



My name is Amir. When I was 15 years old, I finally found the courage to tell my parents that I was gay. My family reacted with anger, violence, rejection and shame. They made it very clear to me that they deemed my sexuality abhorrent and shameful so much so that they were violent towards me.

I fled from my family and took refuge at my local school. I shared my fears with my class teacher and Children's Services were immediately informed. I was received into the care of the Local Authority and subsequently placed in foster care with Mariam and Babar.

Mariam and Babar were also caring for two other looked after children at that time, Shanice aged 12 and Maalik aged 17, both of whom had been in long term foster placements for the past 9 years.

Maalik had already opened up to his foster carers that he was gay when he was 12 years old and he and Shanice were now very settled with Mariam and Babar.

In view of the high risk that my family presented towards me, my whereabouts were highly protected and I was consequently forced to change school.

Do you care enough?

#OneMoreHome

Visit www.onemorehome.co.uk and download the information pack.

To speak to an advisor in confidence for information and advice, call Fosterline on **0800 040 7675**, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5pm



This was a really difficult time in my life, I felt fearful, rejected and unsettled. Although I felt safe with Mariam and Babar, I experienced anxiety, unhappiness and I preferred to spend time alone in my bedroom rather than socialise with the rest of the fostering household.

Over time, through Mariam and Babar's gentle, consistent care, I became more trusting and confident in their company and more engaging with others around me. They ensured that I was safe, well supported at school and were always there for me.

Mariam and Babar regularly had friends who were both homosexual and heterosexual visit their home which became part of my everyday life. The fact that Mariam and Babar had homosexual friends was great for me as I didn't feel as isolated and I finally felt accepted for who I was.

I enjoyed spending time and going on holidays with Mariam, Babar, Shanice and Maalik. My confidence started to grow as well as my self-esteem and with the help and support from Mariam and Babar I did really well in my GCSEs and went on to achieve 'A' grades in my A levels.

With the continued encouragement and support from my carers, together with financial support of the Local Authority I pursued my dreams and went on to study medicine at university.

Today, I am happy and settled in a long term relationship with my partner Tom. In fact, my foster care journey hasn't ended, as Tom and I are now foster carers and have been fostering for the last two years. I can now shape a child's life and give what Mariam and Babar gave to me.

Amir

(Names have been changed to protect anonymity)

Do you care enough?

#OneMoreHome

Visit www.onemorehome.co.uk and download the information pack.

To speak to an advisor in confidence for information and advice, call Fosterline on **0800 040 7675**, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5pm