

Speaker 1 ([00:05](#)):

Yeah, just seeing it's on this side. There were, I think you just got to walk, keep walking straight. I seen it.

Speaker 2 ([00:17](#)):

Okay. Um, so we'll get started. I mean, you already kind of told me about yourself, but tell me about yourself one more time.

Speaker 1 ([00:26](#)):

Um, so, uh, when I was born, I was born with a bone disease. Um, I don't myositis polymyositis connected with rheumatoid arthritis. Um, at that time I was four years old when I was diagnosed. So I used to like run through the mall and all of a sudden I just fell. So it started being difficult then for me health wise. And as life went on, um, I developed something called a polycystic ovarian syndrome, which are ovaries that produced to Stastrom. So, uh, my hormones are doing some weird things that I didn't understand or did, nor did the doctors diagnosing me later with, uh, being intersects when I was born. Uh, they didn't realize that though until later in the dates. Uh, as time went on from there, I, I ended up going to prison. I ended up going to prison and well, juvenile hall and being convicted of second degree robbery and doing 10 year or 12 years, but getting a tenure enhancement two years for my crime. So in all doing 12 years. So my enhancements overrode my time of actual sentencing for the case that I committed.

Speaker 1 ([02:02](#)):

At that time I was 17 years old. I was incarcerated too. I was 28 years old. Coming home and trying to adjust and back into the community is still difficult. Uh, I've been home for seven years and I still haven't gotten my life back and I don't believe that I fully ever will in that past aspect. Um, things have gotten, gotten better due to opportunities that the community that I've obtained and the LGBT scene, um, jobs have come to me and things have gotten a lot brighter in my world due to having a relationship with a lot of the LGBT community. Uh, I do identify as gender nonconforming. Uh, I do go by crystal Chris, no pronouns at all. That is K R Y. S. a. L. slash. K. R. Y. S. um, I am 36 years old now. Uh, as I stated, I've been home seven years.

Speaker 1 ([03:13](#)):

Uh, I'm a carpenter at the Offerman wood shop. I am also a carpenter at woodworks. W O U, L D, woodworks, um, Offerman woodshop. O. F F E R M, a. N which shop, um, where I've been working at offer man for I guess the last six and a half years, almost seven, almost since I've come home. Um, so it's been really dope growing there and learning woodworking and learning [inaudible] you know, basically I call it the ugly duckling cause when you first get the piece of wood, it's rough. It's rigid, probably a lot of tear off, you know, it's kinda like life. Um, it's kind of things that we go through and as we begin to succeed at the things that we want to succeed at, the world starts to brighten up and starts to clean up a lot more. We start to see a little clearer and way, elbow able to help a lot of other people.

Speaker 1 ([04:21](#)):

So, um, the ending stage is, you know, beautiful and you're where you want to be and it's really dope. So, uh, the ugly duckling is what I go through at work on a daily. So I love the lessons that the wood has, the teacher in it. And that's why I've stuck with it for so long. Uh, also at woodworks I work with skid

row, different housing projects. Uh, right now we're working with a lot of women housing projects, uh, particularly the downtown women's center and teaching, um, teaching how to get back into the work life and teaching how to, uh, how things can change for the better and just walking through it with different women that have been through better women. Uh, LGBT. Um, uh, as far as like growing out of being able to get help in that form coming here from different countries, being non non, uh, citizens of here.

Speaker 1 ([05:32](#)):

Non-documented more so, um, and just letting them know that, you know, every day, every day may not be perfect, but we're here to help and we're here to make a change. And that is woodworks. Um, I got into activism through CCW P California coalition for women prisoners. While I was incarcerated, I was assaulted by officers in my, uh, forced date in prison for women. Uh, I was on B yard. I was in beat two. I remember like, it was yesterday. I was refusing to lock in and due to that factor, the officer was like, no, you're gonna lock in. And I was like, no, this isn't for me. I just need, I just need to be away from people. And he said, okay. And they pray. They spray me with for Kansas pepper spray, um, assaulted me and threw me in. Um, shoo. At that time, a friend sent, gave my, my name to the people from CC DWP and they got in contact with me. And from there on, I've been working with CCW.

Speaker 1 ([06:58](#)):

So, um, an assault is why I started first talking to CCW Wookiee and becoming an activist and learning what that, what an activist was and what an activist does. And this was at 19 years old. Here's something you need to do. The first thing that you need to do to be an effective activist is to, if you have not been incarcerated, you need to speak to people that have been incarcerated and understand so you can understand the language when other people are coming out and you want to, um, be able to relate to the people. And by relating to the people is by understanding the language and being able to speak the language. But on the other side, being able to explain it from both levels and from somebody that has not been incarcerated and somebody that has been incarcerated, there's a big language barrier. Um, their experiences that come from the inside are very, um, important because the people that have lived through it can only be the people that can help you present it correctly. Uh, so the stories, I guess, speaking to the people from inside and having a clear communication, a truthful conversation, um, and delivering it. Yeah, but only want to go in see it.

Speaker 1 ([08:53](#)):

These new straws are death. Excuse me. Do you have a different straw? Cause this is like a tragedy. Yeah. Dad don't want to make the Keppra. I like said negative there. No problem. Yes. Uh, my business, my biggest success, um, talking to the legislators in Sacramento and then recording us, um, Coby lens and I, um, were able to present and we were, it was supposed to be one other person, but she was unable to come trans woman and um, I believe her name was Kiki and, uh, we were able to present LGBT to the legislators to more so for them to understand. So like when, when uh, people that are incarcerated go to the board, they're denied because if they're in a women's prison, um, they're denied if they identify as male. But like, you know, that also goes with you give testosterone in prison.

