

# UK lesbian left unconscious by brutal anti-gay attackers

Kerry Byrnes was set upon by two thugs while she was walking home alone at night, and the attack has left her scared to leave her home

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A UK lesbian posted horrific photos online of injuries she received from anti-gay attackers who targeted her as she walked home.

Kerry Byrnes was left unconscious for over 15 minutes when the incident happened on 17 August in Oakland, Leicestershire, UK where she lives.

The 23-year-old, who works in a Tesco supermarket, claims the two men recognized her from her job and targeted her as she walked home in the early hours of the morning.

The men, believed to be in their 20s, hurled anti-gay slurs at her before attacking her from behind.

'I heard one of them say: "that's the one that works on Fruit and Veg in Tesco, that's the lesbian," said Byrnes.



Image via Facebook

'And then the punch came out of nowhere and I hit the floor. They just started hitting me in the head and I lost consciousness.

'I don't know how long I was out for, it must have been about 15 minutes. It's all a bit of a blur, so I don't remember very much about it.

'I know I went home and my housemate looked at me called the police straight away. I had to go to hospital and the doctors have told me there might be a slight fracture in my cheek.

'It was horrible and I don't know how long I was unconscious for or how I managed to get home. I haven't left the house since it happened - I'm too scared to go out.

'Even the police think that it was motivated by my sexuality, but they don't have any leads as far as I know.

Byrnes said she has never been the victim of a homophobic attack in the small English town.

'I'm shocked, I know almost everyone in my town, everyone knows me and I've never had any problems,' she said.

'I've never suffered homophobic bullying like this.'

Byrnes hopes social media will help her catch her attackers. She has shared pictures of her injuries and encouraged people to share them, hoping anyone with information will contact the police.

Dennis Bradley, project manager at Leicester's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, (LGBT), Centre, told local newspaper Leicester Mercury the attack was deplorable.

'It is appalling that in this day and age that a young woman is unsafe in her own neighbourhood,' he said.

Councillor Jayne Woodcock, mayor of Oakham and chairwoman of the town council, agreed.

'Hopefully people will look at the photograph of her injuries and will tell the police who did this. Perhaps, the people who attacked her will feel guilty and will come forward,' she said.

Pc Mark Barlow is investigating the crime.

'This was a nasty assault which resulted in the victim receiving hospital treatment and she has been left badly shaken up,' he said.

Leicestershire Police are continuing the investigation.