

“McCarthyism in Bad Wigs and Fishnets”

The denigration, abuse, and misrepresentation of the movement for transgender equality in the press

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Summary

1. This report details 24 media articles which include serious misrepresentation of the Women and Equalities Select Committee (WESC) Report on Transgender Equality, are otherwise transphobic, or are inaccurate about transgender people to transphobic effect.
2. Media outlets are entitled to publish views on the WESC Report and its recommendations, and this report makes no comment on partisanship or campaigning over the issue. But outlets must not engage in abuse and falsity, which this Report finds has happened on a significant scale. Several abusive articles with no explicit connection to the WESC Report have also been published.
3. The absence of a regulator for non-broadcast media has allowed these inaccuracies and abuses to persist; remedied inadequately or not at all.
4. The newspaper association and complaints-handler “IPSO” has proven unable or unwilling to hold news publishers accountable for publishing disinformation and abuse. IPSO is not “Recognised” under the recognition system for independent and effective media regulation.

There is a serious problem with transphobia and disinformation related to transgender people and proposed legal reforms in the non-broadcast media. Independent regulation must be established to replace IPSO, to ensure that the public are protected, and a debate can be had based on facts, and without abuse, on any proposed reforms.

Background

The Committee Report and the reforms proposed

On 14th January 2016 the Women and Equalities Select Committee published a report on “Transgender Equality”, which followed the Committee’s inquiry into equality for transgender people in the UK.

The recommendations of that report included the following:

Within the current Parliament, the Government must bring forward proposals to update the Gender Recognition Act, in line with the principles of gender self-declaration that have been developed in other jurisdictions. In place of the present medicalised, quasi-judicial application process, an administrative process must be developed, centred on the wishes of the individual applicant, rather than on intensive analysis by doctors and lawyers.

And,

We recommend that the Equality Act be amended so that the occupational requirements provision and / or the single-sex / separate services provision shall not apply in relation to discrimination against a person whose acquired gender has been recognised under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

The effect of the first of these recommendations, if implemented, would be to update the current process for obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC). Rather than a process which lasts over two years and requires the applicant’s case to be considered by a panel, the Committee recommended that a more streamlined process be put in place.

It is important to note that most transgender people do not currently apply for a GRC, and a GRC is not required for an individual to change the gender marker on their passport, bank accounts, personal records with the NHS and other systems. A person has no need to obtain a GRC to be considered transgender for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 (referred to as “transsexual” in that Act). The practical effect of this reform, therefore, would not be hugely significant. The key benefit of the reform would be a sense of greater dignity for transgender people, who would be able to see their gender identity reflected by the state. There are some narrow legal rights conferred by obtaining a GRC, mainly to do with marriage, pension provision, inheritance and default prison assignment, although some of these rights are subject to some form of discretion.

The second of these recommendations relates to provisions of the Equality Act 2010, which permits services to be provided by or for persons with a specific protected characteristic, where justified. A hypothetical example might be a charity which provides support for women who are victims of domestic violence, for which only women are eligible for the support offered and only women may take up a role working for the charity and administering that support. Under that Act, a transgender woman may be excluded from services which are otherwise available to women, at

the discretion of the service provider but only where such discrimination “is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim”.

The Committee recommends that this discretion, for service providers to exclude transgender people in certain circumstances, should never apply where the transgender person has obtained a Gender Recognition Certificate. The Committee finds that the “legitimate aim” test would be unlikely to be met in such cases, regardless.

The effect of this is contested. Opponents argue that this would weaken legal protections on single-sex spaces and services.

Reformists argue that, as above, the existing “legitimate aim” test means this reform would have little substantive effect in practice. Reformists further argue that many transgender people use single-sex services without a GRC already. The effect of the broader discretion which exists presently is to discriminate between transgender people who are recognised as their acquired gender by service providers at point of contact, and those who are not. Those who don’t can then face personal and intrusive questions about their gender identity to confirm their eligibility. Those who are may benefit from such services under the assumption that they do not have a transgender background.

Complex issues

Both of these recommendations relate to complex matters, about which it is right and appropriate to have a respectful public debate. This report makes no comment on the substance of that debate, and none should be read into it.

But it is critical that any debate is based on fact and does not become abusive, or that the facts become obfuscated by disinformation. This has not happened.

Instead, some national newspapers, as demonstrated in this report, have been responsible for the following:

1. Gross misrepresentation of the WESC Report and Government proposals; including:
 - a) Alleging that the report calls for an end to single sex spaces
 - b) Argues for rewriting the definition of gender
 - c) Calls for men to be permitted to use women’s changing and toilet facilities
2. Disinformation (implied or explicit) about the current gender definition legal landscape
3. Language which ridicules transgender people, is abusive of transgender people, and trivialises their concerns
4. Coverage which is maliciously inaccurate about transgender people

The coverage of some newspaper groups in these respects is especially concerning, given that the Government are currently reflecting on possible changes to the law following the Committee Report. Misrepresentation of the Report published on the websites of the most-read media outlets in the country could have a seriously damaging effect on public debate and the democratic processes by which the Government decide on a way forward.

Regulatory failure

The root of media transphobia is the absence of independent regulation for media outlets in the UK.

Whilst broadcast media is regulated by OfCom, websites and newspapers are not regulated. Despite the 2013 Cameron Government legislating for an independent system of media regulation, the current Government have not brought it into force. This has left one independent regulator operational – but membership is entirely optional. As a result, none of the major websites or newspapers have signed up.

Instead, most publishers are members of IPSO, which is a newspaper association and complaints-handler under the control of newspaper executives. It has repeatedly failed to hold publishers to account over inaccurate coverage. All of the articles in this report were produced by members of IPSO.

IPSO has recently announced a toothless review into reporting about transgender people. It has promised no action to actively fix the issue, and to protect the public. It is a powerless body under the control of newspaper executives.

Contents of the Report: Summary

This report includes newspaper coverage of legitimate disagreement, accurate discussion of the facts, and measured contributions to important debates about gender.

Regrettably, it also includes multiple inaccuracies, misrepresentations, distortions, and occasionally, barefaced transphobia.

Policy issues such as these require proper debate and engagement with the facts. But when facts are disregarded to further a particular agenda, then all points of view suffer.

The arguments of individuals who have objections to proposed reforms to the GRA become discredited, because the arguments of their fellow travellers are shown to rely on falsities. The views of those in favour of reform are silenced by the false characterizations, invented facts, and sometimes, transphobic hate published by their opponents in the print media.

In this sense, everyone who wants a debate based on facts and respect is let down by the absence of regulation for the media.

What this report does not cover

All of these articles, and a great deal more, suggest a forceful press agenda against reform. Every newspaper has the right to campaign on issues like this, and no requirement to be balanced. This report does not challenge that imbalance, which is a matter for editors.

The points highlighted are those which can be empirically proven to be false. Many more assertions could be challenged or disputed but are not highlighted in this report.

This report has been written & reviewed by individuals of a spectrum of gender identities and of views in relation to proposed GRA reform.

Tories promote the right to choose your own sex

Transgender reforms for birth certificates
[Tim Shipman](#) and Jason Allardyce
July 23 2017, 12:01am, The Sunday Times



Greening: 'great step forward'
FRANCESCO GUIDICINI

Adults will be able to change their gender legally without a doctor's diagnosis under government plans that will transform British society.

Men will be able to identify themselves as women — and women as men — and have their birth certificates altered to record their new gender.

Ministers plan to tear up the existing rules that mean people have to live for two years as their desired gender before they can officially change sex.

A consultation on the Gender Recognition Bill, to be published in the autumn, will also include proposals to scrap the requirement that people get a formal medical diagnosis of "gender dysphoria" before applying to switch gender.

Critics warned that allowing people in effect to "self-identify" as a member of the opposite sex, while maintaining the anatomy of their birth gender, would unleash a firestorm of legal cases over access to women-only hospital wards, prisons, lavatories, changing rooms and competitive sports.

Justine Greening, the minister for women and equalities, called the move to give more rights to transgender people the third great "step forward" after equality for women and the legalisation of same-sex marriage in 2013.

The announcement is timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967. Greening said ministers want to "streamline and demedicalise" gender change to make it easier for people to switch their identity legally.

In future people are expected to be required only to make a statutory declaration that they intend to live in the acquired gender until death — in line with arrangements already adopted in Ireland.

The consultation will address whether those whose gender is "non-binary" should also be able to define themselves as "X" on their birth certificates.

A separate consultation in Scotland will go further than England and Wales by recommending that "non-binary" people should be able to define themselves as "X" on passports. It will also propose a cut in the age at which people can change their gender from 18 to 16.

Commented [A1]: It is already possible for people change their gender records, for most purposes.

Commented [A2]: Self-identification is already possible under the law. The legislative proposal is limited to the matter of obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate (which has the effect of altering one's birth certificate).

Commented [A3]: Individuals can already change sex for most purposes without waiting two years.

Commented [A4]: This requirement is only for the purposes of obtaining a GRC, not for changing gender records for any other purpose.

Commented [A5]: It is already possible to obtain a GRC without undergoing surgery.

The plans will be controversial. Prominent feminists including Germaine Greer and Dame Jenni Murray, the presenter of Radio 4's Woman's Hour, have questioned whether men can become women even if they undergo a sex-change operation.

Stephanie Davies-Arai of Transgender Trend, a parents' group, said: "This has huge implications for women. There will be legal cases. The most worrying thing is if any man can identify as a woman with no tests and gain access to spaces where women might be getting undressed or feel vulnerable — like women's hospital wards, refuges and rape crisis centres — women will just stop going to these facilities."

Self-identifying was recommended by a parliamentary committee last year chaired by the former cabinet minister Maria Miller and it has the backing of Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn.

Greening also announced the government will make it easier for gay men to give blood. At the moment men who have had sexual contact with other men are barred from donating for 12 months. That will be reduced to three months.

Ministers will launch a national survey of Britain's estimated 1.5m LGBT people to help inform policy.

The education department has also announced £3m will be spent on "anti-homophobic and transphobic programmes". Schools, including faith schools, will be required to include LGBT issues in relationships and sex education.

Greening, who is in a relationship with a woman, said: "This government is committed to building an inclusive society that works for everyone, no matter what their gender or sexuality.

"We will build on the significant progress we have made over the past 50 years, tackling some of the historic prejudices that still persist in our laws and giving LGBT people a real say on the issues affecting them."

