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25 FOR 25 SERIES

## TANYA COMPAS

*25 for 25 is an original content series by Gucci and CHIME FOR CHANGE to mark the historic milestone of Beijing +25 in March, as well as Women's History Month. The series will highlight activists, CHIME Advisory Board members, partners and supporters who represent the progress made on gender equality over the past 25 years, and the emerging next generation continuing this critical work.*



As a LGBTQ+ activist and youth worker, CHIME Advisory Board member **Tanya Compas** focuses on community-building to advance gender equality and supporting women and girls from marginalized backgrounds. Learn more about Tanya and her reflections on the past, present and future of gender equality below.

### **What are your hopes and expectations for gender equality in the next 25 years?**

I hope that people of all genders, not just those within the binary, are able to exist freely as themselves. That they have the space, the freedom and the power to safely explore and express their gender, in whatever way they see fit. And I hope that a great level of diversity is not only 'accepted' but celebrated.

### **What does gender equality mean to you?**

Gender equality to me, means that people, no matter their gender, are given the tools to not only survive, but thrive in society and for many generations to come.

### **What keeps you energized and committed as a leader for gender equality?**

My community keeps me energized. It reminds me that the fight is much bigger than myself, bigger than us. Most importantly, it is the awareness that the work we are doing now is planting the seeds of freedom for future generations.

### **What advice would you give younger generations on how to advocate / work for gender equality as they get older?**

Be open to learning, be open to getting things wrong and standing corrected. You will never know everything. In order to advocate for those less privileged than yourself, you need to actively listen and learn whilst acknowledging when the time comes to speak up. I also would advise them to know when it is time to step aside and let somebody else

take the mic. You cannot do this work alone, it is a community affair. You are not the first person to do this work, nor will you be the last, so ensure you are taking time to build and honour your community.

**Who do you look to as an example / role model in the fight for gender equality?**

I look up to people like Angela Davis, Kuchenga Shenje, Kelechi Okafor, Munroe Bergdorf, Angelica Ross and Travis Alabanza.

