

Fatima's story

I have definitely felt disadvantaged at times for being a gay Muslim woman. My family have not spoken to me since I came out as a lesbian almost ten years ago. This has been emotionally hard to work through and has also meant I don't have my family network to support me with things like childcare. My partner and I have a daughter to support but childcare is difficult, especially with my job. A couple of years ago, I started a job as a cleaner for an agency. The hours are long and the pay isn't very good which has meant it's been difficult to arrange childcare or even spend much time with my daughter. I've been looking for a job in the financial sector that pays better and has flexible working arrangements but I haven't had any luck. I had a job interview once where I was offered the job on the condition that I removed my hijab.

Dylan's story

I have always worked really hard to get where I am. My mother raised me and my siblings by herself and didn't earn a lot of money so growing up was quite difficult. When I went to university to study law, I couldn't afford to do many social things so missed out on making friends and future work connections. My classmates were from well-off families and most had the time to study without juggling a part-time job as well. It took me a while to get a job once I graduated. I hadn't been able to get a summer internship as I had to work and didn't have the connections. I'm now working in a law firm but I don't feel like I fully belong still. I also feel like I'm having to prove myself more than some of my other colleagues who have fitted in more easily than I have.

Georgia's story

I was born with spina bifida which has meant I am paralysed from the waist down. I'm in my twenties now and I really want to work in a lab. I have the qualifications but I've not been having any success with my job search. I did get some interviews but some have been quite stressful as I couldn't access the building easily with my wheelchair or felt a bit uncomfortable due to people's attitudes towards me being in a wheelchair. I didn't

do well as I know I could do because I was a bit flustered. I feel like my disability is holding me back in an already male-dominated industry.