Ruth Hunt, chief executive of Stonewall, the lobbying organisation, welcomed the plans. "We need a simple process which isn't medicalised, intrusive or demeaning," she said.

The move will put the government on a collision course with some religious groups. Simon Calvert of the Christian Institute said: "It is worrying when the leaders of the main political parties are so out of touch with the concerns of ordinary people.

"Allowing men to self-identify as female without any medical diagnosis allows them to invade the privacy of women and girls.

"It's time for a reality check. Some things can't be changed. May and Corbyn want to elevate the principle of 'gender self-declaration'. But it is wrong, it is anti-scientific and it is dangerous."

A source who is close to Greening acknowledged that the proposed changes could be problematic. "That's why we are going to have a consultation, so we can examine all the implications," the source said.

A Scottish government spokeswoman said it hopes to have "new arrangements in place by 2020".

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tories-promote-right-to-choose-your-own-sex-sk2q2vwc0>

Commented [A6]: While this is a quote, again anyone can identify as female without a medical diagnosis.

How do you solve a problem like men in women's changing rooms, Maria?

The Tory champions plans to make gender switching a matter of 'self-definition'

Janice Turner

July 29 2017, 12:01am, The Times



Maria Miller admitted that some people would attempt to abuse the system
PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE

Maria Miller gathers up her handbag and makes to leave: "I don't think I'm happy about this. I think I've finished . . . I didn't realise this was such a stitch-up." I've been questioning Ms Miller about a report on transgender rights she produced last year as chairwoman of the women and equalities committee. The government has just announced that it will go to further consultation this autumn.

Many of its recommendations, to redress hate crime against transgender people, to improve access to NHS services and stop discrimination in employment (as seen in President Trump's cruel, summary banning of up to 6,600 transgender US military personnel), are widely supported. But one proposal that seeks to change the very definition of "man" and "woman" has far-reaching implications.

Justine Greening, the equalities minister, announced her support this week for changes to the 2004 Gender Recognition Act, echoing calls by Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader. At present a person who wishes to change gender legally must be 18, demonstrate they have lived in their chosen gender for two years, have a diagnosis of "gender dysphoria" (a mental disorder whereby a person feels they don't feel they belong in their biological sex) and be questioned by an expert panel.

The heart of the controversy is the view, espoused by Ms Miller's report, that switching gender should instead merely be a matter of "self-definition". A man need only "declare" that he is a woman. Your gender is what you feel it to be: there would be no requirement even to take female hormones or have surgery — about 70 per cent of trans women still have intact male genitals — or even "present" as a woman to be legally female. (Some older trans people are troubled by this, believing that it trivialises and delegitimises their struggles to live in their non-birth gender.) Furthermore, if the law changes, "gender identity" is likely to become a protected characteristic under equalities legislation: ie if you deny a person is a woman or a man when they claim to be, you are guilty of discrimination or hate crime.

When Ms Miller, 53, released her report in January last year she was surprised that criticism came not from conservatives but, as she put it, "women who purport to be feminists". This may be because feminists, well versed in sexual politics and long-time supporters of gay rights, are among the few people who can penetrate the arcane, confusing terminology.

Commented [A7]: There is no proposal which would redefine "man" and "woman".

Commented [A8]: Gender dysphoria is no longer classified as a mental disorder.

Commented [A9]: Individuals can already change their gender without going through this process.

Commented [A10]: The law already allows self-declaration for gender transition. Even to obtain a GRC, one does not need to undergo surgery or hormonal treatment.

Commented [A11]: This is already covered in the Equality Act, under the term gender reassignment — which is defined as having undergone, undergoing or proposing to undergo a process to reassign one's gender, but makes no reference to what that process is implying that processes other than medical ones can be valid.

Many see potential loopholes and conflicts of rights that put women at risk, giving men access to rare female-only spaces such as single-sex wards, changing rooms and domestic violence refuges, designed to keep them safe and private. It is these concerns I put to Ms Miller in her Basingstoke constituency.

Take this scenario: a man enters a female communal changing area, removes his clothes while women get undressed. Now they have a right to ask him to leave. Under gender self-definition, if he said "I identify as a woman" he would be entitled to stay. This, I stress, is unlikely to be a trans woman — many who use women's changing rooms every day with discretion and no fuss — but could be a sexual predator exploiting the loophole. (There have been a growing number of cases in the US, including a man in Seattle using women's pool facilities claiming "the law has changed, I have a right to be here".) Does Ms Miller not see why women fear a conflict of rights? "But 50 years ago, maybe ten years ago, people felt very uncomfortable about gay people showing their relationships in public but life has moved on." This isn't a question of feelings, however, but of physical safety and privacy which, as the author of another report on sexual abuse, she surely understands?

I show her a photograph of a bearded, male-born American called Danielle Muscato who dresses in men's suits and ties, has made no attempt to transition but nonetheless "identifies as female" and insists on living in a women's homeless shelter. On International Women's Day he tweeted: "Some women have penises. If you're bothered by this, you can suck my dick." Alex Drummond is a lush-bearded British psychotherapist who claims to be a woman, without any transition, who is "expanding the bandwidth of gender."

These people should be free from all abuse and discrimination, but do they have the right to women's spaces? "There will be individuals who will try to use this as an abuse of the system but you cannot disregard the rights of 600,000 people in this country," Ms Miller says, referring to an estimate of people who express unhappiness with their birth gender. But can you ignore the rights of 30 million women? "No. And nobody's suggesting that that's the case."

So do you think that women and girls should have a right to object to male-bodied individuals undressing among them. "How an individual presents themselves is really up to them," she says. "Nobody is saying this is an easy set of decisions. I think that is a legitimate part of the consultation."

Ms Miller says that self-definition is misunderstood "as some amateurish way of trying to recognise somebody's change. In our report we made it very clear that this would not simply be somebody being able to pull a form off the internet, sign it and call themselves a woman because that would be open to abuse." Her committee envisaged each person receiving "psychological support . . . to make sure that they're making the right decision for them" instead of "this quasi-medicalised panel which has brought great distress to transgender people". She would not confirm that the new self-definition process would ever query an application. [Any criminal offence] should be registered in the gender of the person when they committed the crime.

How does she think this rule will affect the operation of women's domestic violence refuges, several of which submitted concerns to her inquiry that clients would be distressed having fled brutal men if male-bodied individuals were granted access. In Toronto, Christopher Hambrook claimed to be a trans woman to access a refuge then raped residents. "These spaces carry out a risk assessment before individuals are allowed to use them and those that pose a risk to safety are not necessarily one gender." But 90 per cent of violent crime and 98 per cent of sexual crime is committed by men. Trans women, such as Davina Ayrton, who raped a 15-year-old girl, have been convicted of offences seldom committed by natal females. Would self-identification mean these crimes would be registered as committed by women, skewing the figures? "It should be registered in the gender of the person when they committed the crime." This would mean that if

Commented [A12]: 1. Single-sex spaces would still be limited by gender in any case (albeit not necessarily birth gender);
2. Transgender people can already access all of these spaces – and often do so.

Commented [A13]: It is misleading to suggest people have a "right" to ask someone to leave presently. Discretion on such issues is for the service provider.

Commented [A14]: By this, Turner is implying that trans women who have not had gender confirmation surgery cannot currently access single sex spaces. This is false.

Commented [A15]: This can currently happen in the UK (although it hasn't done so in over a decade).

Katie Brannen, charged with twice raping a man in South Shields, is convicted that crime would be recorded on female statistics even though legally women cannot commit rape.

Sport is another problematic area: self-identification could destroy women's competitions, allowing former-men with greater musculature and testosterone to dominate. In New Zealand a weightlifter, Laurel Hubbard, has broken national records; in Canada the mountain biker Michelle Dumaresq dominated for years. "Those are already issues that professional bodies have to deal with. And again that is something which needs to be looked at in significant detail."

I ask her about school sports. In Connecticut Andraya Yearwood, a male-bodied, moustachioed 15-year-old trans girl, has won state championships although she would have finished last in the boys' competition. Does Ms Miller think this fair to the girl athletes? "Well, I think it's a bit of a difficult one to answer because boys are not going through gender reassignment when they're at school." But what would you say to the girls who lost? "It's a very difficult one to answer . . ."

She adds: "What I think we're touching on here is that trans issues are something that still strike a nerve in British society." Compiling her report she was moved by young trans folk "just trying to get on with their lives in a quiet manner . . . The idea of individuals being not of one gender or another is not a new thing."

There are always jagged edges to the law which create tensions, and we are going into new territory here. Yet this very idea of "non-binary" or "gender fluidity" is challenged by feminists. Because it assumes that being female is a narrow category: involving pink, make-up, girlie pursuits as opposed to the male world of noise, fun and muddy sports. Isn't the epidemic of girls wanting to transition — they make up 1,000 out of the Tavistock clinic's 1,400 referrals — a rebellion against society's rigid gender strictures rather than a sign that they were "born in the wrong body" and require hormones? This is around the point at which Ms Miller threatens to leave. She relents and we talk a little longer. Although Ms Miller as equalities minister guided gay marriage through parliament, she is at heart a home counties conservative who in 2007 voted against regulations to stop discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. She voted to lower the abortion limit to 20 weeks and for a Nadine Dorries amendment to stop abortion providers such as Marie Stopes giving counselling.

She looks alarmed when I ask about these stances and instead seizes on the government's decision — pushed by Labour's Stella Creasy — to fund NHS abortions of women in Northern Ireland. "It is a sticking plaster for the short term. There should be equal rights for women across the UK." But wouldn't this mean overriding the devolved assembly, whose major party the DUP is in coalition with the Tories? "I think this should be seen as a human rights issue and I'm glad it is in front of the Supreme Court."

What does she say to those who believe the government's sudden announcement of trans reform is to counter bad publicity garnered by allying with the anti-gay marriage DUP or to win young votes. "Absolutely ludicrous!" she cries.

She says that her experience as a woman and a mother who has faced discrimination and sexism has made her receptive to the rights of minority groups such as trans people and their families. She puts the concerns of feminists about material changes to their rights and safety into the same category as religious objections, like those of the Christian bakers who refused to make a cake for a gay couple. "There are always jagged edges to the law which create tensions, and we are going into new territory here."

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-do-you-solve-a-problem-like-men-in-women-s-changing-rooms-maria-v3hxxmk3p>

Commented [A16]: A person can receive a GRC without having genital confirmation surgery, and so someone may retain physical "male" anatomy and be legally a woman under the existing law.

