I would like to write about the social issue of past and ongoing LGBTQ+ protests pressing for the inclusive laws that protect the rights of individuals in the same community. Specifically, I would like to discuss the rights protestors are pressing for, their reasons for doing so, and whether their reasons seem justified to me. I selected this issue because it has become an unavoidable topic of discussion, and having friends that identify as a part of said community makes me ponder about the topic every now and then.

The way I see it, protestors are protesting for inclusive laws to be imposed so that they can carry out their way of life without having to feel anxious of plausible criticism or discrimination. So often individuals who wish to join the LGBTQ+ community, i.e. change their sexuality, often cannot enthusiastically inform their loved ones for fear of being criticised, or in the worst case, punished. Similarly, protestors may feel that they are being discriminated against for not being able to live like other people can, e.g. being restricted on who they can marry. These are examples where protestors’ rights may seem violated or insufficient compared to others around them. They brew feelings of discontent. However, whether they can justify protests is another question.

Typically, if a community feels their rights are not being protected and preserved, they can ask for the help of a representative to speak with government authorities for the installation of inclusive laws in their country. For example, Singapore has the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony (PCRH), an advisory body to the Minister for Home Affairs, that reports on matters affecting the maintenance of religious harmony. Having a representative creates an interface where communities can speak their concerns to groups, in this case the government, that can improve their situation. However, in many countries, the LGBTQ+ community does not have such a representative to act as their voice, so whenever they speak their concerns, they often fall on deaf ears. This is when people’s, not necessarily those belonging to the LGBTQ+ community, frustrations start to appear, and may eventually lead to protests. This can seem justified; however, we must also consider the laws they are pressing for. For example, if they want a law that allows marriage between individuals of the same gender to be enacted, then it may be justified. However, if they require others to refer to them in a certain way, which may be an inconvenience to them, it becomes less clear whether their protests are justifiable, considering a protest for such a reason is (rather) rash. In this case, the pros and cons of the protests of LGBTQ+ members can be a double-edge sword; either they push for a more inclusive and cohesive society, or they simply disrupt its social order.

Everyone should be free to chase the life they want. So, if we see our friends being discriminated against or criticised for their stance and their sexuality, we should stand by them and do everything within a reasonable capacity to ensure their way of life and livelihood are protected.