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I live out justice at Loyola by listening and having conversations. It might not seem like much to listen to others, but I have lived injustices because of two core aspects of my self: being a Latinx woman and the daughter of undocumented immigrants. Latinx is a new term that aims to be gender neutral and challenge the traditional *machismo* ideologies of Latin America. Both of these pieces of my identity have evolved and shown me what I stand for. This wasn't always the case.

Growing up, my voice was repressed. I had no opportunity to talk, and when I finally had the courage to speak up for what I believed in, no one would listen. Maybe it was because of the color of my skin or the fact that I spoke Spanish too quickly for anyone to understand with their elementary school Spanish. For too long, I lived too scared to be myself.

Throughout high school and at Loyola, I've grown into my identity. I purposely choose to live out my identity as a Latinx woman by being a part of the Association of Latin America and Spanish Students (ALAS) and the Society for Underrepresented Pre-Health Students (SUPHS) on campus. In both organizations, we discuss the intersectionality of

identities. To truly get to know individuals and what they value, you have to be able to listen to what they see in themselves. We attempt to create an environment to let the voices of underrepresented students be heard. In this country, people of color continue to be ignored and because of this I strive to listen and act on the concerns of other students. I have my story and my struggles, but everyone's experience is different, and I need to be open to listening to that. I remind myself and those around me to always be willing to listen.

At Loyola, I have surrounded myself with students and faculty who truly understand what it means to be a person for and with others. We listen to each other, we support one another, and that is how I always want to live my life. Justice can only happen if we take the time to have conversations about the things that make us uncomfortable. Learning and understanding everyone's stories is the vital first step to living out justice anywhere.