Commented [A17]: It is already possible for transgender sportspeople to obtain GRCs.

Commented [A18]: Gender dysphoria is a profound sense of distress that one's body is not what they want it to be, combined with distress because the individual is not perceived how they want to be.

Dangers lurk within this easy switch of gender

jenny mccartney

We are pushing the idea that identity trumps biology while ignoring the perils



The announcement by President Donald Trump of a ban on transgender people serving in the US military bore all his grim hallmarks. The policy was decreed on Twitter, sloppily and without warning. It was defiantly careless of the feelings of a minority group. Worst of all, it was conceived without the prior agreement of the organisation it affected most, the US military. Casual dismissal is a routine hazard that trans people face, along with stupid remarks from strangers, sniggers and whispers. At worst, this hostility manifests itself in violence or even murder. Trans people have high rates of attempted suicide, particularly among young adults. "Gender reassignment" treatment involves hormone treatment and often radical surgery, and while many feel transformed for the better by it, several have spoken searingly of post-op regret. In the past, individuals have usually pursued such a course only if they felt that their biology and feelings towards gender were unbearably at odds. To change gender legally in the UK one must at present be 18 or over, have "gender dysphoria" medically diagnosed, live in the acquired gender for two years, and intend to stay in it for the rest of one's life.

Yet if Trump and his ilk are wilfully nasty on trans issues, an alternative form of madness is unfolding among those who think of themselves as supremely tolerant. Justine Greening, the equalities minister, has proposed that adults be able to alter their legal gender without a medical diagnosis or two-year transition period. Furthermore, those "non-binary" people who regard themselves as neither male nor female could identify as "X".

The idea is that anyone who wishes to "transition" will simply "self-identify" as their preferred gender: Barry can legally move to Betty with a signature, and vice versa, or to a category that allows them, ze, sie, hir — pick your pronoun — to float between the two.

The old view accepted that although for most people biological sex and gender were in harmony, for a small minority the two were in direct opposition, causing great distress.

The new view seeks to sever any assumed link between biology and gender at all. What self-identification means, in effect, is that if you were born biologically a male but "identify" as female, the law is obliged under Greening's proposals to regard you as the latter with no further social test of sincerity. Your gender is now legally located within the mind, and you are the sole arbiter of how strongly you feel. Theoretically, you could remain in possession of a beard, a basso profundo and a fully working penis while vigorously demanding to be regarded legally as a woman.

Do not assume everyone will 'self-define' with the purest of intentions. Why? Because identity trumps biology. The same principle is evident in the insistence that "men can menstruate too" and the advice from the British Medical Association that the phrase

Commented [A19]: Individuals can already transition without a GRC; the Certificate is not required to transition.

Commented [A20]: This is essentially the current system anyway.

Commented [A21]: This is possible presently — with a GRC.

"expectant mothers" should be abandoned in favour of "pregnant people" lest it exclude trans-men with an occupied womb.

Some welcome this "deconstruction of gender". Others, such as certain radical feminists and social conservatives, are outspoken in their opposition. I would guess most people find it deeply confusing. Indeed, the trans lobby often seems more politicised than many ordinary trans people, who simply wish to get on with their lives in an atmosphere of courtesy. Yet these demands have been accepted by politicians as an automatic good without any debate about the pitfalls.

If identity is a moveable feast that exists purely in self-perception, why is society receptive to those who wish to travel between genders, but not races? Take the case of Rachel Dolezal, who was born white to white parents, but — after changing her appearance — passed herself off as a black activist. When this was discovered she was widely pilloried. Undaunted, she now calls herself Nkechi Amare Diallo and has recently been on a tour of South Africa describing herself as "trans-black". Her argument has not gained traction among liberals.

Sexual biology, however, is not irrelevant. Those who are biologically male tend to be physically stronger and with the means and capacity to attack or rape women, should they wish to do so. It would be naive to assume that everyone will "self-define" with the purest of intentions, nor is it prejudiced to raise concerns with regard to biological men in all-female areas such as changing rooms.

If we acknowledge that feelings about gender are naturally more fluid in our early years, should society be pushing teenagers to alter their bodies with puberty-blocking "gender reassignment" treatment? Why not seek to broaden our communal vision of what it can mean to be a man or woman? In sport, a competitor with male biology and a legal female identity will have a strong advantage over a biological female — but what will the rules say about their participation? These are complex questions, and it seems curious that, among our political class at least, they are not being broached. Yet pretending controversy doesn't exist, I fear, won't act to defuse it.

@mccartney_jenny

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dangers-lurk-within-this-easy-switch-ofgender-0bsbk8pf>

Commented [A22]: There is a clear evidential basis for people who are transgender.

Commented [A23]: The Equality Act already allows self-declaration of gender for single-sex services purposes.

Commented [A24]: The consultation is around the process of applying. The existing exemption for sports bodies is not proposed for removal.

JANICE TURNER
october 20 2018, 12:01am, the times

Suicides should never be a political weapon

[janice turner](#)

For some trans activists to accuse me of causing the deaths of troubled teens shows how toxic this debate has become



Last weekend the trans activist Helen Belcher resigned as a judge of a journalism prize because, against her wishes, I reached the shortlist. She announced that: "Since *The Times* started printing such [transphobic] pieces, starting with one by Turner in September 2017, I have heard of more trans suicides than at any point since 2012. These have mainly been of trans teenagers." When probed on Twitter she said: "I have heard reports of four trans suicides in the past few months, two in the past month. The media reporting was referenced in three of them." Later, trans activist Paris Lees added that she held "individual journalists who stigmatise trans people personally responsible for the suicides of young trans people in this country". No further detail was given.

That my work has caused the deaths of children is the most upsetting accusation I've faced in 30 years. It provokes many serious questions. Most importantly, is it true?

But first consider The Samaritans' guidelines for reporting suicide which warn it is dangerous to attribute a death to a single cause: "speculation about the 'trigger' . . . should be avoided" as "young people are especially vulnerable to negative suicide coverage". Yet some trans activists casually breach this code. This week Professor Stephen Whittle of Press for Change, a transgender lobby group, said that any delay to changing the Gender Recognition Act (GRA) would "lead to a flurry of suicides". Retaining a 14-year-old law to permit further debate, he believes, will literally kill people.

Suicide is a dark trope in the trans movement. Parents who hesitate over medical intervention are told by some activists: "Better a living daughter than a dead son." The ITV drama *Butterfly*, an infomercial for the trans support group Mermaids, is based upon the story of its CEO Susie Green, who took her child to Thailand for genital surgery at 16 (which was illegal in Britain and is now illegal in Thailand) and features a graphic suicide attempt. Mermaids cites high suicide rates in trans youth to push for faster, younger access to hormones and surgery. Ms Green told MPs that Gids (the NHS's youth gender identity development service) has a suicide attempt rate of 48 per cent. This was based upon a self-selecting sample of 27 trans people aged under 26 analysed by the LGBT charity Pace.

The sane, compassionate response is more research. Let's pull out the serious case reviews of every teen suicide to examine all possible causes, including newspaper reporting. Surely Mermaids would welcome proper, independent, methodologically-sound scientific inquiry. In the meantime, the most reliable source is Gids which says of 5,000 young patients referred between 2016 and August this year, there were three suicides and four attempts. Each death is the deepest tragedy, yet this makes a suicide rate of less than 1 per cent. Moreover, Gids director Dr Polly Carmichael has warned that suicidal discourse is "quite unhelpful", creating a narrative around gender-diverse children "imbued with negativity and lack of resilience."

Commented [A25]: This quote was the subject of a complaint, in which it was exposed that the quote was invented by The Times. IPSO still found in the newspaper's favour.

Undoubtedly the suicide rate in Gids children is higher than average: many also suffer from anxiety and self-harm; a third of girls are on the autistic spectrum, others have suffered sexual abuse. This is a very troubled, vulnerable cohort. A 2011 Swedish study published in *PLOS One* found a high suicide risk prevails even after transition. So is it responsible for activists to insist that suicidal feelings are intrinsic to the trans experience, perhaps even a sign of being “true” trans?

Commented [A26]: The author of this study has complained about its repeated misrepresentation in the manner that Turner does here.

A friend who was hospitalised with anorexia for three years as a teenager lost three fellow patients to suicide. She notes that although anorexia has the highest morbidity of any mental illness, clinicians do not let suicidal threats hamper treatment. “No one ever told my parents ‘Do exactly what she wants or she will kill herself.’ Because that would have been disgraceful.” Yet this is what is said to parents and clinicians who support “watchful waiting” of gender-questioning kids. Nor is discussion of anorexia framed by, say, ordering fashion designers to use bigger models “because you are literally killing girls”.

Commented [A27]: The same complaint as referred to above found The Times unable to demonstrate that trans activists were insisting that such feelings were indeed “intrinsic to the trans experience”. IPSO still found in the newspaper’s favour.

This past year, since Maria Miller’s women and equalities committee report, must have been gruelling for many trans people. I feel huge compassion for those stuck in the crossfire of a vicious debate. But Mrs Miller is to gender what David Cameron was to Brexit. She created a toxic, divisive mess then left others to clear up. In ignoring concerns from women’s groups, listening only to trans lobbyists, she recommended far-reaching legal changes including self-identification and an end to single-sex spaces, thus rewriting the definitions of “man” and “woman”.

Commented [A28]: This is already possible.

Commented [A29]: This was not recommended (indeed, their protection was advocated for).

Trans campaigners cannot demand legislation without scrutiny. My *Times* column from September 2017, which supposedly precipitated a suicide epidemic, described a feminist meeting where a trans activist punched a 60-year-old woman in the face. Everything I have written since has been intended to shed light. Why is there a 4,000 per cent rise in girls believing they are in the “wrong body”: why is a male sex offender’s gender identity more important than the safety of women prisoners, resulting in the case of Karen White, can a compromise be reached which meets both trans and women’s rights?

Commented [A30]: These definitions are not being rewritten. It is the process that is changing.

I asked questions because many women (including trans women) risk their livelihoods for airing dissent, and could not. Even 54 per cent of MPs, according to a ComRes poll, are scared to raise this subject. In the middle of a government consultation! No wonder, when suicide is shamefully wielded as a political weapon, when anyone who strays from dogma is accused of having children’s blood on their hands.

Commented [A31]: HMPPS has admitted that their policy was not followed in the Karen White case, so this statement is wrong.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dbb054f2-d3d7-11e8-a7e2-4943f60e65b3>

Gender-swap boys spark Guides revolt

Mary O'Connor

March 25 2018, 12:01am, The Sunday Times



Guide leader Helen Watts wants girls and parents to be asked their views
VICKI COUCHMAN

Guide leaders are rebelling against a policy that lets boys claiming to be female share showers and tents with girls on camping trips. The organisation forbids leaders telling parents. Helen Watts, 33, is one of at least 20 rebel unit leaders to write to Girlguiding's national headquarters in protest at the rules, published in January last year, which apply to all girl guides aged 5 to 25.

They say Girlguiding has dismissed their concerns. Now they want girls and parents to be asked their views. Watts, who leads a west London Rainbows unit for girls aged 5 to 7, said: "I don't think a transgender person necessarily presents a danger to anyone else, nor would I want to exclude them . . . but the emphasis is being placed on their needs and not on the needs or views of the other girls."

Some rebels have been attacked online as "bigoted Terfs [trans-exclusionary radical feminists]". Lindsay and Richard, who live in the north of England, have a daughter about to go away on her first camp. "You are putting the onus on a young girl to say whether or not she is uncomfortable sharing with a boy," they said. "It could lead to her being labelled transphobic if she says she is unhappy."

Girlguiding said: "We offer bespoke guidance for any leader who is looking to run an activity, like a camp, involving a trans child."

[@marycoconnor](#)

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/gender-swap-boys-spark-guides-revolt-wtcv7xjk5>

Commented [A32]: This language is transphobic.
1.It refers to transgender women/girls as "boys".
2."Gender-swap" is an abusive and trivialising way to describe transgender people.

Commented [A33]: This is grounded in privacy law and safeguarding principles.

World
expels
Putin's
spooks

By TOM NEWTON DUNN
BRITAIN'S allies yesterday booted out more than 100 Russian spies over the Salisbury nerve agent attack.
Prime Minister Theresa May hailed it as "the largest collective expulsion of Russian intelligence officers in history".
The US ejected 60 as it nations took action.
Russian leader Vladimir Putin's spokesman said he would hit back.
Full Story - Page Two

Scandal
of cops'
cop-out
by text

EXCLUSIVE
by ROB HATTINSON
BRITAIN'S biggest police force is texting crime victims to say their cases cannot be investigated - as little as 24 hours after incidents are reported.
It means the Met Police are messaging people to say a case is closed without ever talking to them.
One angry car theft victim said: "It's not good really, it's the internet culture gone mad."
Full Story - Page Nine

JAKE WHO USED TO BE A WOMAN WEDS HANNAH WHO WAS A MAN

Tran and wife

By EMMA PIETRAS
EXCLUSIVE
TRANS Army officer Hannah Waterhouse has married actor Jake Grief - who used to be a woman.
Captain Hannah, 31, who spent her first five years in the Army as a man, wed Jake, 40,
Full Story - Pages Four and Five



GROOM
Jake as he used to look

BRIDE
Hannah's early Army days

Commented [A34]: "Tran and wife" is an abusive and trivialising reference.

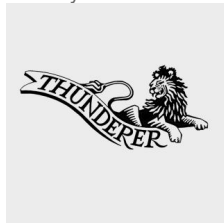
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5907531/transgender-army-officer-hannah-weds-actor-jake/>

LUCY BANNERMAN

october 1 2018, 12:01am, the times

Trans movement has been hijacked by bullies and trolls

lucy bannerman



A worthy movement to help a minority group has become a form of McCarthyism in bad wigs and fishnets, thanks to a bunch of bullies, trolls and humourless misogynists. Feel too daunted to venture an opinion on anything "transgender"? Great! That's exactly how the bullies like it. Dare to discuss the complexities and contradictions thrown up by their absolutist identity politics? If the screams of "transphobe!" don't shut you up, perhaps a call to your employer demanding your scalp will. Or to the police, bleating hate crime.

Perhaps the greatest trick they've pulled so far is to convince parts of the population that transgender people are too fragile to walk past a poster bearing the word "woman", while at the same time being so terrifying it's better to say nothing at all than to risk offending them. It's nonsense, of course.

The "they" I'm referring to is not transgender people. (Though the bullies will pretend that it is.) I'm referring to the "trans activists" — some sinister, most joyless, and more than a few who don't even identify as transgender themselves — who delight in "transplaining" to the rest of us the rules of this new, glittering utopia, where spaces must be shared, safeguards dismantled, disagreement decreed to be hate speech, and women must not be allowed to gather to discuss laws that will affect them.

And that's fine. Bullies will be bullies. Trolls will be trolls. It's the cowardice of the institutional response that's astonishing. Girlguiding. Politicians. Billboard companies. Credit Suisse. Goldsmiths University. All willing to capitulate quicker than you can say "transwomen are women".

Last Friday, women were due to meet at Leeds Civic Hall to discuss the government consultation on gender identification. Trans activists falsely claimed the women were a hate group. No matter that it was a lie; that it was said was enough. Their meeting was cancelled at the 11th hour by Leeds city council. What did MPs and councillors say about this outrageous assault on democracy? Not a single word. Silence. This behaviour is an insult to trans people.

Yet organisations like Girlguiding trot out their platitudes and expel the volunteers left to square the circle of absurd, contradictory policies that they've outsourced to interest groups in the desire to win some quick LGBTQI+ points and a pat on the back from Stonewall.

It's that kind of cowardice that is enabling smear campaigns against those trying to discuss what activists' demands to recalibrate the human race will mean for everyone else. Like it or not, genitalia is at the heart of this. It would be nice, for everybody's sake, if all these organisations began to show some balls.

Commented [A35]: This is abusive of transgender people.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trans-movement-has-been-hijacked-by-bullies-and-trolls-lwl3s73vj>

In 10 years, we'll ask how we allowed the trans lobby to hijack childhood

CELIA WALDEN, 19 NOVEMBER 2018 • 6:00PM

A couple of months ago, a *Telegraph* reader wrote to me asking: “Where have all the grown-ups gone?” As doctors, teachers, medical professionals, the police and parents abdicate their responsibilities en masse, it’s a question more and more of us are asking. And usually it’s accompanied by a dry laugh: “What are you going to do?”

But nobody was laughing on Sunday when a whistleblower at a school where 17 children are transitioning revealed to a national newspaper that many of the students were being “tricked” into changing their gender because they’re autistic. And something will have to be done, before a generation of children are left psychologically and physically scarred.

That the number – 17 – isn’t the most shocking part of Sunday’s exposé says a lot. However, it is far from saying it all. Because whatever the anonymous whistleblower – a teacher of over 20 years’ experience – claims to have witnessed, the true scale of this scandal is only just beginning to emerge.

Convinced that “autistic children who are not transgender are being exploited by the transgender lobby” and “brainwashed into believing that they are”, the teacher detailed how nine of the 18 children she had seen identify as transgender in the school had been officially diagnosed with autism, while the rest had shown definite signs of the condition. Because they had “complex mental health issues”, she explained, these children were all the more inclined “to be a part of a group of like-minded people”.

One autistic teenager, born a girl, was already planning to have a double mastectomy. Others, she believes, were taking “puberty-blocking” drugs (which interrupt physical development in order to make the transitioning process easier when they reach the age of 18), unbeknown to their parents. And on more than one occasion, she saw older pupils “grooming” younger ones into claiming they, too, were transgender, prompting an explosion of “copycat” cases, particularly among autistic or mentally ill pupils.

This teacher echoes the belief of all fair-minded people when she says that: “If a child genuinely has gender dysphoria, then, of course, they should get all the love and support they need.” Being trapped in the wrong body must be a special kind of hell, and once you’re old enough to make important decisions surrounding gender and sex reassignment, of course, that should be your prerogative. Anyone who has read up on what this involves understands it’s not something people would take lightly.

But we’re talking about children here, and children go through fads, they change their minds and they copy others: it’s what they do. Adults, on the other hand, are

Commented [A36]: All of this content relies on the testimony of a single source.

This particular allegation is highly unlikely given the prescribing protocols of both the NHS and the private doctors who work in this area

supposed to identify and rise above these developmental stepping-stones without dismissing them entirely – because it's possible they may turn into something more permanent.

This exposé comes at a time when shocking revelations about the irresponsible, knee-jerk reactions to any hint of gender dysphoria in children are being made at an alarming rate – whether it's the Girl Guides refusing to tell girls or their parents if another girl or leader in their unit used to identify as male, the Tavistock Clinic – Britain's only NHS gender identity service for children – being accused of fast-tracking young people into life-changing decisions without assessing their personal histories, or schools being advised not to tell parents if their children want to change sex.

Meanwhile, the government is consulting on whether to allow people to change gender without medical diagnoses. And none of it is about love or support, but fear: a fear so potent it's driving otherwise sane and educated adults to betray a generation of vulnerable children. Dr Kate Godfrey-Faussett, a psychologist who works with children in schools across London, goes so far as to call it "state-sanctioned child abuse".

When I ask whether it can really be true that children could be sent off to consult with gender clinics without the parents' knowledge, she explains that, currently, "the confidentiality of a trans child actually trumps everything, including a parent's right to know. And if a school believes a child is mature enough to understand the implications of what they're doing, they don't need parental consent."

Added to this, "if a child comes to school and tells the teachers 'my parents are anti-trans', the school can call in social services and treat it as a safeguarding concern under emotional abuse. Theoretically, the child could even be taken away."

In ten years, I believe we'll look back and ask: how did we let this happen? How did we foist our own complex adult neuroses on children? How were we so blinded by PC ideologies? But before that, we're all likely to ask ourselves and each other many more times: "Where have all the grown-ups gone?"

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/10-years-ask-did-allow-trans-lobby-hijack-childhood/>

Commented [A37]: This is not what is proposed: people can already transition without diagnoses.

Commented [A38]: This is correct, for safeguarding reasons, in a school environment, but not correct when it comes to medical treatment protocols.

Women WILL be allowed to bar transgender people from female-only changing rooms in toilets and swimming pools

- Ministers say those 'who identify as female' shouldn't get priority over women
- Comes after controversial complaints about trans people in female spaces
- One case saw a woman complain about a transgender doctor who had stubble

By [ELEANOR HARDING EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:00, 24 June 2018 | UPDATED: 08:24, 25 June 2018

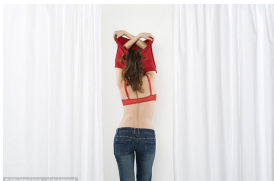
Women will continue to have the right to exclude transgender people from female-only changing rooms, lavatories and swimming sessions, ministers have pledged.

In an apparent change of direction, they said the rights of those who 'identify as women' would not be put ahead of those who are biologically female.

The announcement comes in response to concerns over plans to allow transgender people to legally change their gender without having to undergo medical checks.

Feminists fear it could have unintended consequences such as allowing predatory men to masquerade as transgender to enter women-only spaces.

But a statement from the Government Equalities Office yesterday promised that 'advancing the rights of trans people does not have to compromise women's rights'.



It comes after a string of controversial incidents in which women have complained about transgender people being allowed into female-only spaces.

In one case, a woman who requested a female nurse to perform her cervical smear was called in by a person with stubble.

In another a woman who feared men was locked in an NHS women's psychiatric ward with a burly 6ft transgender patient.

Some feminists have hit back with protests. In one, a group of women who were assured they were welcome to swim as self-identifying men at Hampstead men's pond in London arrived in 'mankinis' but were escorted away by police.

Commented [A39]: There is no legal "gender test" for use of changing rooms/toilets in any case, and neither has one been proposed.

Commented [A40]: If this was true, it's entirely possible that the nurse had a GRC so was legally female, meaning the proposed reforms would make no difference. In any case, some non-trans women with polycystic ovary syndrome grow facial hair.

Yesterday's Government statement said: 'We are clear we have no intention of amending the Equality Act 2010, the legislation that allows for single-sex spaces.'

'Any Gender Recognition Act reform will not change the protected characteristics in the Equality Act.'

It added: 'Providers of women-only services [can choose not to] provide services to trans individuals, provided it is objectively justified on a case-by-case basis.'

Ministers are preparing to announce a consultation on the Gender Recognition Act.

The Government has previously said reform would remove the need for a doctor's diagnosis to allow adults to change their gender but yesterday's statement said that while the current process 'is not working... that does not necessarily mean we are proposing self-declaration of gender'.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5880533/Women-allowed-bar-transgender-people-female-changing-rooms-toilets-ministers.html>

Commented [A41]: Individuals can already change their gender without a GRC.

TREVOR PHILLIPS
october 22 2018, 12:01am, the times

Trans extremists are putting equality at risk

trevor phillips

Allowing people to declare their own gender would make a mockery of Britain's decades-long struggle for fairness



At most weddings, there's a certain wry amusement to be had from watching the father of the bride on the dance floor getting down with the kids, determined to show that he hasn't lost his moves. But when a flailing limb catches a fellow dancer unawares it stops being funny.

So it is with politicians and identity politics. For four decades western leaders were so determined to prove their anti-racist credentials that they ignored the signs of growing public unease about our multi-ethnic societies. The outcome: Trump, Brexit and the steady advance of truly racist and anti-immigrant movements.

The disaster of the public consultation process on gender recognition has revealed a government so terrified of being labelled transphobic that it is ready to destroy half a century of painstakingly assembled anti-discrimination legislation to the detriment of every woman, person of colour and disabled individual in Britain. Under the current law, a change of gender requires a two-year period of reflection, medical checks and possible physical alterations. It is a gruelling process and proposed reforms to the Gender Recognition Act rightly aim to make the process less bureaucratic.

However, agitation by a guilt-tripping band of "trans" activists has corralled MPs into contemplating a wholly unnecessary and dangerous further step. It is seriously being suggested that we should do away with any objective test of gender, and leave the decision as to whether an individual should be treated as male or female entirely in the hands of the person themselves. In short, a man would be able to declare himself a woman, and immediately have every right to enter spaces reserved for women — changing rooms, lavatories, prisons.

The feminist objection to "self-declaration" has already been made on these pages, not least by Janice Turner, who has been subject to shrieking abuse by some bullies from the trans lobby. Many of these people were born — and still are — male, by most people's standards. The fact that in at least one case women in prisons have been sexually assaulted by a "woman" who happened to possess a penis would give most of us pause for thought. Yet the otherwise sensible MPs on the women and equalities select committee have backed self-declaration and startlingly, David Isaac, my admirable successor as chairman of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, has announced that he favours "de-medicalisation" — a way of allowing men to become women without the inconvenient step of ceasing to be male.

I can only imagine that many of those supporting this insanity believe that they are displaying empathy for a group of individuals who have suffered genuine anguish. But this is certainly not what I had in mind when, along with the other authors of the 2010 Equality Act, we fought to include transgender as a protected characteristic in anti-discrimination law. The truth is that, far from encouraging empathy, extreme trans activists and their allies are adding a new layer of cruelty by raising false hopes that changing gender could become as easy as changing a name.

Commented [A42]: A GRC is not necessary for a change of gender under the current law.

Commented [A43]: This is already the case.

Commented [A44]: Transgender people are already using these facilities.

Commented [A45]: HMPPS accepted that they did not follow their process in the Karen White case. The current Gender Recognition Act does not require genital confirmation surgery before granting gender recognition.

Commented [A46]: The current GRA already allows this, in the terms which Phillips uses here.

The problem is this: if self-declaration becomes established as a principle for one protected characteristic — gender — why should it not apply to all of the other eight, including disability or race? It is hard to see how the law could resist the claims of a man who, despite all medical advice to the contrary, decides that he is mentally disabled, and therefore should be eligible for disability benefits and time off work. The human and financial costs would be horrendous.

Commented [A47]: Other protected characteristics, such as for example religion and sexuality, are already self-declared.

I can already hear outrage at the comparison. The activists will complain that equating gender with disability is yet another example of galloping transphobia. But why shouldn't a society ask individuals to pass objective tests to acquire identity status? Without criteria other than personal preference, it would be impossible to decide whether some groups truly suffer disadvantage — a big issue for women and people of colour. The measurement of gender and ethnic pay gaps would become instantly unviable, since no one could be sure that those who declared themselves to be black women actually were either black or female.

Commented [A48]: It would be invasive and abusive to construct such tests for sexuality, and other "identity statuses".

Self-declaration is already proving a disaster elsewhere in the world. In Brazil, dozens of blonde, blue-eyed students were found to have taken university places reserved for the descendants of African slaves. Given the country's history of sexual violence pretty much every Brazilian can claim a black ancestor but this was hardly the law's aim. In the US, Rachel Dolezal, a white woman who declared herself an African-American, contrived to become an officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. Vijay Chokal-Ingam, brother of the Indian-American TV star Mindy Kaling, found that his grades weren't good enough to get him into medical school, so he shaved his hair, trimmed his eyelashes, reclassified himself as African-American, and duly took his place at St Louis University, almost certainly depriving some worthy young person of medical training.

The self-declaration principle, masquerading as compassionate recognition, risks making a mockery of the struggle for equality. If ministers give in to trans zealots, a white man would merely need to say "Today, I'm a black woman. I might not be tomorrow but, hey, who cares?" Well, I do. And so should everyone who genuinely believes in fairness.

Trevor Phillips was chairman of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission 2006-12

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trans-extremists-are-putting-equality-at-risk-fjv8skwz0>

september 30 2018, 12:01am, the sunday times

Trans twerps rewrite the facts of life, and even the Tories lap up their fiction

rod liddle



Did the former prime minister Margaret Thatcher really intend to herd working-class and black people into the gas chambers? I have always had my doubts, despite not being hugely enamoured of her domestic policies.

The charge was made in 1987 by Linda Bellos, then leader of Lambeth council and famous for being possessed of the loudest victimhood shriek on the left. A black lesbian feminist, she had it all going for her, even if the Labour Party of the time thought she was doolally.

But times change, and now Bellos has been out-shrieked on the far left, which is a dispiriting thing to happen, obvs. She has been in court for a private prosecution brought by a transgender activist, Giuliana Kendal, for threatening the transgendered, and the preliminary hearing, last week, was a hoot. Bellos is now, by the radical left's standards, a reactionary and ranks well down the list of people with — oh, what's that fatuous phrase? — protected characteristics.

Bellos had said in a video that if the "bastards" (that's transgender people) come anywhere near her, she'll take off her glasses and "thump them". Bellos is 67. Kendal thought this was terribly frightening to the transgender community and contacted the police.

The Crown Prosecution Service politely declined to pursue the matter, so Kendal went ahead with her private suit. Supporters of both sides packed the court. Bellos and her Terf — trans-exclusionary radical feminist — fan club wore sashes in suffragette colours; one had a T-shirt with the slogan "Woman equals adult human female".

Kendal told the judge that this was contempt of court and they should go away and change their clothes, and put on something consensual. The judge effectively said don't be so stupid — she should "focus on the issues". The whole thing will be back before the courts in November, when you might hope both sides will devour each other whole, in an orgy of competitive victimhood, and thus simply cease to exist. A wan hope.

But while all this was happening, a billboard was being taken down from a wall in Liverpool. The billboard gave the dictionary definition for a woman: "Noun — adult human female." It was only up for a bit before the shrieking began and then it was taken down. The trans lot said it made them feel "unsafe".

But the point is that whoever licenses these billboards caved in and down it came. So you can now fall foul of the authorities simply for stating an indisputable fact — and it is the authorities' pusillanimous reaction to the berserk demands of this shrill lobby that worries me. I don't mind the identity politics brigade clawing each other's eyes out in an intersectional rage of shredded feather boas and petulantly stamped stilettos. My concern is that the mainstream keeps taking it seriously.

Commented [A49]: False — an LGBT activist who is not transgender complained that the billboard may contribute to people feeling unsafe.

Commented [A50]: The reason for taking it down was the conduct and motivations of the organisation which ordered it — not its content.

Commented [A51]: These remarks are all abusive tropes about transgender people.

Such as the Girl Guides. Nice, healthy organisation for young teenage girls (the clue is in the name). Not any more. Despite furious complaints from parents and leaders, trans girls (ie, what we used to call "boys") are now allowed in. To share dorms and loos and whatever else Girl Guides get up to on summer camps.

Commented [A52]: This is an abusive reference.

Male rapists who suddenly decide they're female are shoved in women's prisons, where they continue assaulting women because the doctrine has been swallowed whole. Worst of all, a little boy who plays with a doll or girl who acts a bit tomboyish will be off to the Tavistock clinic for hormone therapy, preparatory to transition, before you can say Danny La Rue.

Commented [A53]: Applying to join a different prison/ward to one's birth gender is a complex process, including a risk assessment, in which a panel has the final say.

And it is not the left doing this. No, it is a Tory government that has allied itself to this demented crusade, under the guise of "equality" — in truth a distortion of equality, as you will see when little Jemima (formerly Jamie) wins the school sports day sprint by 50 metres.

