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**Title:** LGBT Oral History: Hannah Smith-Brubaker

**Date:** October 27, 2016

**Location:** LGBT Oral History – Smith-Brubaker, Hannah - 109

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**Interviewee: Hannah Smith-Brubaker**

Interviewer: Marge Forster

Date: October 27, 2016

Place: LGBT Center

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**Abstract:**

Hannah-Smith Brubaker was born in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, and spent most of her childhood in Port Allegany, McKean County. She began to identify as a lesbian at the start of college, and she entered the political sphere for the first time when she participated in the Second National March on Washington in 1987. While on a study abroad program in Europe for about four years, Hannah worked for Onlywomen Press, a lesbian separatist book publishing company based in London. There she met Eileen, with whom she stayed for 16 years and had a son and daughter. Four years later in 2010, Hannah met Deborah, a Mennonite, with whom she is now happily married and maintaining a farm. In this interview, Hannah details her experiences of coming out as a lesbian to her friends and family, focusing upon her father, a Methodist minister. She chronicles her path of political activism, including a formal interrogation she experienced when departing from England on a plane. She also discusses the challenges of going through second parent adoption, and the importance of community, love, and acceptance in transforming the society of today.

**MF:** Alright. It's October 27 and I'm Marge Forrester here with Barbara Biancone (sp?) and we're interviewing Hannah Smith-Brubaker. Hi Hannah, thanks for being here with us.

**HS:** Hi Marge. Thank you.

**MF:** Well, we're so glad that you are participating in the LGBT History Project of Central PA [Pennsylvania] and I wanna be sure that you understand that you can give your permission or put any restrictions on how you want this material used, so we can think about it when it's all done.

**HS:** Okay.

**MF:** So tell me, where did life start out for you? Tell us about your early life and your family.

**HS:** Okay. [chuckles] I was born in Tioga County in the Northern tier of Pennsylvania, but spent most of my growing up years in McKean County [Pennsylvania]. My father was a Methodist minister, and so we did a lot of moving around from church to church and community to community. I think by the time I was 13, we had moved 11 times, so... [laughs] A lot of changes over those years, and my parents divorced when I was about 10. My father then felt that that disqualified him from being a minister which is unfortunate, 'cause I think it was a true calling for him, so he then went on to work in the steel mills and my mother finan – worked primarily as a financial officer for different businesses, so... But I loved growing up in a small town. It was the sort of place where yeah, everybody knew what everybody was doing [laughs] but nobody locked their doors, and I had a tremendous amount of access to the natural world. I spent hours

and hours and hours with my siblings in forests and in streams and in caves or – good number of caves in the town where I grew up, and we would just leave first thing on a Saturday morning and not come back till the glass factory whistle blew at dinnertime, so...

**MF:** What was the name of the town?

**HS:** Port Allegany [Pennsylvania].

**MF:** Okay.

**HS:** Yeah.

**MF:** And how many siblings did you have?

**HS:** I have three siblings. I have two brothers and a sister. They're all younger than I am.

**MF:** So you were the big example, right?

**HS:** Yes. [laughs]

**MF:** And was that any pressure for you?

**HS:** Sure, sure. I think particularly once my parents separated, that meant taking on a new role, so... Very – fought like cats and dogs as kids. We were all very close in age, but my mother passed away when she was in her 40s, so – very young, but that was an extremely bonding experience for all of us so, we're pretty close as adults now, yeah.

**MF:** Did your father stay nearby?

**HS:** Yeah, he's in the – he was in the Pittsburgh [Pennsylvania] area, so...

**MF:** So when your mother died, was he back in the picture more?

**HS:** To some degree, but at that point I was sort of off living my own life, so I – after being in college for a couple of years, left for Europe for about four years, so...

**MF:** So, what – you talked about how it was free to explore the natural world and your father was a Methodist minister. Tell me about your participation in the church. Did that continue after he left the ministry?

**HS:** To some degree, and I look back on those times. That sense of community was very important to me, even I as grew and developed and changed my personal beliefs about the religion per say, I have missed that sense of community with others, and as you know now I'm living in a very rural area [laughs] that, you know, that's something that my wife, Deborah, and I talk about a lot because she also had a very religious upbringing, being Mennonite, so...

**MF:** So it's a little far to go.

**HS:** Yeah. [laughs] So... But it's certainly, you know, having a father who was a minister, knowing that I wanted to come out to my family before I left for Europe [laughs] certainly presented some issues. He probably took it the hardest of – of anybody. But I felt like I needed to do that. I knew when I left for Europe that I probably wasn't gonna come back for a while.

**MF:** So what was his reaction?

**HS:** He cried. Yeah, he cried, cried. I think he found it incompatible with – with what he would see as my pathway to what he held dear, so... but...

**MF:** And has that – his reaction changed? Has he...

**HS:** Yeah, I mean, he still struggles with it. We – we are close, but he – he still struggles with it all these years later. That was 30 years ago so, yeah.

**MF:** Does he go to visit and spend time on the farm?

**HS:** Yeah.

**MF:** He's got those great grandchildren.

**HS:** I know, I know, I know. [laughs] He did decide to come to my wedding at about five minutes before it happened so, that was good. That was good.

**MF:** And how long since you've been married (\_\_\_\_\_)?

**HS:** So Deborah and I have only been married for four years at this point. I was – my previous relationship, my ex-partner and I were together for 16 years and we had our two children together, a daughter and a son, yeah.

**MF:** And they're now 14 and 18?

**HS:** Yes. Yeah, yeah.

**MF:** And then your previous partner, is she involved with the kids at this point?

**HS:** Yeah, sure. Yeah.

**MF:** So with your father adapting, what about your siblings? How did they handle it?

**HS:** Only one of my siblings had an issue with it, and primarily it was because of his religious beliefs. I think it's probably still an area that we disagree about but we're still – love and care for each other so, yeah.

**MF:** Well I'm glad that worked out as smoothly as it did, considering your father's background, it sounds like he loves you and is still very much a part of your life.

**HS:** Yep, Yeah.

**MF:** Now you've mentioned going to college, and then I think you said you took time out to go to Europe?

**HS:** Yeah.

**MF:** So pick up there. How long did you end up staying?

**HS:** Well, well if I could back up just a little bit 'cause I think there are some key things that happened prior to that that would be relevant to this conversation [laughs].

**MF:** So lead the way.

**HS:** Yeah, when I was about two years into college, I already probably had I think come to terms for myself. I was maybe two years into realizing that I was a lesbian. I knew growing up that I had feelings for other girls that I would now identify, you know, as part of my identity, but I think I didn't have the language for it until I was probably about 17. And so, a couple years into college I actually had the opportunity to go to the March on Washington. This would've been in 1987, so this was the major March on Washington, the second – I think the first was in '79, and even though at that point they weren't quite using the terminology of LGBT, it was an absolutely powerful experience. Cesar Chavez was there, Jessie Jackson I think was running for president, he was there, Eleanor Smeal... So it was a really – this was a big, big deal [laughs]. Went with some other college friends of mine and that really started a conversation that just hasn't ended for me. So I left college and went on a study abroad program in Europe, and it was just a phenomenal time to be there. I traveled all throughout Europe. In the Middle East, it was the Second Intifada, it was – I was in Yugoslavia just as civil war was breaking out. You know, it was the time of the wall coming down, it was right after the Brixton race riots in London, which is where I ended up living was in London. And I went to work for Only Women Press, which is a lesbian separatist book publishing company still in existence today and probably some of the most important works that were published for lesbians during that time were published there, so the For-Lesbians-Only Anthology and a good number of other works that I'd say are pretty important to our history – and worked closely with Lilian Mohan who was the publisher and she's still going strong in London, but – and originally from the U.S., although she has spent all of her adult years in England but – just a phenomenal person to be mentored by, and I did spend a few years really in what I would call a separatist lesbian community and those years were really important to me to – in gaining a sense of who I am and who I could become. I really had this sense that before that time, I was a person for a lot of other people particularly because of my religious upbringing and after that time, I had a better sense for, you know – that I could define who I was as a person. So by the time – I ended up, unfortunately, my mother became ill. She was dying of breast cancer. Came back to visit her and when I went back I was stopped in immigration and they read all of my personal journals and realized I was working for a lesbian

publisher, that I was going back to my female partner. They separated us in separate rooms, interrogated us separately, and sent me home on the next plane.

**MF:** And that's in England?

**HS:** Yeah. So...

**MF:** You were traveling with your partner?

**HS:** No. She was there, she lived there, yeah. So it was pretty terrifying, because she didn't know where I was, I didn't know where she was [laughs] and the interrogation was pretty unnerving. Fortunately, I've been back many times since then. It was, you know, someone who clearly had an agenda that – felt I shouldn't be in the country, so it took me a long time to get up the nerve to go back, but...

**MF:** Was this just one individual doing this to you, taking you and asking to look at your papers and putting – actually putting you on the plane the next day?

**HS:** Yeah, they wanted me – he was gonna put me on a plane right then, but I explained, “You know, I've lived here for a number of years. I have things in my home that I would like to get,” so the arrangement was for me to go the next morning.

**MF:** And this was about 1989?

**HS:** '90 – it was almost '91. It was right – yeah, the end of '90, so.

**MF:** So there was no recourse with representation?

**HS:** No, no. [laughs] I was considered unfit, I'm sure. Yeah, it was...

**MF:** It's hard for me to look back to that time from way ahead.

**HS:** Yeah.

**BB:** Could I ask another question...?

**HS:** Of course.

**BB:** For people that are looking at this, could you define the lesbian separatist community? What was that – that looked like, how was it structured?

**HS:** Yeah so, we had a – well I don't know if your familiar with Brixton in London, but it's extremely diverse, you know, community. And we had a house that from time to time, different women who were traveling would come and stay for a while or if they were an artist that was working in the city would come and stay for a while, some students, and it was just considered a safe space for lesbians. And many of us worked – our work had to do with keeping lesbians safe

and keeping our history in – in mind, and... You know, we would facilitate a lot of discussions and workshops, and – particularly around the books that were being published, we would have authors come in and speak. But it was just a sense of – it was a safe space and that we could sort of navigate the world around us in a way that we weren't inviting any sort of danger for anyone, so...

**MF:** Thank you for explaining that. So you went, and you were there for a total of how many years, then before you were kept back?

**HS:** It was almost four years, about three and a half years.

**MF:** And when you went off, you went by yourself?

**HS:** No.

**MF:** All the traveling was on your own.

**HS:** Yeah actually, I was really struggling financially in college and I don't remember what the amount was they said we were supposed to take with us but I had \$400 dollars in my pocket. [laughs] That was it, so... I made it work somehow, but yeah.

**MF:** So you're sent back on the next plane. That must've been – such a question of evil in your life. And so you'd get back and what happened next? Your mother is still very...

**HS:** Yeah, my mother passed away soon after. I'm thinking back – I just can't imagine, you know. She was younger than I am now, you know, when she passed away and it makes me sad that in her mind at that time she imagined with my being a lesbian that meant she'd never have grandchildren, and so she couldn't have possibly have ever imagined having the two grandchildren, you know, that she has, so... That's something I wish she could have seen that wasn't in her imagining as far as what would be possible to me, let alone that I would get married to a woman someday, so... Yeah, so she passed away soon after and – and that is when I started my relationship with my ex-partner and yeah, so... As I mentioned, we were together for 16 years and we were the first couple in Dauphin County [Pennsylvania] to go through second parent adoption, and I remember the judge in the orphans' court which is, you know, not only do you have to go through orphans' court but even though they're biological children, we still had to go through adoption home study, so we had to have somebody come in to our home, make sure our home is suitable for these children we're going to be adopting even though they were biological children. [laughs] We had used an anonymous donor, and I carried both children but it was really important to us that when they were born that Eileen and I had equal legal rights to our children. So the way it worked then – and I think it still works this way some places – is when you go through second parent adoption, you actually are relinquishing your legal rights to your biological children for those few moments until then you're together adopting your children, [laughs] which is what we had to do in order to ensure that both of us had equal rights in the eyes of the law.

**MF:** But they were still – remained with you.

**HS:** Yes, yes, yeah, I mean, this was like, in a court hearing that this happened, you know, yeah. But the going into it, there were four couples. We all went through it at the same time, it just happened we were all families with two moms. Some of us – I believe we – no, two couples had biological children, two couples had adopted children, and from the get-go, the judge said that there was no way that he was gonna prove the second parent adoption. He was completely opposed to it and somehow I got picked to testify first, so we had to just provide testimony as to why this was in the best interests of these children. So I testified, and then one by one each of us testified and by the end of the hearing, the judge had completely switched his position. Now granted, the home studies were shared, our, you know, lawyers spoke, but I will never forget and I wish that I can get the transcripts from the hearing but apparently they only release the transcripts if it's contested in some way or something, but – and he said that, if the children that typically came before him in the orphans' court experienced half the love in their homes that our children experienced, he would be out of a job. So, that was really powerful. I think that's the one time I can think of in my entire life that someone who had a completely opposing view to me was persuaded, and I'm a real believer that, you know, when people have differing emotionally or heart-wrenching differing opinions about things, no amount of data is ever gonna change their mind, but a personal relationship or personal experience will, and so that – that is something that I'm so proud of in my life, is that we changed his mind that day, and he has gone on to approve many, many second parent adoptions afterward. And even the – you know, now some places, they can do what's called a "pre-birth" birth certificate, where you know, both parents' names are on the birth certificate so you don't have to go through the second parent adoption, but yeah...

**MF:** And how old were your children at this time?

**HS:** I believe my daughter was six and my son was two. They might've been slightly younger than that, but...

**MF:** Were they there?

**HS:** Oh yeah. Mhm, mhm yeah. Which I think was important too.

**MF:** Were they interviewed or questioned in any way?

**HS:** I don't believe that they were able to be – I don't – I don't think so, yeah.

**MF:** So, you didn't go back to college?

**HS:** I did eventually, actually when I was pregnant with my son. The graduation pictures are me like, two weeks before my son was born. [laughs] So I did, yeah, I did.

**MF:** What did you end up majoring in?

**HS:** Organizational behavior in applied psychology which is interesting, considering I work in agriculture [laughs] but it's something that I found that no matter where I've worked off-farm,



understanding how organizations work and having an appreciation for what employees need. I mean, it's helpful for us on our farm too, but when I worked off-farm, so...

**MF:** So where are you working now?

**HS:** So, I currently serve as deputy secretary of agriculture for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I didn't know until I read it in a blog post that apparently I'm the highest ranking out-lesbian working for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. [laughs] So I was preparing for my speech at, you know, Pennsylvania Comes Out for Freedom, read a blog post and asked, "Are you – is this true?" [laughs] yeah, so... So that's, you know, also interesting to me that given – and maybe I should back up a little bit as far as my journey to this place. So when – so my partner and I split up about 10 years ago, and then six years ago, my wife and I – I would say, made the decision to be serious about being with each other. I remember 'cause it's 10/10/10 and we – little bit prior to that, had found we had ended up at a meeting together that neither of us was supposed to be at, and it was – I was working for a sustainable agriculture – organization at the time, and she being a farmer was asked to attend this meeting. My wife is 11<sup>th</sup> generation to farm within 15 miles of our home and her family is Mennonite, so that's a whole other, you know, arena to – wonderful in my life. Her – you know, her parents live on the same farm as we do, you know, our kids are there, so it's great. But, neither of us ever thought we would find another lesbian who wanted to farm, [laughs] you know. It's not – even though today, now, I actually know a good number of lesbians, gay men, and even trans farmers. At the time, we each felt sort of isolated in that way. I knew that I wanted to be on a farm. She was just trying to make the decision about coming back to her parents' farm, having – she was farming in New Mexico at the time. And – and so, you know, it was – it was just great to find – my goodness, maybe we could make this work.

**MF:** So this is where you met, at the meeting?

**HS:** Yeah. So we met – we met at the meeting, and – so that was a little bit before we, you know, really started seriously dating, but pretty much as soon as we started seriously dating and realized we both were looking at the same type of life that we wanted. Her parents were ready to retire from their farm and at the time, didn't think they had any options as far as Deborah and her siblings, they didn't think wanted to take over the farm and to some degree, for Deborah, that was because she really didn't want to be by herself in a really rural area, farming. So pretty quickly, we committed to moving to the farm full-time and working out a way to transition the farm to the two of us. And her family's been fantastic. She had three siblings too, all really, really wonderful people, and... I'm trying to think – so it was – well, when we got together it wasn't legal to get married, really, and it's hard to believe that only six years ago that was the case. So we had a ceremony on our farm, cleaned out a barn that hadn't been cleaned out in 30 years, but it was absolutely beautiful – not a regret about that day, it was so wonderful. Everything about it was great. But then, when it was legal to marry in New York, we went to New York to get married and then soon after the interpretation of the law was that that would be valid here in Pennsylvania. So... so with being on the farm and – I then started working, or became the president of the Pennsylvania Farmer's Union. I was named to Governor [Tom] Wolf's Agriculture Transition Committee when he was governor-elect, to just talk about, okay, in the new administration, what would agriculture look like? I've never had anything even

resembling a government job before, so I was very naïve and had no idea that that was kind of maybe like a job interview, [laughs] you know, that whole experience. I just thought I was writing a report, which I did, and out of that experience ended up being asked to serve as deputy secretary so I was appointed in 2015. So and – the secretary and the governor really – you know, they had a strong commitment to diversifying the face of agriculture. Maybe didn't realize how diverse they were going to make it by appointing me [laughs] ... but no, they've both been wonderful. Very supportive, and I think in their mind, you know, they really – today's agriculture is very diverse. What we do on our farm is, you know, we have a diversified organic produce farm and we also pasture poultry and we do all direct sales to our customers so half of what we do is a CSA [community-supported agriculture] model and the other half is marketing to DC, Baltimore, and Harrisburg restaurants. And you know, Pennsylvania's really well-positioned, given how diverse we are in our agricultural community to – to really thrive, so I'm very excited to be, you know, in the position I am to have the role that I do.

**MF:** So, you're in Harrisburg as assistant secretary of agriculture. Is Deborah running the farm?

**HS:** Yes, and we, I mean, we have at the height of the season about 10 employees, so... Oh my goodness, yes, we couldn't do it.

**MF:** And you then housed them right on the farm?

**HS:** Some. We typically have three full-time employees that live on-farm and then we have an awesome group of young Amish women that work for us just during the day, and they put us all to shame with the amount of work that you can get done in a day. These are actually the younger siblings in some cases of some women that have worked for us over the years, so... Yeah, they're really great, we couldn't do it without them and Deborah's parents' idea of retirement is, instead of working 14 hours a day on the farm, they work like, 12, but, [laughs] you know.

**MF:** So they're still living nearby?

**HS:** Yep, Yep, yeah. And the kids, of course, work too. We're actually really missing my daughter with her being away at college, so...

**MF:** Oh wow, I can't wait to see how everything turns out for her.

**BB:** I guess I'm wondering, how are you finding government now?

**HS:** Yeah, yeah. [laughs] You know, I say a couple times a week, I am so grateful to be at the table, you know, and I'm grateful for the wonderful leadership that we have in this administration. It is a curious thing to navigate state government, yeah, yeah. So, and my – you know, I'm serving an appointment so, you know, I can always have that in my head that I'm – I'm here to serve in the time that I, you know, have this appointment, and then I'll be back on our farm and, so...

**MF:** Show your hands-on experience and you use it a lot, you know, when you're working. I think – I think it does. I think that that makes a difference for people, and that's been true that all

three deputies right now and the secretary all are coming from agricultural backgrounds, which isn't always the case, so I think that means a lot to people.

**BB:** I guess I'm wondering too, have you had any reactions from people now that you find that you were advertised as the first openly gay lesbian women....

**HS:** No, [laughs] no...

**BB:** You haven't had anybody...

**HS:** No, no, no. I've – you know, I've mentioned to – or – when I spoke at Pennsylvania Comes Out for Freedom yesterday, I said I – it was supposed to be our coming out story, and I said, "I don't really have this, you know, dramatic coming out story. I've been out in every aspect of my life for 30 years and I haven't really, you know, yes, I got sent home on that plane, but you know, I don't have this big story," and you know, someone said to me like, "That is your story. That's a privilege, 'cause not everybody has that," and that was really helpful to me, you know, that helps me appreciate the gift that I've had. I've had the wonderful – you know, so much wonderful family and friends, so much support, and ever my children, you know, they – they know a world growing up with two moms with a lot of support in their life, you know, going to the Unitarian church when they were younger and just being surrounded by people who care for them. That's their reality, and I think a lot of kids are growing up with that reality. It is hard sometimes to remember that not everybody has that, and you know, I'm really glad that our kids are growing up, you know, where they have the assumption that they will be accepted.

**MF:** Did they ever run into any reaction in the school setting?

**HS:** No. In fact, I remember so many times in preschool, I would have teachers call me and say, "Such and such friend's mom is saying their child's coming home and saying, 'Why can't I have two moms?'" [laughs] and I mean, how do you respond to that, I don't know! Like, what should I say? You know, but it's great. You have people who love you in your life, regardless of who that is, you know. Two moms, two dads, a single parent, a mom and a dad, you know, what's important is that you have people who love and respect you and want the best for you.

**MF:** Alright then, so glad to hear that that was their experience. So, regarding – how else are you an ally, or connected to LGBTQ concerns? Are you in any – obviously, you're a spokeswoman, but is there any other way, you're connected. There probably isn't a moment left (undecipherable).

