DEAR FRIENDS- I had a remarkable experience today where I seized an opportunity to counter the widespread backlash of ignorance and bigotry toward transgender people like myself.

And in my plucky and positive way I spoke love and truth to power and worked to spread the light of compassion and understanding to millions of people.

In this case the power of the mass media and in particular one of the most listened-to talk shows in the country!

Here's how it happened. I was walking along the East River in Astoria Park here in New York City and listening to the radio on my Iphone7 as I sometimes do.

As I flitted from station to station, scanning for something that might prove amusing and interesting, my search came to a screeching halt when I heard the following words on AM 970......

"There is nothing real or natural about the so-called 'transgender' condition. It's essentially a mental illness and any parent that believes their little boy when he insists he's a little girl is committing child abuse".
Needless to say that nasty little bombshell caught my attention!

Of course I've heard similar misguided screeds hundreds of times before.

Welcome to my world you guys!

But this time I decided to call in and in a clear and confident manner assert the radical proposition.....

That I and my TG sisters and brothers are not genetically flawed accidents, damaged people defying the laws of God and Nature.......

Or "crazy"!

With a sense of mission and just the right touch of healthy anger I dialed the number for the show and was immediately connected to the call screener. She was a very nice woman who asked me my name and the topic I wished to discuss.

I replied that my name is Brielle and that I'm a happy and proud transgender woman living in New York City.

And that I had a perspective that I believed both the host and the audience would find both entertaining and enlightening.

I could feel her smiling at me through the ether. "You sound great"! she exclaimed. "I'm putting you at the head of the line so you'll be up next. Hang on Brielle......!"

So far the trusty Butterfly Positivity was opening doors. I eagerly awaited my chat with the millions of listeners who would hear my words.

After a two minute commercial break the host- a very bright conservative blogger named Ben Shapiro- greeted me and shared my name and status as a TG female with the audience.

In the rapid fire manner of talk radio he launched right into the issue of the day- whether parents who support their TG child's claims of being misgendered are actually harming rather than helping them.

Of course he was asking another unstated question at the same time. And it was whether what I've known about myself my whole life and faced the most challenging ordeal to fulfill- my innate female self- is nothing but a disorder and a delusion.
As we began the verbal sparring my finely honed intuition sensed no real malice in him. I didn't read him as a "hater" but rather as someone blinded by the religious and political beliefs that make up his reality.

I also quickly grasped that he had never actually spoken with an articulate and completely self-assured TG person. After all we're at most one half of one percent of the population!

So I saw an opportunity for a "teachable moment" over the worldwide airwaves.....

I replied that I would gladly answer his question but that I would preface my remarks with some basic facts. He hesitated- talk show hosts love to stay in control, especially when they are grinding their cherished ideological axes- but something in my manner swayed him and he told me to go ahead.

I began by asserting that in all fairness the status of people like myself can't be a religious issue-as so many try to make it- because the transgender phenomenon is simply not mentioned anywhere in The Bible, Koran, Talmud etc.

Therefore any dictums about TG folks offered by various faiths, churches and denominations are purely the result of personal prejudices and temporary social beliefs.

Secondly I stated that neither can the validity and "normality" of transgenderism be determined via science. We simply have no grasp of the neurological, genetic, hormonal or brain functioning that generates the TG phenomenon in folks like me.

So to be both rational and honest we must admit that there is absolutely no proof that transgender men and women aren't exactly who and what they say they are.

Lastly I said that me and my "transtribe" shouldn't be turned into a political issue. And that both myself and many other TG people are sick of both the righteous, judgemental right and the divisive, manipulative left using us as political footballs.

I have to say that I was thoroughly in my "flow" and enjoying myself!

And I was imagining the audience- made up largely of people with traditionalist viewpoints-muttering "whoa...... my brain's exploding...... this woman is actually making sense"!

Ben said that he found what I was saying fascinating and that he really wanted me to hear my thoughts on the childrearing issue.
So he accorded me the rare honor of giving this "girl-in-progress" another entire segment to respond after the commercial break.

Three minutes later we were back on the air. He said that since it was a short block of time and the last one of the show that I had the floor.

This is what I said: If I had (for example) a child who was born biologically male but who said she (yes..... "she" ) was a girl I would trustingly and respectfully let her live in the gender role she chose as long as she wished.

And of course I would carefully monitor and assess if she was happy and thriving in that mode.

I went on to say that I would NOT permit hormones, surgeries etc. until (at the very earliest) the onset of puberty. If my little girl had maintained her assertion that she was who she said she was I would at that point leave it up to her if she wanted to begin physical transition.

Then I respectfully challenged my host- and the audience- by saying this.

"It really boils down to a simple question. If you believe that being TG is a natural and healthy (if rare) expression of human variation...... or if you could humbly admit that you don’t know...... you would lovingly let your child find their way within the guidelines I've proposed.

If you don't believe that you probably wouldn’t. But in my opinion you would therefore be invalidating the child’s genuine self and unintentionally causing the severe and lifelong inner suffering that would follow.

Let me repeat that being transgender is not a religious or scientific issue nor should it be a political one.

Ultimately this is a good old American + human- issue of self-determination.... It’s really all about helping children be who they were born to be. Guided not by our pet ideologies but rather by respect, kindness and love".

Ben thanked me for being on the show and said we were out of time but he hoped I’d call in again. The theme music came up..... And it was a wrap!
In the aftermath of the call I was filled with a sense of elation. This Butterfly had flown into the Lion's Den and done soul battle with the forces of ignorance and intolerance.

And I believed that she had prevailed!

Somehow I felt the wheels of our culture and society turning- toward inclusion, toward compassion, toward freedom.

Not only for TG people but for our country as a whole.

Because if the hearts and minds of the masses begin to open toward "ultimate outsiders" like me....... Surely that will be part of a wave of greater tolerance that will touch and include all of us. I instinctively felt that I had made a small but very real contribution to bringing a better and brighter world into being.

And my heart was bursting with joy and pride for how this Butterfly had stood her ground.....

Did her part....... 

And spoke love and truth to power!

LOTS OF LOVE- BRIELLE

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