

# qx PRIDE

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CLASS  
OF  
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Your guide  
to Pride  
in London

PROTEST  
PROVOKE  
PROTECT  
PREVAIL



# PARMA HAM

DJ & Fashion Designer

It doesn't matter how dressed up or down I am, I attract a lot of stares and looks. I never notice because I begun blinking myself to my surroundings since the age of 10. But it becomes obvious when I'm in public with a family member who isn't used to the attention I receive.

Not caring about what others thought was primarily about survival in regards to my sexuality and gender nonconformity. My extreme look then developed because I already felt ostracized by society for being queer. The sad part of blinking myself to other people is that I don't make eye contact with anyone, ever. I couldn't tell you the eye colour of a single one of my exes, and it all stems from this idea that eye contact is potentially dangerous.

Transgender hate crime rose 81% last year and LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely than heterosexual and cisgendered youth to become homeless. Pride season is a joyous occasion but I approach victories with scepticism. The philanthropists, millionaires, MPs, and companies that sponsor Pride and pretend to be our friends, and who spout the language of accessibility, diversity, and change: they talk the talk while actively making people's lives worse through egregious labor practices, investments in mass incarceration, obsessions with growth, and a more general money-hoarding mentality.

One of the many bitter lessons that we have learned in the last century is that civil society is dominated by corporate interests. If getting these companies to pay corporation tax wasn't such a shitsow, perhaps the UK might actually have money to remedy LGBTQ issues related to mental health, addiction, homelessness and violence.

The visibility and acceptance they offer is welcomed, but ultimately a foundational shift in the way corporations and government operate day to day is the going to be a much harder fight – which is necessary if we are going to protect those of us who are most at risk.

@parma.ham





