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When Do I Matter

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When Do I Matter

By Romell E. McCalpin-Carter

Do I matter when it's a nice sunny day and all my friends can see my smile as a reflection of a rainbow? NO

Do I matter when it's February and my blackness is celebrated when every other month it's terrorized? NO

Do I matter when it's Pride and my sexuality is validated but my fatness is viewed as unworthy to be free? NO

Do I matter when I self-identify as non-binary and when I'm transgendered someone "comes to my rescue"? NO

Do I matter when it's 2 a.m. and another person who I see in me is dead on the scene and I cry silently when staring at the screen? NO

Do I matter when I go on a dating app and a man finally tells me I'm beautiful yet tells me I would be more valuable if I change for them? NO

Do I matter when I get a degree so I don't end up in poverty? NO

Do I matter when a system that was never made for me hasn't beat me into submission? NO

Do I matter when my family finally tells me they love me after years of telling me I'm worthless? NO

I matter because I said I matter and whether I must tell myself once a week, once a month, or maybe even once a year. I have to say I matter because at any point someone with power can say that I don't.