

Sofie

Sofie was born with a rare genetic mutation, the bone growth disorder SEDC. It might have affected her physical growth; it sure didn't stop her from developing a grand mind-set. As a warrior for SUE's Warriors she aims to inspire a more inclusive society where all differences can sparkle. Go and sit at a bar with her, it will lead to a great conversation. But be careful, she might jump off her stool and disappear.

Age: 36
Length: 1.40M
Shoe Size: 38
Size: 36/S

What's the item you always wanted to have but never could?

'The perfect dress, I still need to get one made-to-measure. I'm actually working on that ATM, it's going to be red, powerful and very feminine.'

Before Sofie got a hip replacement 1.5 years ago, she was only able to walk 200m in one piece and had to sit in a wheelchair any other time. Now she is able to walk longer distances and has left the wheelchair behind her.

How do people in stores interact with you?

'If they interact, it's often very over-friendly. "Oh wow! That really suits you." Shut up, it doesn't. They are trying to make themselves feel comfortable about my body and that's not necessary. I'd rather have people treating me honestly instead of being fake. The way they act is not about me, it's about them'.

And how do you interact with them?

'I like to think that the way I approach people affects the way people treat me. I present myself as an open and very social person in order to take away the thresholds that keep people from connecting with me.'

Sofie used to work at a law firm, the natural habitat of the corporate suit. The least flexible attire you could possibly think of.

So, how did you handle the suits?

'A lot of companies have strict dress codes that require women to wear suits and high heels. It made me feel unhappy, everybody looked the same and I was wearing a red dress and sneakers. I just felt like I couldn't fit in, in more than one way'.

What would you change about fashion?

'Everything in our society is made for average people but honestly I never met anyone who's average. Our systems are all based on statistical numbers. The way we treat people is flawed, we should treat people as people, not as some Excel sheet'. 🐼