Anyway, good luck to Bellos. How awful at 67 to suddenly find yourself on the wrong side of history and stablemates with fascists like me.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trans-twerps-rewrite-the-facts-of-life-and-even-the-tories-lap-up-their-fiction-pv19p2br5>

JANICE TURNER

september 27 2018, 12:01am, the times

Slip on a frock chaps, and be a top 100 woman

janice turner



What is a woman? The dictionary definition, "adult human female", was deemed hate speech when posted on a Liverpool billboard and taken down. Perhaps the Financial Times might offer a new one: "Person of either sex who dresses in stereotypically feminine attire."

Commented [A54]: It was not deemed hate speech. Questions were raised about the organisation which ordered it.

It has been noted that Pippa/Philip Bunce, the cross-dressing Credit Suisse banker, appeared on the FT's Top 100 Female Champions of Women in Business list. But at No 95 was Nicci Take, chief executive of the marketing company m62 vincis, self-described as a "corporate drag queen" who "sometimes goes into work as a man so she can bully people better".

Neither of these people are trans women living and working permanently in the female gender. They are that now unfashionable term, transvestites, like the artist Grayson Perry, who in order to express their full personality sometimes assume female garb. Grayson becomes a little girl called Claire; Pippa is a boardroom hottie in a pink mini-dress. And good luck to men breaking down stuffy gender clothing rules. Guys, enjoy heels, stockings, sexy dresses! (Many women sure as hell don't.)

But Bunce and Take are not, nor do they even claim to be, women. So why has the Financial Times put them on its women's list? As gender-nonconforming biological men, shouldn't they be on the male list? It seems the FT defines "woman" as "person of either sex who is not a stereotypically masculine male". Womanhood is just a costume. So what happens when top female business leaders assume Savile Row suits and fake beards on, say, Mondays and Thursdays? Do they go on the FT men's list and maybe get a pay rise?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/slip-on-a-frock-chaps-and-be-a-top-100-woman-scxl3qtqj>

JANICE TURNER
september 8 2018, 12:01am, the times

Trans rapists are a danger in women's jails

janice turner

As the case of Karen White has proved, putting male-born sex offenders among female inmates is naive and reckless



The prison authorities knew a great deal about Karen White. That under her birth name Stephen Wood she'd served 18 months for gross indecency against a child; that she was on remand for three rapes also committed as a man; that, although she wore dresses and make-up, she'd retained male genitalia. Yet still they put her in a women's jail.

I'd love to meet those who signed off this decision. What would they say to the four women who, within days of her transfer to New Hall prison in West Yorkshire, White had sexually assaulted? Confining a rapist in a women's prison, among vulnerable inmates including rape victims, is like locking a fox in a henhouse. Yet they merely followed government guidelines "that prisoners should generally be housed in the estate that matches their expressed gender".

On Thursday, after White admitted the three rapes and two of the prison assaults — one in which "her [sic] penis was sticking out of the top of her trousers" — the Ministry of Justice apologised, saying it failed to take into account her offending history. But her crimes were right there on file. Rather, the case illustrates a principle now hard-baked into schools, prisons and across the public sector: that women's physical safety is less important than "gender expression".

"It never happens," women were told when they worried that losing sex-segregated private spaces might allow attacks by predatory men. Yet, as Fol requests by *The Sunday Times* last week showed, 90 per cent of sexual assaults in leisure centres are committed in gender-neutral changing rooms and only a tenth in single-sex facilities. It happens.

"It never happens," was the mindset of Maria Miller's women and equalities committee report on trans issues which ignored women's groups concerned about self-ID and an important submission from the British Association of Gender Identity Specialists. "It has been rather naively suggested that nobody would seek to pretend transsexual status in prison," it read. "There are, to those of us who actually interview the prisoners, very many reasons why people might pretend this." Including trips out of prison or a belief they would be favoured for parole. But there was "a plethora of prison intelligence suggesting that the driving force was a desire to make subsequent sexual offending very much easier" by being transferred to the women's estate.

This is not a piffling problem. The BBC reality check team confirmed that 60 (48 per cent) of the 125 trans prisoners in jails are sex offenders. That compares with 19 per cent in the prison population overall. Yet, since women commit only 2 per cent of sex crimes, out of 8,000 women prisoners there are only 125 sex offenders. So if the 60 trans sex offenders were housed according to gender identity, it would create a sea change in women's prisons. There would be 50 per cent more sex offenders; they'd be male bodied, physically stronger and have committed far more serious crimes, including 27 rapes, 13 sexual assaults and seven charges of sex with a child.

Commented [A55]: HMPPS admitted that the process for dealing with prisoners who claimed to be trans was not followed in this case.

Commented [A56]: In fact, Government guidelines require all transgender prisoners to go before a Transgender Case Board, who have the power to refuse a transfer where the offender may pose a risk to inmates.

Commented [A57]: Groups gave evidence and were quoted in the report.

Commented [A58]: The MOJ, who provided this data to the BBC, made clear at point of sharing the data that it was "not... reliable". This is for a number of reasons; not least, that it has no data on how many people are transgender and have not declared that fact.

Commented [A59]: There is no proposal to change the rules on transgender people in prison. Transgender women — even those with a GRC — go before a panel to decide where they should be housed, and applications may be refused where inmates are put at risk.

Many within the service are worried. The president of the Prison Governors Association, Andrea Albutt, noted "women feeling very threatened by transgender prisoners' presence", while Frances Crook, of the Howard League penal reform charity, cautioned that "some men with a history of extreme violence and sexual violence against women have found a new way of exercising aggression towards women".

There is a cavalier misogyny about not protecting women from sex offenders. We saw it in magistrates repeatedly bailing the serial rapist Carl Hartley, allowing him to rape again and again. Or in the parole board's blithe attempt to release John Worboys, the taxi-driver rapist, after he had served only ten years of an indeterminate sentence, until this was reversed following an outcry.

We see it too in liberal campaigns for violent trans criminals to live among women. I'm often lectured by left-wing men that since "trans women are women", if Ian Huntley, as is rumoured, transitions he must be treated as female. You feminists, say the right-on bros, must expand your definition of women to include rapists. I read an *Observer* report comparing the prisoner Marie Dean, then on hunger strike in HMP Preston, to Bobby Sands. That's Marie Dean aka Gary Dean Marie, described by police as "dangerous and prolific", who committed 30 aggravated burglaries, breaking into teenage girls' bedrooms and masturbating. Yes, welcome to lady jail!

I hope Karen White's victims sue the prison service. Biological sex is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act but, with no impact assessment, this criteria was overridden by a rapist's gender feelings. Yet the worst thing about this case, apart from the victims' suffering, is the appalling effect upon decent, quiet-living trans people. Many who contact me are aghast at how an extreme activist agenda creates policy facilitating crimes like White's and ends up tainting them.

It is time, given the growing number of transitioning male prisoners, for policy to evolve. Besides, if self-ID is introduced after the Gender Recognition Act review, it will be easier for a trans prisoner to become legally female and thus have an almost automatic right to transfer. David Gauke, the justice secretary, should draft new rules: that no male-born criminal who has committed a violent or sexual crime against women, nor one who retains male genitalia, should ever live in the female estate. Or maybe it's time to acknowledge that the physical safety of women and the desire for trans prisoners to affirm their gender identity are irreconcilable and to create a bespoke trans prison unit. Because no fox has a right to live in the henhouse, even if he identifies as a hen.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trans-rapists-are-a-danger-in-women-s-jails-5vhqh57pt>

Commented [A60]: It was subsequently found there was no truth in these rumours.

Commented [A61]: If "dangerous and prolific", it is extremely unlikely that Dean would be placed in a woman's jail as they would be deemed too much of a risk.

Commented [A62]: As above, process was not followed in this case.

Commented [A63]: It is not automatic – their case must still be determined, and the safety of other inmates is a key factor.

Commented [A64]: The impact of the risk assessment means that it is extremely unlikely for any trans prisoner who has been convicted of an act of violence against women to be housed in the female prison estate. Some violent women are also housed in the male prison estate if they are deemed to place other women at risk.

As more trans women who were convicted as men hope to follow rapist Martin Ponting into female wings, prison governors fear vulnerable inmates could be attacked

- Theresa May pledged last year to make simpler for people to change gender
- Transgender activists demanding it be achieved by announcing self-identity
- Anonymous governor says vulnerable women in prison could be intimidated

By [DAVID ROSE FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:03, 2 June 2018 | UPDATED: 23:45, 2 June 2018

Prison governors warned last night that transferring sex offenders who are born male but believe they are female into women's jails could lead to vulnerable inmates being attacked.

The jail chiefs spoke out following [Theresa May](#)'s pledge last year to make it simpler to change gender, and to 'streamline and demedicalise' the process.

Transgender activists are demanding a change in the law so that anyone can do this simply by announcing they 'self-identify' as a member of the opposite sex.



But one governor, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: 'My fear is that this could make it much harder to control the transfer of born-male, transgender prisoners to women's prisons.

'This could lead to vulnerable women being intimidated – and even attacked.'

The warning came as the Ministry of Justice confirmed that dozens of 'trans-identified male' prisoners are living as women in jails exclusively housing convicted sex offenders.

The figures, which emerged in new Freedom of Information Act disclosures, show:

Commented [A65]: The process already allows this to be prevented.

Commented [A66]: Self-ID is already the law. The remaining question is about obtaining a GRC via self-ID, which in itself does not guarantee the right to change prison/prison ward.

- At least 34 male-born inmates are living as women in four specialist sex offender jails for men – Littlehey, Isle of Wight, Whatton and Stafford;
- A further ten prisoners may be housed at sex offender prisons Bure, Rye Hill and Ashfield;
- Governors of sex offender prisons say 'all or most' of their transgender inmates are seeking to move to women's jails;
- In at least one prison, this group includes a prisoner convicted of multiple, separate rapes.



Andrea Albutt, president of the Prison Governors Association, who has managed men's and women's jails, said: 'I have seen women feeling very threatened by transgender prisoners' presence.

'Women prisoners are very vulnerable. A lot have abusive men in their lives, who are part of the reason they have ended up in prison.

'To put all men who declare they are women into women's prisons would be very damaging.

'You do get trans prisoners who are going through the [transition] process who still look very masculine – they look like men with long hair and make-up.

'They don't look feminine, and if they are 6ft 2in they are very scary. At the same time, they could be objects of ridicule to women.

'And if you are living as a woman before the change, walking around a landing in a men's prison in a dress and make-up, that will be difficult.'

The new figures reveal that in April last year there were 100 transgender inmates in men's prisons, and 25 in women's.

It is known that some transgender women convicted for sex crimes as men have already been moved to women's jails.

They include Jessica Winfield, who as Martin Ponting was jailed for life in 1995 for raping both an underage girl and the disabled daughter of a family friend.

David Davies, Conservative MP for Monmouth, said: 'The Freedom of Information disclosures confirm my worst fears.

'If self-identification happens, there will be men who will use it to get into places where women deserve security.

'If someone with a penis is incarcerated, they should be in a man's prison.'

Commented [A67]: That's not the current policy, nor is it proposed that this would change

Prison reformer Frances Crook said that she was worried that 'some men with a history of extreme violence and sexual violence against women have found a new way of exercising aggression towards women'.

Ms Crook, executive director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, added: 'These men are not transitioning because they like women and want to be a woman, but in order to exert a new kind of control and dominance over women, a sort of infiltration.

'Moreover, the process is inherently discriminatory. A woman identifying as a man could not be transferred to a man's jail because placing a person with female attributes into a prison to live with 1,000 men, all using communal showers and living areas, would put them in serious danger.'

The Ministry of Justice refuses to say how many of the 25 transgender prisoners in women's jails – almost double previous estimates – were born men, and how many were women identifying as men.

Last night, it again refused to release this information, claiming it does not hold this data – although there are transgender inmates in just seven women's prisons.

The ministry has confirmed there are no female-born transgender inmates in men's jails.

It also refuses to state how many of the prisoners given transfers have gone through a full, surgical transition.

Research cited by transgender lobby groups suggests that just 20 per cent of male-born transsexuals get any medical treatment, of which only a small minority have male genitals removed.

Another governor said: 'There are cases of men who identify as women who it is appropriate to hold in a women's prison.

'My concern is the transgender prisoners who are effectively intact men who are trying to transfer simply to have access to women.'

At present, a transgender male-born prisoner can only move to a women's jail if she has a Gender Recognition Certificate, which requires a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria and at least two years of living as a woman, or after being certified by a special prison service panel.

However, if the Prime Minister's comment leads to legal self-identification, these protections will be much weaker.

Dr Nicola Williams, of Fair Play for Women, who filed the Freedom of Information Act requests, added: 'A change in the law could take away the ability of prisons to make a judgment about whether a transfer is appropriate.

'And the Ministry of Justice's continuing refusal to provide basic facts is outrageous. How can we have the debate we need without them?'

Full details of the FOI disclosures are on the group's website.

Commented [A68]: The risk assessment process is set out to prevent this from happening.

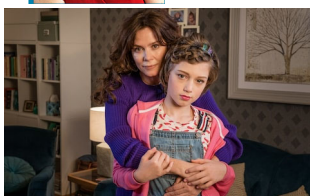
Commented [A69]: Government has a policy for all statistics that they will not publish them if they run a risk of identifying individuals.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice said: 'We work to manage transgender prisoners safely, sensitively and in line with the law – but robust safeguards exist to prevent abuse of this system.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5798945/Trans-women-convicted-men-attack-vulnerable-inmates.html>

The tyranny of the transgender minority has got to be stopped

ALLISON PEARSON, 17 OCTOBER 2018 • 6:55AM



Anna Friel as Vicky and Callum Booth-Ford as 11-year old Maxine (who was born Max) in ITV's transgender drama Butterfly CREDIT: ITV

ITV's new Sunday-night drama, *Butterfly*, is as moving as it is distressing. Eleven-year-old Max (Callum Booth-Ford) likes feather boas and pink crop-tops. Max thinks he wants to be a girl, but his builder father is appalled. He slaps the boy, screams in his face, insists to Vicky, Max's well-meaning mother (Anna Friel), that "it's about us fixing him". The parents separate under the strain. At school, Max is bullied for being a "freak". His granny is an off-the-peg bigot.

The characters who question Max's choice to become Maxine, and to go to school wearing a skirt, are pantomime villains. The drama unashamedly supports the transgender cause and leverages viewer sympathy to the, ahem, max.

There is a truly terrible scene where the boy attempts suicide. By the end of episode one, he is embarked on the road to girlhood, with a counsellor advocating "puberty blockers".

Praised for its veracity, Tony Marchant's drama worked closely with Mermaids UK, a charity that supports "gender diverse and transgender children". In 2015, Mermaids's CEO, Susie Green, told MPs that the NHS gender dysphoria clinic for young people was "a service where there is a 48 per cent suicide-attempt risk" – a figure that has been widely discredited.

Portraying a suicidal adolescent to prove a non-existent case is highly irresponsible (copycat attempts are a serious problem). "See, if you don't agree to our demands, more kids will top themselves!" is little more than moral blackmail. But, hey, factual inaccuracies must not be allowed to get in the way of the trans bandwagon, which mows down dissent like Boudicca's chariot.

I have a transgender friend and I would never underestimate the pain of someone who grows up believing they are in the wrong body. It's a very good thing that early

Commented [A70]: This links to a tweet from a journalist at the same newspaper, whose rebuttal to that figure rests on actual suicide attempts – not "risk". The NHS Gender Identity Development Service say: "there is a higher risk of self-harm and suicidal ideation or attempts found in LGBT communities compared to their cisgender or straight peers".

Commented [A71]: As above, the case is not "non-existent".

help is now available. Families in the future may be spared the trauma of having a parent transition in middle-age.

Nevertheless, the sharp rise in children being referred to gender identity clinics – the number has quadrupled in the past five years – should make us at least question whether such cases are genuine, or if the wider promotion of trans issues in schools is, as some experts claim, “sowing confusion” in impressionable young minds.

My main objection is that little girls who like stomping about in dungarees and playing with cars, rather than dolls (as my sister did), are increasingly said to “identify as male”. Ditto boys who like pretty clothes and Madonna may or may not turn out to be gay, but why on earth should they “identify as a girl”? Aren’t those precisely the sexist stereotypes we’re supposed to be challenging? Labelling children as transgender when they may simply fancy being a train driver one day and Princess Eugenie the next is wrong and dangerous.

Enter the Government which, in one of its excruciating “We’re not Conservatives, honest!” initiatives, decided it should be possible for adults to change their gender without a doctor’s diagnosis. Under proposed reforms to the 2004 Gender Recognition Act (GRA), all you have to do is “self-identify” as a member of the opposite sex, and Bob’s your auntie! A ludicrous and offensive proposition to most Tories, I’m sure – but that has never made Theresa May lose any sleep.

Commented [A72]: This is not what is proposed – self-ID is already possible for all intents and purposes.

Feminists also find plenty to dislike in the idea that a person with a penis, merely by stating they are female, can gain access to women-only spaces. Legitimate objections from women with a lifetime campaigning for equality have been howled down as “transphobic”. Ann Henderson, the Rector of Edinburgh University, became the latest victim this week, simply for retweeting an event titled: “How will changes to the Gender Recognition Act affect women’s rights?”

The Thought Police at her student newspaper creepily commented that the Rector “has been seen affirmatively responding to tweets by allegedly transphobic organisations”. Henderson was in trouble because “the university needs to be a place where transgender students feel supported and respected”. No, you self-righteous little fools, the university needs to be a place where people of all kinds feel able to discuss contentious subjects.

Disgracefully, Edinburgh University failed to leap to the defence of free speech and its blameless rector. It issued an equivocal statement saying its position was one of “zero tolerance” towards “harassment, bullying and victimisation of any kind”. See how trans activists have silenced opposition by rebranding “debate” as bullying, and “holding a different opinion” as victimisation.

A government consultation on reforming the GRA closes at the end of this week. So toxic has this topic become, however, that even powerful people are scared to speak out. According to a ComRes poll, 67 per cent of MPs across all parties (and 78 per cent of Conservative MPs) are concerned that rules allowing men to self-identify as a woman and access women-only spaces could be exploited by malicious individuals. Yet 54 per cent of MPs feel they cannot speak freely on trans issues for fear of social media attacks by the transgender mob. None so unpleasant as the professionally compassionate, eh?

Commented [A73]: This is false – MPs were asked if they felt they could speak “freely” about trans issues, without being accused of transphobia – by anyone. There was no reference to transgender activists or a “mob” being responsible for criticism.

This tyranny of the minority has got to be stopped. Fears about “self-identification” were more than proven last week when it was revealed that Karen White, a paedophile and rapist who now identifies as a woman, was put in a women’s prison and – surprise! – went on to sexually assault fellow inmates. Karen, who was born David Thompson, was jailed for life for rape in the early 2000s. More recently, while on remand for grievous bodily harm, multiple rapes and other sexual offences, he was transferred to HMP New Hall at his own request after a “transgender case board” decided a women’s prison was the right place for him.

Dear God, in what world would putting a 52-year-old rapist, still legally male and in possession of his penis, in a confined space with lots of vulnerable females, be considered a good idea?

The bat-s--- crazy, cowardly, craven, identity lobby-appeasing world in which we now live, ladies and gentlemen. If I'm still allowed to use those offensive, binary terms.

Karen White is not typical of trans people, far from it. Most men and women who choose to embark on the long, difficult journey to a different gender are answering a call that lies deep within them, and which demands to be heard. But the White case does illustrate what happens when shrill claims about a minority “identity” are allowed to trump the rights of the majority. Did anyone ask women prisoners if they objected to sharing a confined space with a rapist who identified as female? Thought not.

The Government, which opened this Pandora’s Box in the first place by suggesting reforms to the GRA, needs to slam it shut it again.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/tyranny-transgender-minority-has-got-stopped/>

NHS trans row as men get access to women's wards if they identify as female



One nurse reported female patients became upset at the presence of a transgender woman CREDIT:ALAMY
Camilla Tominey, associate editor

Joani Walsh

10 JANUARY 2019 • 9:30PM

Hospitals routinely allow male patients to share female wards if they self-identify as women, an investigation by The Telegraph has found.

Despite official guidance intended to eliminate mixed sex wards, none of the NHS trusts in England require a patient to have begun transition for them to be treated as their preferred sex, according to responses to more than 100 Freedom of Information requests.

One trust even advises staff to consult with the transgender patient if a female victim of sexual assault objects to sharing facilities with someone who may be biologically and legally male.

