

Project: 'Queer Lives: Barriers from cradle to elder care-An oral history.'

Respondent: Sadie Godiva

Year of Birth: 1954

Age: 70

Connection to project: Respondent

Date of Interview: 1 August 2024

Interviewer: Dr Sylvia Morgan

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

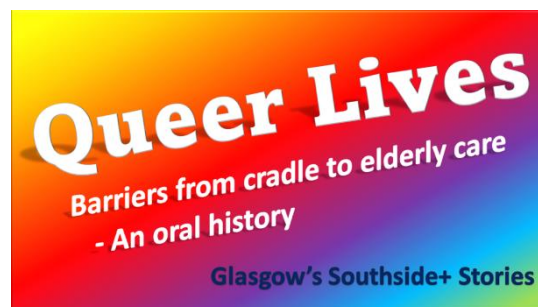
Photographic Images: Yes (Number of: 2)

Length of Interview: 00:57.37

Location of Interview: West End Glasgow





Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)

Glasgow's Southside+ Stories



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
01.11	Sadie describes herself as transgender. She grew up in Coventry, lived in Germany for a decade, then moved to Gourock, Scotland where she has lived since 2012.	
01.31	No personal experience of barriers to education or workplace due to trans status as she only came out later in life after retiring at age 50 from the British police.	
03.29	Growing up Sadie just knew she was different. First identified in 2005. First came out as transvestite in 2015, and later that year discovered she was transgender. Told her adult children and ex-wife whose reaction was extremely positive.	
	"I first identified as transvestite...I first appeared as transvestite as early as 2005. I came out to the important people in my life as transvestite in early 2015. And then later that year I discovered I was transgender. The most significant people I told were my children. My adult children. And they were separate occasions with each of my children, And the response from both of them was extremely positive."	3.53-4.38
05.13	Laws have changed and attitudes have shifted since she first came out.	
06.00	Is there an LGBT community? Sadie believes there is a division - one based on sexuality one based on gender: 'two factions with different aims.'	
07.00-8.14	Are there trans orgs in Scotland with coherent group identity? 'The attitudes of many trans women are so far up their own arses that it really isn't good for the general appearance of the trans community ... I hear the expression trans rights. I don't know what that means... I don't want trans rights. I want the rights of any other human being. I don't want special rights because I am trans... treat me as female.'	07.29 -8.14
08.19- 09.38	Sadie's opinion of recent attempt by the SNP to introduce new gender equality laws : 'self-identification has an appeal, but if an individual is then expecting the support of the state to facilitate their transition. The state has a duty to see you are a genuine candidate to justify the expense...the state has a duty to spend taxpayers money wisely.'	8.42 -9.38
10.06 -10.41	Re: the current public debates between gender critical feminists and transgender activists: 'Everyone is entitled to an opinion and if there are feminists who want to exclude trans people from certain areas they are entitled to that view, but it is an extreme view, just as many trans activists have an extreme view, and I am not a lover of extremism.'	10.06-1041

10.44-11.10	Hopes for the future of trans people: 'that you are out in the world on an everyday basis being who you are without ramming your transgenderism down the throats of others'.	10.44-11.10
13.00- 14.10	Transgender venues: In Glasgow there are many LGBTQ friendly venues which is important for people to feel safe and gain confidence to be able to go to other non LGBTQ venues.	
14.17-15.10	Changing social attitudes in Glasgow may be due to trans people just 'being out and about living their everyday lives without making a fuss about it' thereby 'creating a state of normality ... and so attitudes towards trans people are shifting'.	
16.20-17.30	The effects of government policy and legislation have certainly had an effect on changing social behaviour.	
23.20-34.15	Sadie's medical transition happened gradually over a number of years. Became Sadie with name change permanently in Oct 2015. Started self-medicating with hormones, then her GP prescribed hormone replacement therapy, then she self-referred to the gender identity clinic at Sandyford. Waited a year for first appointment, then had assessments by two doctors. Initially she didn't wish for surgery, it was never an ultimate goal, but her transition was an evolution. Then when she decided she was ready for gender affirmation surgery, she was referred to the Brighton clinic fairly rapidly for surgery three months later in Feb 2019. The NHS funded the journey and a companion to escort her home post-surgery. She had no negative effects from the surgery itself.	
	"My healthcare, chief healthcare comes through my local GP practice...And initially when I changed my name... because I was now living full-time as Sadie. It was important for me to tell my surgery that my name had changed. And that was cool there was no problem with that. They did have one question-Do I wish to remain as being identified as male on the NHS records rather than female. At that time I felt it was appropriate to remain as male. Because in terms of medical care I still had a penis, I still had a prostate...And the prostate in particular is a thing that is monitored by the NHS for males of a certain age. So it was important that that was in place still. At a later point in my life I decided that I now wanted to be identified as female on the NHS records. And, again, that was no problem to have it changed. I got a new CHI, new number, which reflected my gender, because if you're not aware of it your gender is reflected by your CHI. It's the last number. It depends whether it's odd or even. But now of course I cease to get any notification about prostate care. And got invitations for breast screening and cervical smears. In the case of the cervical smears, of course completely redundant. In the case of breast screening very appropriate because I was taking hormones and my breasts were developing."	23.20-25.07
36.15-37.35	Ageing and elder care for LGBT people – 'one's gender identity shouldn't have any bearing on a care home's ability to support you...clearly staff need to be trained, but you can't train the other residents.'	36.15-37.35
38.03-39.00	Sadie believes there is evidence to support that Scotland is one of the most enlightened places in the world for trans people. 'A government should not make special laws to give special privileges to trans people, it should simply ensure that they have the same rights as every other human being.'	38.03-39.00
38.05- 43.22	Hopes for future progress with LGBT rights in Scotland? Sadie is 'not convinced there is a need for any changes, it is simply about educating people...too many people listen to gossip and rumour If people don't have a trans person in their lives, how would they know about them?.....a popular misconception is transgender defines your sexuality, which it doesn't...and that returns to the fact that the LGBTQ+ community has two very different factions with different goals.'	38.05-43.22

43.40- 46.50	The influence of social media? Sadie sees the internet as a positive factor for trans people. She grew up pre-internet in very isolated social milieu. She first accessed internet in late 1990s and searched for transgender information and discovered that she 'wasn't the only human being on the planet with these feelings' and that there were thousands of others like her.	
47.00-47.40	Positive portrayals of trans people in the media: Sadie cites Susan Eddie Izzard as being an influence and role model for her own gradual evolution of gender identity; also Adele from Fascinating Aida.	
50.00- 52.40	Do you think the transgender tipping point identified by the media in 2015, and the gradual evolution of your own and others gender identity, was influenced by changing social attitudes, more visibility and increased support for trans people? Sadie said what prompted her to become Sadie permanently was four of her trans friends independently convincing her she was 'more than transvestite.'	
	Interviewer thanks the respondent for their contribution to the project.	
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