# From Army Brat to Pride Advocate: Marc James-Hutcheon's Journey to Self-Discovery



Marc James-Hutcheon, born in the 90s, lived an Army brat's life where Pride events were unfamiliar. The then-prevailing Section 28 legislation ensured LGBTQ+ issues were not discussed in his educational environment. It wasn't until his move to Dundee for university in 2012 that he began to understand his identity, despite the absence of a local Pride event, which necessitated trips to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

James-Hutcheon's first Pride experience took place in Manchester, which was an eye-opener for him, enabling him to explore his identity more fully. His subsequent attendance at Dundee Pride, held at Slessor Gardens, proved to be a profoundly affirming experience, marked by feelings of safety and inclusiveness. The event fostered a sense of community for him and his fellow attendees, free from judgment.

Now a Dundee and Angus College student guidance worker, James-Hutcheon and his husband look forward to attending Dundee Pride annually. The event, which they consider homey and family-oriented, gives them a euphoric sense of belonging and celebration. He emphasizes that while Scotland has made significant strides in LGBTQ+ rights, there is still work to be done. Dundee Pride, which is scheduled for June 15-16, 2024, stands not only as a local celebration but also as a symbol of global LGBT rights advocacy.