# 'Come out, come out, whoever you are!' Ian McKellen on why it's high time



"I have never come across anyone who has come out and regretted it," says Ian McKellen, 85.

In an interview with The Times, McKellen expressed sympathy for public figures who feel unable to come out, stating, “I feel sorry for all those famous people who feel they can’t. Hiding in the closet is stupid, there’s no need for it. Don’t listen to your advisors, listen to your heart. Listen to your gay friends who know better. Come out. Step into the light.”

McKellen then turned his focus to the realm of sports, highlighting the barriers that persist for athletes. He noted that while there seems to be progress in women’s sports, challenges remain for male athletes, particularly in the context of football. He acknowledged, “I imagine young footballers, like actors, receive terrible advice from agents concerned about their earnings. But the first Premier League footballer to come out will become the most famous footballer in the world, with all the agencies clamouring to have his name on their products.”

McKellen finished up by expressing cautious optimism about the evolving attitude towards LGBTQ+ individuals in the UK, particularly following the legalisation of same-sex marriage. He hoped that these changes would lead to greater acceptance and less fear among the LGBTQ+ community. However, he also pointed out that the situation varies significantly around the world, indicating that while there are advancements, there remains considerable work to be done internationally.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ian-mckellen-on-coming-out-and-being-gay-in-the-spotlight-0r7z9z> - This article corroborates Ian McKellen's interview with The Times of London, where he discusses his personal journey of coming out and shares insights on the importance of authenticity.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-59916446> - This BBC article provides context on Ian McKellen's advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights and his experiences as a public figure.
* <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2023/03/01/ian-mckellen-lgbtq-footballers/> - Pink News reports on McKellen's comments regarding the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ athletes, particularly in football, and the potential impact of coming out in sports.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/same-sex-marriage-uk-law-legalisation-a7161561.html> - This article from The Independent discusses the legalisation of same-sex marriage in the UK, a development that Ian McKellen hopes will lead to greater acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals.