

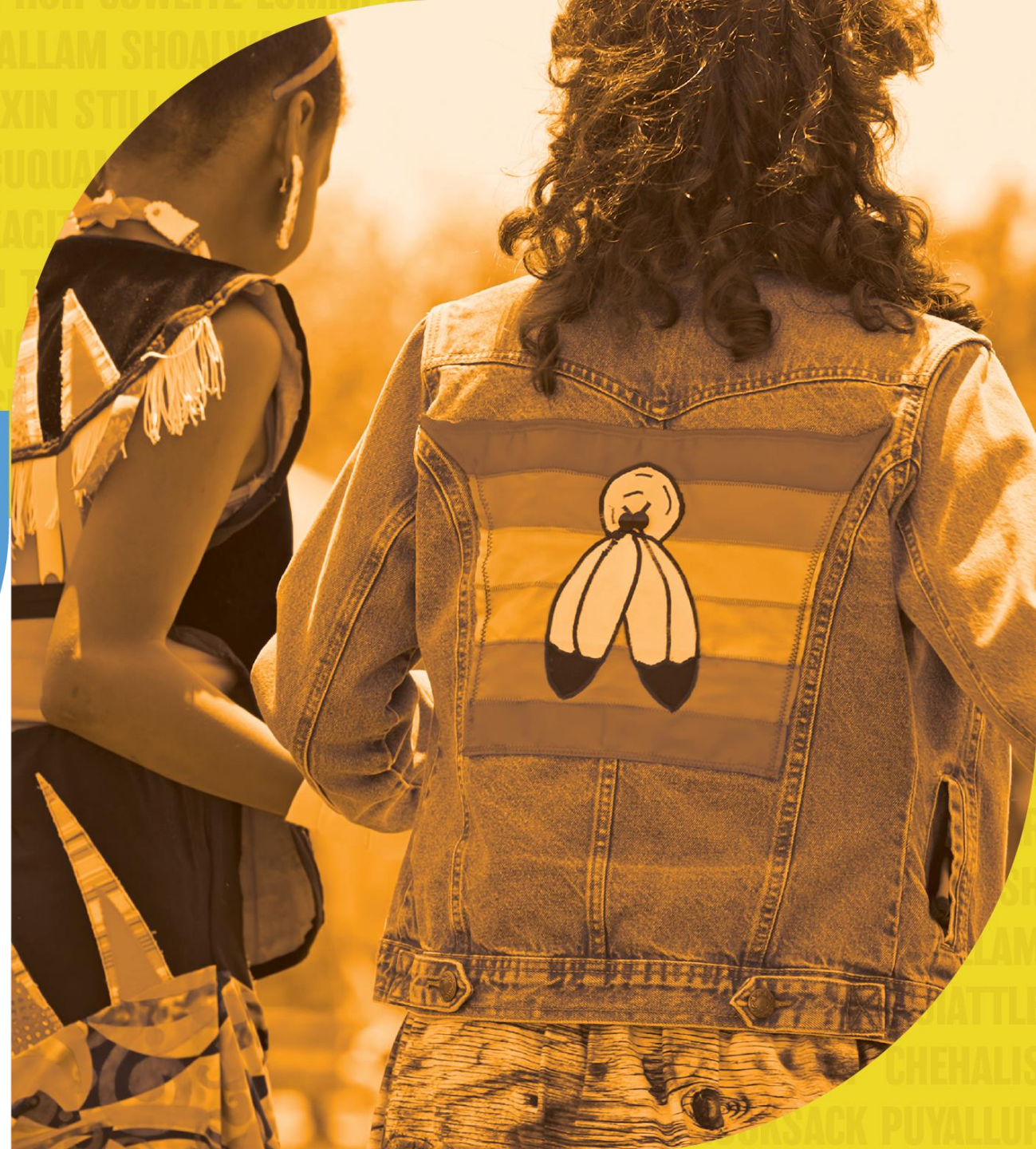
Strong Spirits Strong Communities

Supporting our 2SLGBTQIA+ Relatives

April 7, 2026

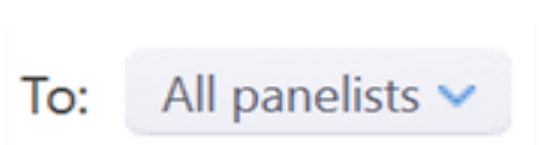


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Technical Notes and Support

If you lose connectivity during the session, **open your original “join” link to regain access to the webinar.** If you experience technical difficulties, **send a note using the chat box in your bottom menu bar,** and we’ll assist you from there. **Enjoy the session!**



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Welcome



Purpose of Gathering Today

Today we will:

- Center 2SLGBTQIA+ Native voices and experiences
- Recognize community strengths and resilience
- Share suicide prevention resources and how to help
- Create space for conversation, reflection, and hope



Partners



KAUFFMAN
AND ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED





What is the Native & Strong Campaign?

The Native & Strong campaign was developed in partnership with the 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington and the Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH). **Rooted in the belief that Connection is Prevention, this suicide prevention campaign is led by the leadership, wisdom, and priorities of Washington tribes, with the support of WA DOH.** Through this government-to-government collaboration, Native & Strong focuses on raising awareness, providing education, and sharing resources to support local efforts in preventing suicide and strengthening the well-being of tribal communities now and for future generations. To support this work DOH has contracted with Kauffman and Associates, Inc., an American Indian owned communications firm on community technical support, outreach, and campaign dissemination.

Connection is Prevention!



Grounding

Take a moment to think of someone supportive in your life ...





Understanding 2SLGBTQIA+

Two Spirit (2S): A modern, pan-indigenous, umbrella term used by some Indigenous North Americans to describe Native people in their communities who fulfill a traditional third-gender (or other gender-variant) ceremonial and social role in their cultures.

Lesbian: A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women.

Gay: A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.

Bisexual: A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.



Understanding 2SLGBTQIA+

Transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

Queer: A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Often used interchangeably with LGBTQ.

Questioning: A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity.



Understanding 2SLGBTQIA+

Intersex: An umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. In some cases, these traits are visible at birth, and in others, they are not apparent until puberty. Some chromosomal variations of this type may not be physically apparent at all.

Asexual: The lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other people.

The + sign represents orientations and gender identities not represented by letters; when the initialism is simply written as “LGBTQ+,” the plus sign is considered all inclusive of Two Spirit, intersex, and asexual.

Two-Spirit Identities



Experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ Individuals

2SLGBTQIA+ Native individuals may experience:

- Stigma or misunderstanding
- Isolation
- Barriers to culturally responsive care
- Bullying
- Rejection

But they also carry:

- Cultural knowledge
- Community leadership
- Resilience
- The strength and courage of their ancestors



