

# Debbie Cannon

**LGBTQ Policy advisor - Transgender Expert at Debbie Cannon**

Manchester, United Kingdom, , GB

LGBTQ Expert/Policy Advisor, Diversity Role Model, Freelance writer, Motivational Speaker

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## Biography

Hi and thanks for stopping by. Growing up, I always knew I was different - I always felt like something was wrong - as soon as I knew the difference between boys and girls I wanted to be a girl. Every time I was asked to make a wish when I was little? I would wish I was a girl. Growing up was painful and I was made to feel shame for who and what I was. Any signs of showing femininity were instantly jumped on and berated. I was bullied at school and really didn't fit in. I dreamt of leaving school and being the person I had always wanted to be. But instead I did everything I could do, to be the person I was told I was. I listened to society's judgements and constraints rather than my own convictions. I joined the army straight from school (this was in 1990), and I hated it. I left in 1994 aged 21. I went to see a counsellor when I was 23 and explained what I was going through. She told me I didn't look, sound, or talk like a woman. Needless to say I was devastated. I turned to alcohol to numb the pain. I even tried to commit suicide. Ending it all at the time seemed to be the only way to stop the pain. But I couldn't. Something, God, the Universe, Higher Power, whatever you want to call it. Told me no. Told me that it wasn't my time. Not yet. I still didn't listen to who I was inside and followed a heteronormative and binary life until I was 39. By then I had a failed marriage. My father had died. And a child. I don't regret the latter for a second. My child is a wonderful blessing and I am so fortunate to have her in my life. For me, coming to terms with being transgender was one the most difficult; yet also one of the easiest decisions I've ever made. I am a heart centric woman, who is spiritually conscious , none-judgemental and above all accepting of difference and individuality. My vision is to help as many people as possible to come to terms with who and what they are. Every single one of us is striving for happiness. Want to be the best we can be. In helping others come to terms with themselves. I hope to make this world a happier, more loving and accepting place. Living my dream life has given me a passion, drive and commitment to helping others to do the same. Whatever that may be.

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## Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Host/MC

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## Industry Expertise

Professional Training and Coaching, Insurance, Health and Wellness, Corporate Training, Education/Learning, Fund-Raising, Library and Information Management, Media - Broadcast, Media - Online, Writing and Editing

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## Areas of Expertise

Lgbtq Issues, Lgbtq Awareness, Transgender, Lesbian Issues, Feminisms and Gender Studies, Motivating and Inspiring

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## **Affiliations**

Space Youth Project - Dorset - Trustee, Diversity Role Model, Freelance Features Writer - Diva Magazine, Pride Parents (Facebook) - Founder, LGBTQ Support Network - Founder

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Insurance Leader of the Year - Woman in Finance Awards 2017**

This award is open to the strongest senior-level contender in the insurance sector who has an outstanding track record in attracting and managing clients and bringing in successful deals. It is also open to women in senior diversity-specific roles. Judges will be looking for nominees who have demonstrated exceptional leadership.

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