And I don't know if you mentioned earlier about the there was a also report of a female to male transsexual, who had came to hatch for help, because he had gotten kicked out of Covenant House like a few weeks before that. And they said they met this person and said, you know, he's a guy, he looks like a guy's facial hair, everything, you know, there's just could not present as male. They they reportedly required him to wear a dress, and stay in the women's dorm or like cabinet house. He lasted like a week or something. I'm surprised he lasted that long. And it was like, Yo, I'm sorry. But you know, that just That's ridiculous. I mean, I don't believe they forced the females to wear dresses there. So why why this person? I mean, yeah, yeah, that's that's



32:13

education. They



32:15

seriously, they need a lot of education.



32:23

I mean, that's the thing is like, I'm hoping these people aren't doing this just out of spear out of pure, like, meanness will get the hell out of Montrose. Yeah, I mean, you know, to figure the spices like, you know, on 11th Street, just down the road from and, you know, you would think they would have like a little bit of a clue on, you know, some of the stuff. Also, what really burned me was earlier this week, I stopped for lunch, I picked up the local Republican newspaper, The Chronicle. And but I was flipping through there, and I found that they just broke ground on an entire new facility over there. That's supposed to go from like 24 beds to 60 beds, or something like that, for a special youth program that they have that would provide training and job skills and all this other stuff. And I read that and I picked up the phone and called Chris right away and read her the whole article. And I just had, I had fire shooting out of my ears because I was like, Well, this is great. They've got 60 beds there, you know, and job training and all this other stuff. But you know, God help you if you're transactional, you know, you're going to be sitting out on the streets watching these other people come and go or



Gigi 33:49

some other form of gender. Yeah.



33:53

Absolutely. And yeah, that's the thing is now, you know, shell is transsexual, you know, but the thing is, we've used the term transgender. And, you know, transgender covers a lot. I mean, you know, it's like, I was talking at the by net meeting with Gigi this week. And, you know, Gigi does not identify as a transsexual, but, you know, Gigi is definitely gender variant. And it's a lovely dress, you have



Gigi 34:35

kinda like to bring a positive. I don't like to inch those on negatives. And, you know, well, I'm optimistic that some training from real transexuals well, we'll help those folks out there. It certainly couldn't hurt when also like to throw out the you know, there's a lot of positives that

I've experienced in my life. By being gender variant. Girl, I can walk down the shopping aisles at Kroger's down the street. And Jay loves to walk about five feet behind me. And watch everybody's reaction is Rogen



35:28

in a dress in a black leather jacket?



Gigi 35:31

Yeah, it's in combat beats. Now I've got my tinny, it's on, you know, when I look at the business world, and see the suit and tie, and the lack of expression. And I look in Montrose and see the radical fairies, the transgender, the transsexual the drag queens and then see myself and see the dykes on bikes, the pitch the film, we have a beautiful spectrum, we have a beautiful expression. I think a lot of the world is missing out on something. It's like, we've got the whole you know, and I think they're starting to catch on. I mean, you know, it's like, all of a sudden, they're saying, Wait, hey, guys make pretty good. tech writer. And oh, my God, we can we can roll it down to what's happening this week, every October 11, which is National Coming Out Day. And the more that we come out of the closet, the more people know us. And the mystery is gone. And I think, God, the more people come out, the more we win our freedom to be able to express ourselves. In the past six years, since I've doing this show with a transgendered co host, I have seen more people come out of the transgender closet than ever before, ever before. I've seen organizations that didn't talk to each other, now hold unity banquets together.



37:43

We give out the free toasters



Gigi 37:49

like cat, which would be unthinkable 10 years ago, that organization like cats could exist. So it I know it's it's slow steps, but it is steps and we are progressing. And the you know, to me, it's just so beautiful to see the diversity. And to know that, you know, there are people like I forget her name. That helped out. took her into her home. Oh, named Oh. Yeah. I've had people like to tea in my life. Yeah. They had different names, but it was the same beautiful spirit looking out on this. I do want to say if people are out there and hurting, call us at by the Houston. Call the transgender community. What's a good number? Okay.



38:55

There's actually two numbers you can call our 24 hour helpline and that's 24 hours you will talk to a real live person. That's 409-762-2243. So you can call the cats off fish, which is basically where I live. That's 281-585-0586

 G

Gigi 39:25

And then the number for binary Houston is 713467438. That's right. And don't forget, we've got a conference coming up. It's gonna be a time. I mean, the conference is kind of touches on this recreate, buy space, to space for buyers to become expressive, to have their freedom for a weekend to be with hundreds of buys and live the life. With that. We turn you over to you The news program after a short music break. That's right. Thank you Gigi and by Nat and and Chris and Melanie for being here. And it's Yeah, serious fun. That's the kind of show after hours is and camping. coming up right after the musical break will be the after hours news interviews with big Roy and Chris and I've got a piece of music new piece of music from Jack Luqman called boys and girls and it's an ode to Ed Wood. So hey, that's different. We'll be right back. Okay, it is time for the after hours, news and views with big Roy and Chris. What's your good

 R

Roy McCarthy 41:59

like to welcome just talk like to welcome everyone to this week's edition of after hours news and views. For Chris. Jimmy. I'm big Roy. We also have with us a special report street report from Greenwich who let us know what all has been going on. And some fundraiser going on in town here. And as always want to give a shout out to Randy way down there in Beaumont to Tony up there and Midway to John here in the Houston area and to all of our other listeners who I always promised that I'll give them a shout out to

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42:36

Hello, I'm getting rich. I'm basically just talking about there's a drop in center called Yeah, youth empowerment advocates of Houston. They're doing a fundraising carwash don't know exactly what which week invest within next few weekends. They're trying to come up with money because we are all out of funds we I guess our grants have run out too. So which basically try and get money for hygiene and stuff like that. So you'll hear more about that and I'll probably be the one telling you so Okay, so to raise money for hygiene products are the how base is what I said okay? Don't get me so literal.