Speaker 1 ([10:57](#)):

Come on man. Like, get up outta here. That don't even make sense. So like, it was really cool to be able to present to legislators, uh, like the LGBT community, like what, what we go through as far as abuse,

what we, um, who we want to be as people and how we want to be seen as people. And them actually fill in my, they were receptive. And why? Because they ask questions. I have several of them ask questions like how can we help with this and how can we help with that? How can we make this better? Oh, I had no idea that just because a woman, you know, presented herself is looking, you know, masculine, that they don't have to identify as that like they can just be a lesbian woman or just a regular CIS woman. Just because they look aggressive doesn't mean, you know.

Speaker 1 ([12:01](#)):

So also talking about genders that are not LGBT and they're identified as this way just because they look more masculine. You know, I'm talking about, for me it was a conversation about polycystic ovarian syndrome. So polycystic ovarian syndrome is ovaries that produce testosterone and not estrogen so much. So therefore I, I present myself as masculine. Naturally, there is no hormone involved. There is none of this. There is none of this. I, yes, you are born like this, you know, and they're just dumbfounded and, but it was really cool that they were like, I had no idea. I had no idea about this. You know, like when talking to someone that identifies as a trans man and they are called now sir, that by calling them ma'am could be a trigger point completely of to failure. That is not a good thing. How unhealthy it is then for them to understand that this is not okay, you know, to talk to a trans woman and to call her him is not okay. You know, and like to really break it down like they had, it looked like they had no idea on how they were like depleting life and it's wild, but understanding why it's trivial to them.

Speaker 1 ([13:40](#)):

That's it. Yeah. That was it. So like [inaudible] and not say that they were all like that, you know, some of them were had of course they got common sense, they were just like screwed, right. A lot of them are not and they you can like just see it in our eye starting to click. So then like apologizing to me and I'm not the one, you know, so I'm like, no, you got some people to apologize to let them out. You know, that's it. Let them out. Like, there's no reason why they're still dead in there. Like, you know, and I have people that are on the other side of the wall that are fighting for life without our licenses because, uh, food identify to be not because of the case and what defender. So like make it a difference and trying to get, we're working with different trans organizations and events and, uh, LGBT, uh, battery inside. Like it's, it's becoming bigger and bigger and bigger, but the legislators definitely I guess would be the number one Sacramento. Yeah. Yeah. And looking forward to that again, what we're supposed to do, like with governors, we're supposed to do next stages. Wow. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So I'm waiting. Yeah. Yeah. What would you consider one of your biggest struggles? Oh God, my biggest struggles.

Speaker 1 ([15:13](#)):

I'm not an abolitionist. I'm not against prisoners. Um, I, I, I don't, I could never just say no to prisons completely. It needs to be, yeah. These real winded, there was a lot of difficulties that we have out here and there's a lot of things I need to change and a lot of, a lot of people that know you need to be in there and there's a lot of people that were not sentenced. Right. And you know, um, but I am not Abbott. Yeah. That would be my biggest struggle or it makes me step away a little bit because I, I continuously state that, understand people don't all feel that way, but there's families that have been hurt and situations that are out here dying because the person that went in, you know, got whatever they got, not what they deserve. I understand what they felt.

Speaker 1 ([16:30](#)):

I was feel the same frickin way. Not that I have family in that situation, but I have had family members murdered by individuals that I don't know where they're at. I don't know what they had going on. I don't know what kind of cases they got, but, and I know I would never want them to come home. Yeah. So knowing that alone, I can't say that I'm mad. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And I, and I mean like I know what I did and I know what people did next to me and I'm like, it's not that I know that I didn't deserve some time, I deserve some time or some type of, you know what I'm saying? Yeah. Consequence, you know, I didn't deserve just to go straight home if it was a standard camp. My case happened to be extreme the way they charged me two years for a crime, STD. So like, yeah, some reform though for sure.

Speaker 1 ([17:45](#)):

Oh, well, right now we're doing the, um, we're doing the, uh, me too inside of the prison for trans women and trans men right now. So I'm looking at that. Yeah. Um, so there was already, uh, some women that identify, well, some female born women that were identify that identified as they, that were abused by officers, uh, physically and um, abuse, like broken limbs and things like that. So like, um, the cases are already open, so everything is happening. So we're not allowed to talk about too much and, but I'm looking at it to be something really big and really a big movement that a lot of people are gonna get involved in because you know, people have been killed. There's suicides that people don't talk about. But that's actually, that could be also part of depending on the case. So like we know of a lot of neglect that has happened and it has a change. I did that. That makes no sense. We already in there circle time, like, you know, they, they put that law down where, you know, we become slaves again when you enter into the prison system. So that means you got to get 20 lashes or something. Like is it

Speaker 2 ([19:33](#)):

back to there? Where is it? What does, what does that mean? Yeah, what does it mean defining at all? I don't understand it. So, um, yeah, just need some clarity. Change. Big movement. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I never thought this would be happening like now. Right now, even though it's happening worldwide within the walls, this happening. It'd be good to see kind of a snapshot of what your last meal [inaudible]

Speaker 1 ([20:51](#)):

I see your natural zone.