

Emilia

Hello everyone,

it's so wonderful to be surrounded by you all—beautiful people who have come here to fight, to celebrate, or to support who we are.

In writing this speech, I drew inspiration from my own experience and that of my friends.

Being queer means a constant struggle and constant joy. And that's what I'd like to talk to you about today.

Struggling is something many of us are probably used to in our daily lives.

As a lesbian and non-binary person, for me, the struggle has meant having to face the constant questioning of who I am and what I feel, and the feeling of having to assert and justify myself from the very beginning—even when I wasn't even sure who I was myself.

It has meant fear and the need to distinguish between situations where I can be who I am and those where I feel I have to make myself invisible—and the anger that comes with having to do so.

Struggling means constantly trying to ensure that our difficulties are recognized.

The struggle is—and must be—intersectional. It is anti-racist, anti-colonialist, transfeminist, and anti-capitalist. It means not remaining silent in the face of an ongoing genocide and the difficulties in accessing gender-affirming care.

Today is a day when we can fight together, without fear.

The struggle is Khur Pride.

Fighting to live is exhausting, and what makes it easier is being able to experience queer joy and having a community.

For me, queer joy means walking down the street with my partner and whispering “lesbians” in each other's ears when we see another couple like us.

It means being surrounded by people who let you be who you are without questioning you.

For Ele, it means being recognized for who she is, without having to explain or justify herself.

For Zoe, it means stepping outside of expectations.

For Nic, it means dressing up as a doll and simply existing.

Queer joy is queer anger, and it's a radical act.

Not everyone has the privilege of having a queer community around them. And precisely because of its vital importance, I'd like to invite you to keep recognizing each other, talking to each other, finding each other, and supporting each other whenever you can.

Emilia

If you're an adult, think about the kind of support and guidance you could offer to a young queer person.

If you're a young person, consider that there might be someone older you can turn to who can understand you.

I think this is one of the few places where we can truly build a community—even for the people who can't be here today.

Queer joy and community are what Khur Pride is all about.

May you find joy and keep up the fight.

Thank you.