**HS:** Right, yeah. I don't right now have a lot of time for anything other than my work, and then when I'm home I really wanna be home and working on our farm. But you know, now having a daughter in college, we talk a lot about the advocacy work that, you know, she has a responsibility to do, and just when I can, even in my official capacity, speaking at events, like at the capital yesterday, and my decision to be out. You know, I think that that's really important for young people to see that there are adults who are able to be out in their life and negotiating the world around them and honestly, like I mentioned before, I really feel like when people get to know another person – and I meet a lot of people in my job, and it's not like I introduce myself

as a lesbian everywhere I go, but I don't hide who I am. I think it just shifts – shifts people's thinking a little bit here or there, and I think it also helps that, you know, Deborah being – you know, her family being a part of our community for so long – and in a very conservative community, a lot of plain sect farmers around us, but her family's highly respected in our community, you know, they probably – I don't know, think we're a little strange, but you know, it's – I think particularly in agriculture, if they see you're doing work and it's working and you're making a go of it and it's working out okay for you... Everybody has their story, you know...

**MF:** So they can see your value as the community to them has respect for everyone.

**HS:** Yeah, yeah.

**MF:** And you're a hard worker, productive farmer. You gotta be alright [laughs]. Okay, I know you're very busy, are there any other organizations you're affiliated with, like - or farm associations?

**HS:** Oh yeah, sure. Yeah, no, yeah, the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Pennsylvania Farmers Union... Those would be the two main organizations, or agriculture...

**MF:** Were they all active, or did you just serve as officer?

**HS:** [laughs] I had to stop all of that when I got this appointment.

**MF:** Conflict of interest plus no time.

**HS:** Yeah. And I do try, you know – there also is a group of lesbian, gay, and trans farmers – I don't know if you're familiar with the film “Out There” [full title: Out Here: A Queer Farmer Film Project], but... You know, I speak on panels about what that experience is like because a lot of us live in rural communities. But, we're just like the rest of the population of the world as far as how many of us are lesbian, gay, or trans, you know. It's – it's – you know, it's no different than any other occupation. We're there.

**MF:** So this is a film called “Out There”?

**HS:** Yeah.

**MF:** And was that at major theaters, or just a documentary...?

**HS:** Yeah, it's a documentary, yeah. It's through the Queer Farmer Project, so...

**BB:** What would you tell the other people who – part of the LGBT community who have an interest in farming?

**HS:** In farming?

**BB:** What kinds of things – what advice would you tell about pursuing it, or...?

**HS:** We need young people to come into farming. [laughs] Yeah, and today even urban farming is so big. I would say just volunteer on a farm or see if you can get a little bit of experience working on a farm. We really need – we need farmers. It's really, really important. There are such a small number of young people going into farming today, so I'd say the same for them as I would anybody, please try it. It's a great...

**MF:** Yeah, if we're gonna continue to eat.

**HS:** I know, I know. [laughs] Yeah.

**MF:** Are there – how would you summarize the changes you've seen? And then, the follow-up question would be, what changes do you still want – still remain? Future changes you think are still moving around.

**HS:** Well I mean, I think particularly for – you know, yesterday at the capital I met a twelve-year-old trans boy who was just, you know, knock your socks off speaker, and it was because he was just so comfortable in his own skin. And had, you know, his mother beside him who just adores him and loves him for who he is. It is so wonderful that some kids have that experience today. I would say in the trans community, that's not the case, you know. Just the laws, you know, and my daughter going to college in North Carolina, one of the first things I asked was, "What are you doing, you know, with HB2 [House Bill 2, or Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act]? Keep students safe when they're off campus." And it's hard to believe that these laws are still being proposed, you know, in our country. So, I would say really, support for the trans community is vital right now, much as we really needed support, you know. Even 10 years ago, to have equal rights, that's – trans people are really struggling right now with that.

**MF:** And you know, and that's in their own country and then internationally, there's still so much...

**HS:** Oh yes, yeah, yeah.

**MF:** You mentioned your trip to Europe and well, before that, your March on Washington. I just wanna make you aware you can see it in the material that they also collect materials, photographs, and concrete evidence of, yeah know, the journey, I don't know if you would have anything you would ever want to donate.

**HS:** Sure.

**MF:** And following up, I feel like we are wrapping up. Is there anything that we have missed, or that you would like to highlight?

**HS:** No, just thank you for volunteering for this project, yeah know, it is really important. Yeah, thank you for that.

**MF:** You're welcome. Thank you very much.

**HS:** Thank you