

## FROM HERE

## by Gray Crosbie, and the LGBTQ+ community in Edinburgh

Where do we go from here?
After all these months and that endless year locked down, pandemic stuck.

Now we're ready
excited, nervous, desperate
to be together.
For new friends and familiar faces,
safe spaces to take it slow,
or to jump back in,
to jog, run, box, swim,
dance and sing our way back to ourselves.

To share the ways we endured the days the discovery that flower-picking and photography can be survival skills.

Our new favourite movies, the best forests and hills.

To tell of the things piano keys can unlock and talk about how it's not only time that's been lost.

Now we're ready to be with our people, to laugh and worry over a shared apple crumble and tangle ourselves in cuddle-pile jumbles. To relearn the energy of bodies, to remember how company in itself

can be a cure.

We need music to close the meters activities to ease anxieties.

We need journeys that are worth the three buses.

To buy tickets, hold programmes and run fingers over plans for the future, to embrace our city in a big queer takeover and have parties in the street.

We need the calm of nature, and a good night's sleep.

And some of us, we need to know we won't now find ourselves alone. That the virtual rooms where we found connection, that sparked with joy won't go dark and empty.

And some of us, we need for things to be different, better, fairer.

Back to normal isn't as exciting when "normal" wasn't always inclusive.

We need the same changes we did before: affordable childcare, help with the bus fare, spaces to be social while sober places without prices, where it's only time that is spent.

We need wait lists to be smaller and bigger funds counselling, assistants, interpreters, to be around people who're like us.

Accessibility, comfort, safety—

Our needs are varied but that's the beauty of diversity.

Lately, we've been looking forward again.
Because after all those months and that endlessly long year, if nothing else, we've learned the importance of togetherness.
Where do we go from here?

Poem and artwork commissioned as part of 'You, Me & Us: Wellbeing and the LGBTQ+ Community' with support from the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership.

With special thanks to Gray Crosbie and YLWBK Illustrations (Madeleine Leisk).



Madeleine Leisk
ylwbkillustrations.com
@ylwbkillustrations



Gray Crosbie
plantpoweredpoet.bigcartel.com
GrayCrosbie



