**Society’s perception on the LGBTQ + community**

Less than 50 years ago, sexuality consisted solely on heterosexuality (WITH VERY LITTLE UNDERSTOOD OF THIS ‘NORM’) . 21 years later, activists began to use the initialism 'LGBT' to describe the increase in the variety of sexuality. 28 years later, the 'LGBT' initialism has now grown to 'LGBTQ+'. (MAYBE EXPLAIN WHY HERE?)
Alongside the growth of sexuality, society too, has grown in societal acceptance.

In recent years, a remarkable shift in attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community has MEANT THAT PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY HAS MEANT THAT MAINSTREAM SOCIETY NOW ARGUABLY embrace a new, more inclusive view of family life. With same sex intercourse (RELATIONSHIPS) once being a criminal act and same sex marriage now becoming legal (THE LEGALISATION OF GAY MARRIAGE IN REECNT YEARS), it's not just the law that's changed: we have too.

Attitudes have a complex attitude with the law. In some cases, the law catches up with attitudes and in others, attitudes catch up with the law. Normally, it's rare for a law to be ahead of public attitudes, however, the perception of the LGBTQ+ community is an example of how attitudes to the change in the law were going to be development over time.

During the last three decades, the British Social Attitudes survey has been designed to ask the public what they think of homosexuality. In the first survey in 1983, 60% of participants stated that sexual relations between two same sex adults was completely wrong. Now, figures have dramatically decreased to just over 20%, representing 1 in 5. (LOVE THIS, SEE IF WE CAN GET IZZY/HANNAH TO DO SOME KIND OF ILLUSTARTION FOR IT WHEN THEY DO LAYOUT)

Social change over the last 20 years has been driven considerably by three emerging strands. The first, is the relationship between the law and social attitudes. The second is how the issue is framed and talked about and the third is visibility – the issue itself being seen and stories being heard.

Being more exposed to the LGBTQ+ community over the years has allowed the public to accept this as 'natural' and shows how the mere fact of being exposed to a certain situation makes it seem less repugnant. (EXPAND ON THIS A BIT, GIVE EXAMPLES OF EVENTS WHERE THESE STRANDS HAVE BEEN APPARENT).

Age is a huge factor on the perception of the LGBTQ+ community. The young are born into a society where sexuality has no limits or restrictions and therefore acceptance of sexuality becomes natural and of second nature. The older generations still remain in the mind frame of the law 50 years ago and are still slowly shifting their perceptions of acceptance. (EXPAND THIS WITH EXAMPLES AND MAYBE SEE IF THERES ANY INTERVIEWS WITH OLDER LGBTQ+ PEOPLE WHO CAN PROVIDE AN INSIGHT INTO HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER?)

Despite the seemingly progressive attitudes towards sexuality, more than one in five LGBTQ+ individuals have been verbally or physically attacked in the last 12months due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Much of the attacks (MANY OF THESE ATTACKS) have taken place in public with one in six LGBTQ+ people, 17%, having being victims of hate crime in the last 12 months when visiting a restaurant, bar or night club. With one in seven experiencing discrimination when in a shop or a department store.

The abuse also translates into the online world, with homophobic, biphobic or transphobic abuse being targeted towards one in 10 LGBTQ+ internet users in the last month – a figure that increases to one in four for trans people.
Although the UK has taken huge strides in achieving equality for the LGBTQ+ community in Britain, it's evident that much more still remains to be done in order for individuals to feel safe when in public. Despite societal perception growing in acceptance, tackling discrimination is now the focal point for change. (GREAT RESEARCH SO FAR, MAYBE CONTINUE THIS LAST PART ON AND GIVE EXAMPLES OF HOW THIS DISCRIMINATION IS BEING TACKLED AND HOW PEOPLE ARE BEING EDUCATED)