

I AM NOT A MAN!

By Iwan Hughes

In the UK, suicide is the single biggest killer in men under 45. Let that sink in. Why is this the case? The façade of what it means to be a man transcends from outdated stereotypes which eliminate the possibility of some men being able to show emotion, and to tell people when they're struggling. This is not right. This needs to be challenged. This needs to change!

I find time to appreciate others, and I cry. I sit alone in my room and ask God why I am plagued with my negative thoughts.

No response, ever.

I am free to act the way I want, without the crucifixion of the World Wide Web. The only tweets I appreciate are those of birds in the tree. Perhaps, on reflection, they're the ones actually laughing at me.

I read and I write. I try to understand the questions that man had yet to fully understand. I am no one special so understanding is never really hard. I am not happy. I am who I am.

That is not your definition of a man.

Homosexuality. Christianity every so slyly rejected that. "Chemical castration for you, sir". I'm sorry Mr Turing. We certainly failed you. The enigma of acceptance is yet to be broken. Fashanu found out that it's all so cruel; I hope you sleep well as you are the real men.

I try to prove to people that there is a fluidity in what they define as masculinity. In their eyes I see their pity. But I won't become the defined man. Cause that obviously wasn't my plan.

To you, and maybe me, I am not a man!