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Community Conversation

Meet our Guests

Jordan Matthew



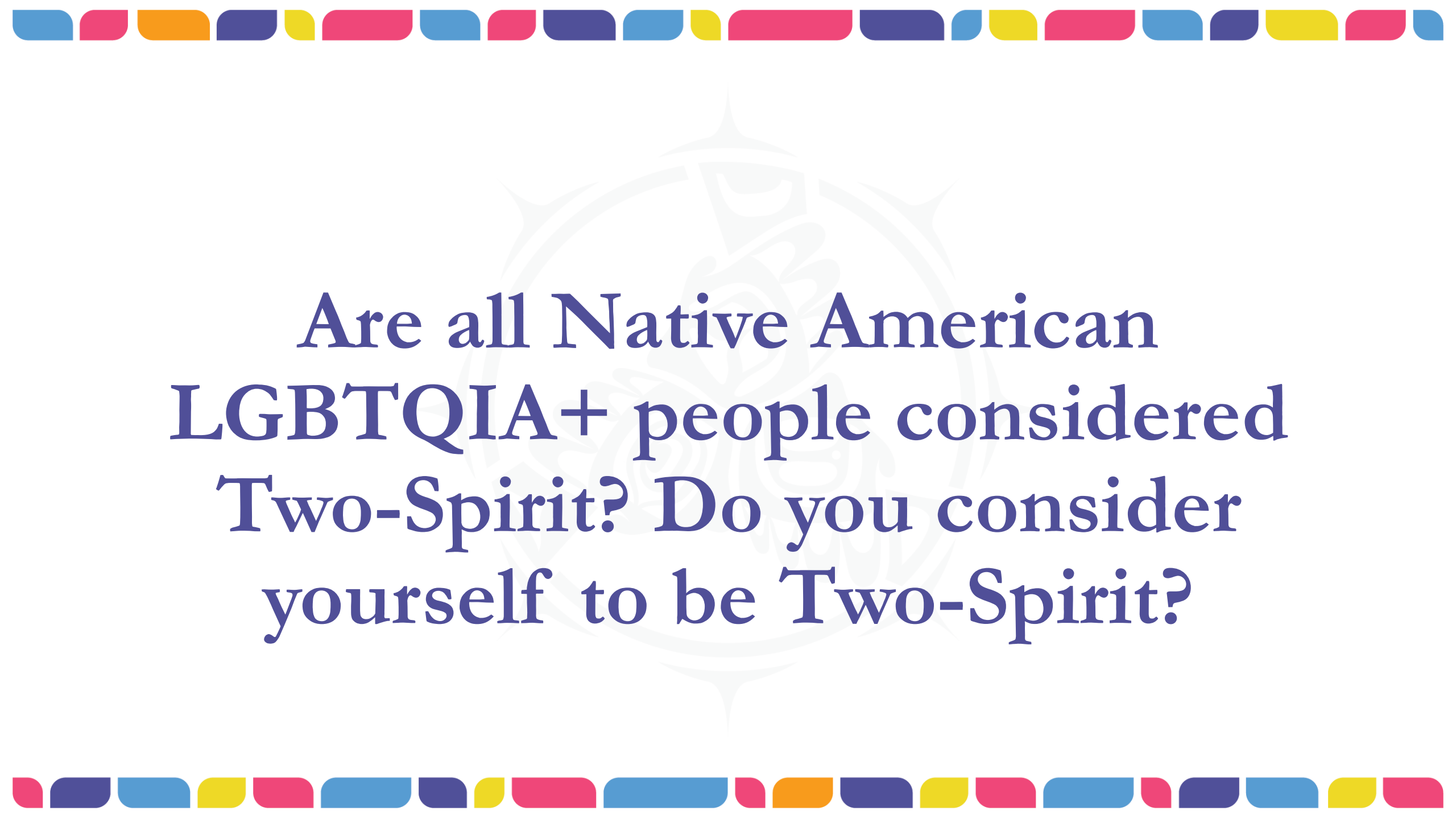
Mia Klick




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Are all Native American
LGBTQIA+ people considered
Two-Spirit? Do you consider
yourself to be Two-Spirit?

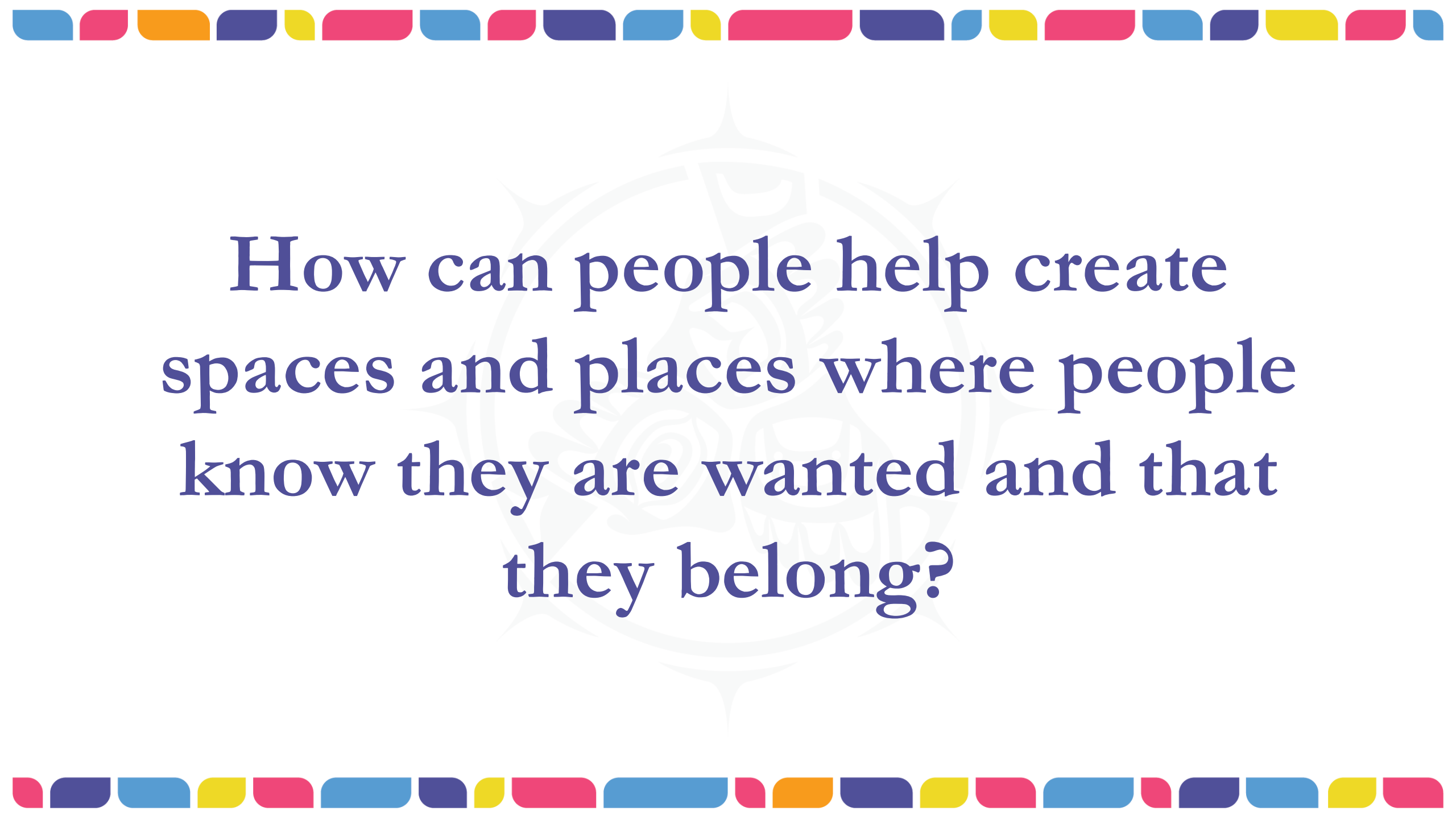


What kind of challenges do you see your community facing now?

What strengths do you see in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community?



When you have needed help,
outside of your family and local
community, where have you
turned for support?




How can people help create
spaces and places where people
know they are wanted and that
they belong?



What message do you have for
other 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals?

What do you wish you could
tell people outside of the
2SLGBTQIA+ community?






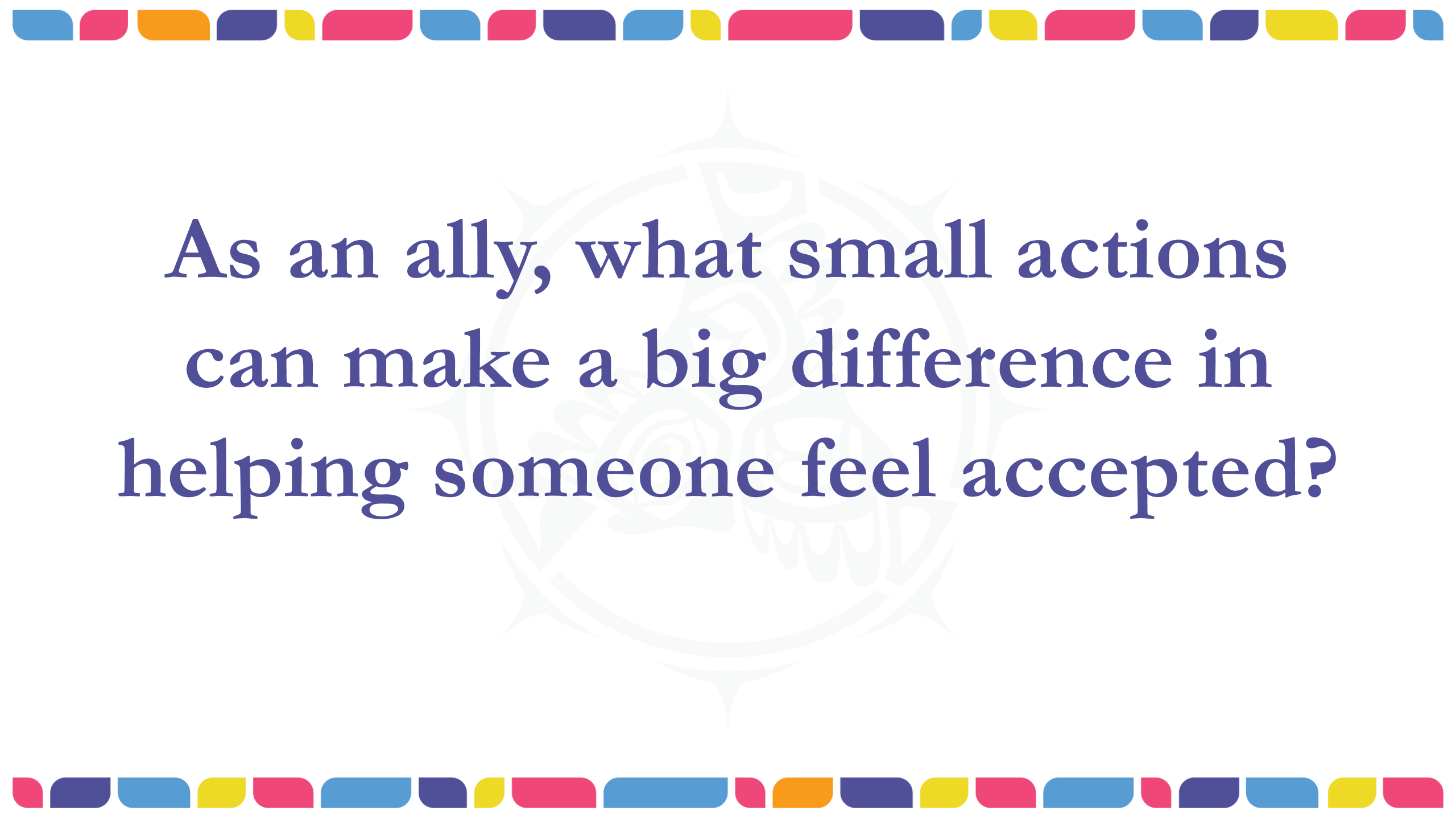
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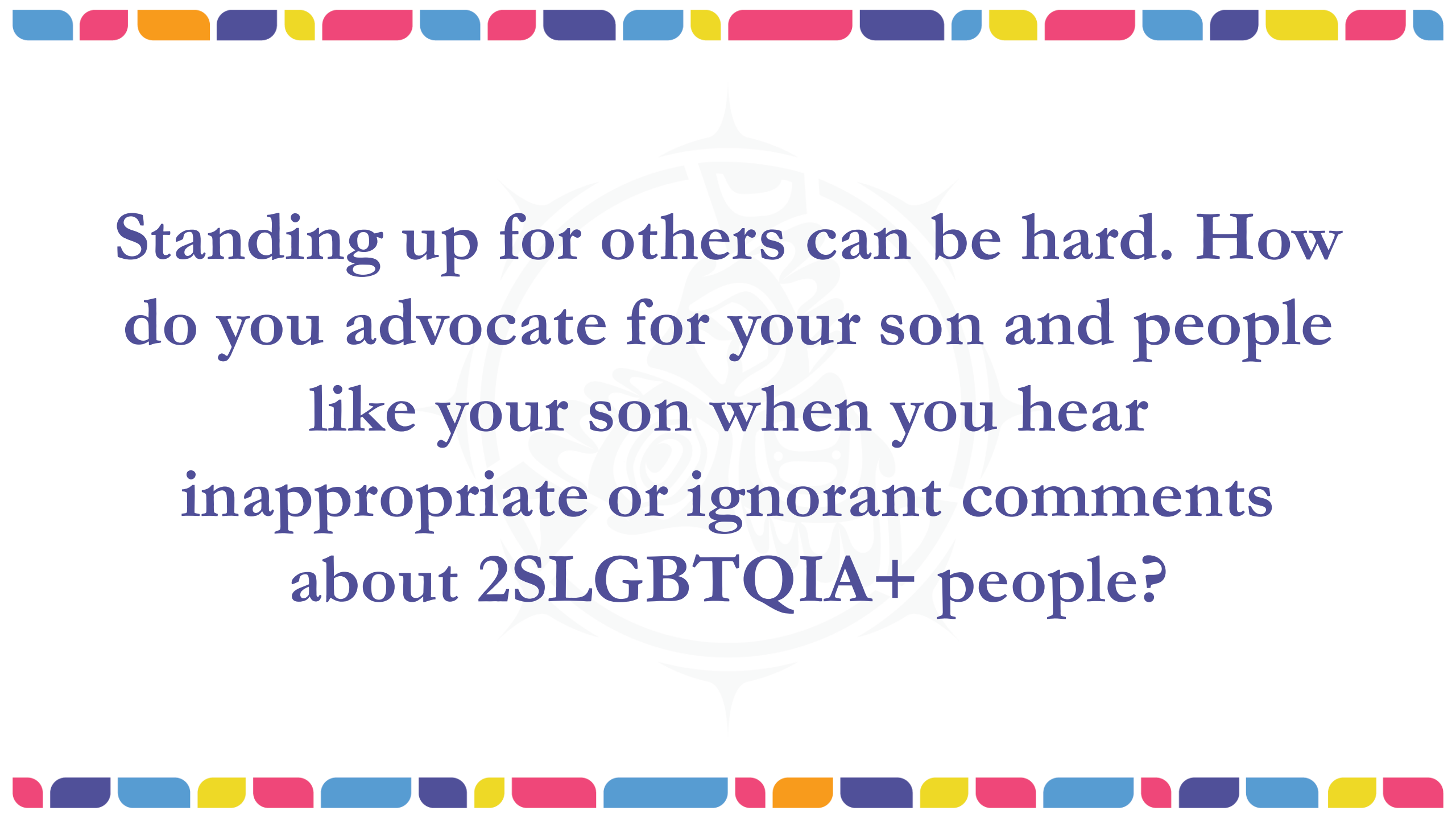
Family and Community Support




Tell us about your journey as a
parent and advocate of a son
who is part of the
2SLGBTQIA+ community.




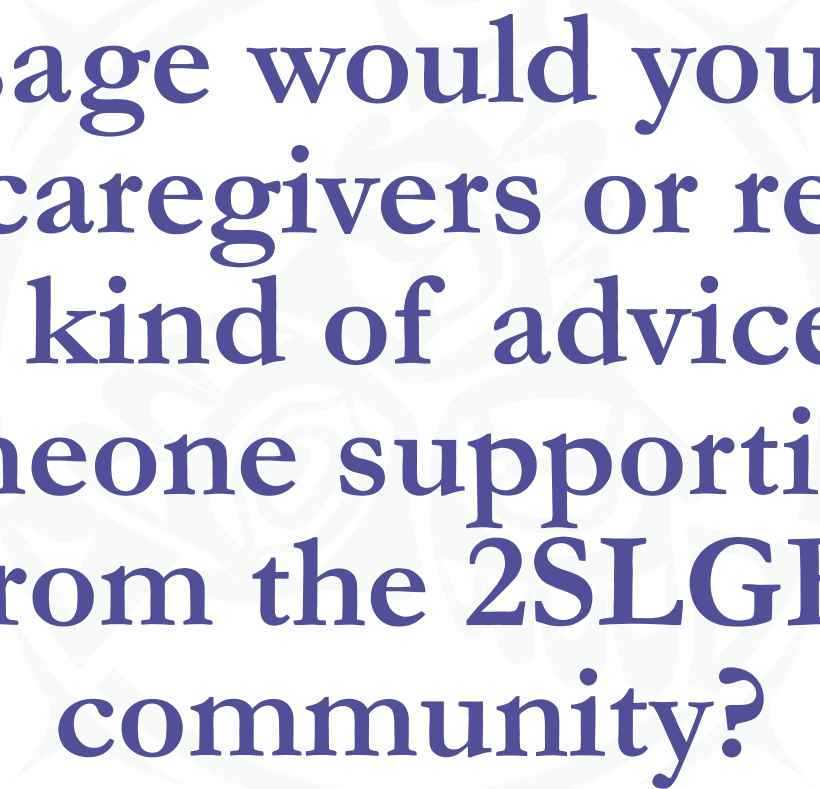
As an ally, what small actions
can make a big difference in
helping someone feel accepted?



Standing up for others can be hard. How do you advocate for your son and people like your son when you hear inappropriate or ignorant comments about 2SLGBTQIA+ people?



What message would you want other parents, caregivers or relatives to hear? What kind of advice would you offer to someone supporting a Native person from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community?



Q&A



Help and Resources

Get Help

Native & Strong Lifeline 988

- Call 988 and Press 4
- Text N8V 988
- Chat 988 and select box for “All Native American/Indigenous People in Washington”

Resources

- Native & Strong Resources
- Native Governance Center 2SLGBTQIA+ Resources
- Native Resource Hub



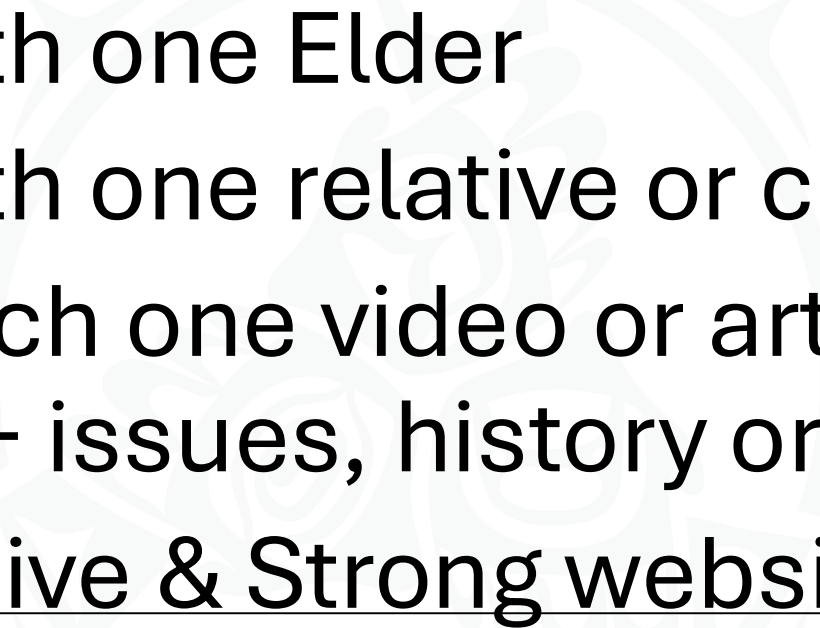

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Four Things You Can Do Today

- Check in with one Elder
 - Check in with one relative or chosen relative
 - Read or watch one video or article on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues, history or experiences
 - Visit the [Native & Strong website](#)
- 
- 



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Thank You!