



For most of my life I have often been bullied, stared at and questioned because of the fact I am *different*.

Sometimes it felt like an easier option to give in and conform, but I knew how I felt wasn't just a phase, it was who I was. It was at the age of 20, I had a revelation when I saw the word 'non-binary' online and realised I didn't have to follow the rules of society if that was just wasn't how I felt. I am now proud that I identity outside of the restrictive gender binary that society presents us, and I identity as neither a male or a female, and that's okay!

Since my revelation I have been working towards visibility in those who identify as gender non-conforming. Last year I organised 'Beyond the Binary', an award-winning campaign which gained national recognition and results in two 'all-gender toilets', ensuring everyone, regardless of identity and expression, feels comfortable. Since then I have spent my spare time outside of work and a degree speaking in the press and on television, in an attempt to open up the complexities of gender and help people understand the trans and nonbinary experience.

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Saffron was also featured in [this newspaper article](#) talking about Northumberland County Council's Trans Toolkit for schools.