The NHS is unable to track how many transgender people are accommodated on wards for the opposite sex because data systems record them as their "preferred" sex.

The Department of Health's "elimination of mixed sex wards" guidance upon which individual trusts must base their policies says that "men and women should not have to share sleeping accommodation or toilet/bathroom facilities". But the document adds, "except where it is in the overall best interests of the patient or reflects their patient choice".

As a result, a physically intact male has the right to choose to be treated on a ward for women that is simultaneously declared to be single sex.

David Davies, the Tory MP, described the guidance as "driving a coach and horses" through the need for single sex facilities. "It's quite right that a Conservative government made a commitment to end mixed sex wards," he said. "But people with male bodies should be on male wards."

The Telegraph has been contacted by a nurse at a city hospital with a report of a patient identifying as a transgender woman who appeared to become sexually aroused on a female ward, causing distress to a group of elderly patients.

Commented [A74]: People have the right to self-identify – trans-women are not "male".

Commented [A75]: The process of identification is a stage of transition (and necessary for obtaining a GRC).

Commented [A76]: As above, a transwoman is not a "male"/"man".

The incident raises concerns about the lack of “equality impact assessments” (EIAs) that should be undertaken by law to determine the effect on all groups that may be affected by transgender policy changes. EIAs seen by The Telegraph appear to have taken into account the impact only on transgender patients rather than on others who should also be considered because of their sex, age or religion.

“If you aren’t even considering other groups in your equality impact assessments, your policy cannot be lawful,” said Amanda Jones, a barrister at Great James Street Chambers. She described the NHS’s interpretation of the law with regard to the rights of transgender patients as “a mess”.

More than 80 per cent of people who identify as transgender do not undertake “gender reassignment” surgery, according to the Gender Identity Research & Education Society (GIREs), a charity that advises the Government.

Under the Gender Recognition Act 2004, transsexual people must live as the opposite sex for two years and be assessed by a medical panel following a diagnosis of gender dysphoria to qualify for a gender recognition certificate. Despite official estimates that the UK transgender population is between 200,000 and 500,000 or 0.7 per cent of the public, only around 5,000 certificates have ever been issued – and none of the trusts said they required transgender patients to have one.

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust said it would class someone as transgender “without ever going to see a doctor”.

The definition of transgender within the NHS includes non-binary, gender-fluid, gender queer and non-gender – people who do not feel male or female. It means male patients who do not claim to live as women have the right to choose to stay on women’s wards.

Fewer than 10 trusts considered the needs of the majority of patients when allocating transgender patients to wards, with two more considering accommodation for transgender patients on a case-by-case basis.

West Suffolk NHS Trust said the transgender patient’s right to be in a single sex environment of their preferred gender “supersedes objections raised by other patients” despite women and men having a right to segregated facilities under the Equality Act 2010.

It said that while a female victim of sexual assault could “reasonably” object to being on the same ward as someone they “perceive to be male”, staff should “seek the view of the trans service user” before any action was taken.

Dr Nicola Williams of Fair Play for Women, said: “In an attempt to accommodate a minority, the state is sacrificing the needs of the majority at their most vulnerable.

“We have sex segregated facilities for a reason and I’m horrified those rights – for both sexes – have been removed without any consultation.”

Fewer than 10 trusts that replied reported complaints or incidents concerning transgender patients. But many pointed out that their systems allow patients to be

Commented [A77]: This only applies if the trans patient is aware of the objection already.

defined only as male or female, with incidents or complaints involving transgender patients listed by their preferred sex.

A spokesman for NHS Improvement said: "As the guidance on mixed sex accommodation makes clear, decisions should be made in the best interests of all patients and based on the circumstances presented to NHS staff."

A Stonewall spokesman said: "Everyone accessing healthcare services should be treated with respect, including trans people, who currently face huge levels of abuse in all areas of their lives. It's important NHS trusts are working to ensure trans patients are treated equally because our research shows two in five trans people (37 per cent) avoid treatment for fear of discrimination."

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/01/10/nhs-trans-row-men-get-access-womens-wards-identify-female/>

Author Jacqueline Wilson reveals she's 'very, very worried' about transgender children taking hormones - and the 'devastating' consequences of having 'bits lopped off' at a young age

- Jacqueline Wilson, 73, is worried about transgender children taking hormones
- Said she thinks people 'should not try to change themselves physically'
- Explained she thought it was a decision only to be taken once fully mature

By [HARRIET JOHNSTON FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 17:35, 23 April 2019 | UPDATED: 21:28, 23 April 2019

Author Jacqueline Wilson has revealed she is concerned about transgender children who take action to transition at a young age.

Dame Jacqueline, 73, said she is 'very, very worried' about children who take hormones and warned against the potentially 'devastating consequences' of having gender reassignment surgery.

Speaking to the [Daily Telegraph](#), Dame Jacqueline said she believed such decisions should only be taken in adulthood.



'Some people, right from the time that they are toddlers, are aware that something is wrong and they wish that they could be the other sex,' she said.

'But I'm also aware that some children feel strongly for a while and then they change their minds.

Commented [A78]: She was clear to speculate that the effect of surgery *may potentially* be "devastating".

Commented [A79]: Her comment was that she had concerns about children taking hormonal treatment in general.

Commented [A80]: In fact, she said it "would be easier" if people did not do so – more likely meaning that it would be preferable if people were born in the body they identified with.

'I think it's a decision that has to be left a while until you are utterly mature and utterly certain you know all the actual consequences.'



She added: 'Where I would be very, very worried is young children taking any kind of drug, hormones or whatever, the long-term effects of which we don't know.'

The author said she is particularly concerned about children who undergo gender reassignment surgery, warning it is not as simple as having 'bits lopped off' and should not be a decision that's taken lightly.

The author has sold more than 40 million books in the UK alone and has won a string of prestigious awards.



She is known for tackling difficult topics affecting children and young adults, including adoption, divorce, and mental illness.

However she said she finds it difficult to relate to teenagers in 2019.

She also said that unless there was a really strong reason for her to write about a trans child, then she wouldn't want to 'jump on the bandwagon'.

Her most recent book, *Dancing The Charleston*, is set in the 1920s.



<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-6951153/Jacqueline-Wilson-thinks-transgender-people-not-try-change-physically.html>

Transgender axe attacker who almost split man's head in half claims sex change op 'led to her trying to kill strangers'

Ben Rimmer was struck in the face by Evie Amati who said operation caused her 'immense pain'

By **Tom Davidson** Online Reporter

- 08:20, 25 JAN 2019
- **UPDATED** 09:02, 25 JAN 2019

A man whose head was almost cut off by a drugged-up axe-wielding woman has spoken about surviving the horrific attack at a petrol station.

Ben Rimmer had the axe slammed into his face by Evie Amati - his face is now held together with metal plates he can touch with his skin.

Ben is furious with Amati's prison sentence, four and a half years, and has spoken out in an effort to get that increased on appeal.

Speaking to news.com.au Ben said: "If I hadn't turned my head at the last minute she would have cut my head in half."

Commented [A81]: The text of the article undermines this headline. An argument was made by the offender's lawyer, in mitigation of her crime, that her hormonal and surgical treatment may have contributed to her conduct. The significant factor was her long history of mental illness (this is what the judge cited). Her transgender status was not relevant, and related treatment certainly did not lead her to commit this act, as the headline suggests.



In horrifying CCTV footage Amati can be seen roaming the aisles of the petrol station armed with the large axe.

After striking up a conversation with Ben near the till she then snaps and swings a crunching blow into his face.

Amati was sentenced to a minimum of four and a half years behind bars, after her lawyer argued her transgender operation caused her immense pain and contributed to her later trying to kill strangers.



Ben said: "She went there to kill. It's only pure luck that I'm alive and she's not remorseful. She's intelligent ... calculating.

"She'll do her time easily and get paroled in mid-2021. It's played out perfectly for her, perhaps better than she expected."

Ben has launched a petition [on change.org](https://www.change.org/p/please-revoke-the-sentence-of-the-woman-who-attacked-ben) to have Amati's sentence appealed and kept in prison for at least 10 years.

Ben will spend the rest of his life with four titanium plates in his face, including an orbital plate which moves and which he can feel every time he touches it.

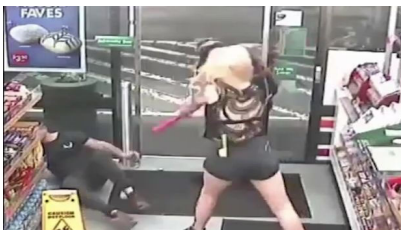


On the night a drugged-up Amati took the 2kg axe she had bought two months earlier, Ben was on his way home when he decided to stop at the Enmore 7-Eleven to buy a pie at 2.20am on Saturday, January 7, 2017.

His life was about to change forever at the hands of Amati who just one hour earlier posted on social media, "One day I am going to kill a lot of people".

He was getting a pie from the shop fridge, when Amati strolled into the shop carrying the long-handled axe casually.

Amati did a lap of the shop, passing Ben who then queued at the till behind Enmore shop owner Sharon Hacker, who was buying milk.



Amati, at the time, was furious after she stormed out of a failed Tinder date with a woman.

She had just changed her **Facebook** status to: “Humans are only able to destroy, to hate, so that is what I shall do” and listened to the dark-themed song Flatline by metal band Periphery.

Amati had also just sent a Facebook message to one of the women she was out with on the Tinder date, writing: “Most people deserve to die, I hate people”.

As the CCTV inside the Enmore 7-Eleven shows, Amati did a lap of the aisles before approaching Ben at the cash register.

Amati began talking to him. He touched the axe and then turned away.

He said: “I remember being struck. But I turned at the last minute, otherwise she would have chopped through my head straight through the front of my face.



“I think I must have seen it coming.”

Doctors estimated if he hadn't turned, the brain injury caused by Amati would have killed him.

"Her aim was to kill people," he told news.com.au. "It was pure luck no-one was killed."

Ben wasn't immediately aware of what had happened other than "it was like a king hit".

"It didn't register straight away, it took about 30 seconds," he said.

"I fell to the ground. I was prone, bleeding profusely."

Starting to panic that he might bleed out, Ben took off his shirt and "tied it around my head trying to stem it."

At the time, he was not aware that Amati had also struck Sharon Hacker with her axe in the head.

Ben began vomiting blood because the wounds and fractures in his face inflicted by Amati included a gaping hole in his nose, which sent blood pouring down his throat.

Police and paramedics arrived and Mr Rimmer was told not under any circumstances to swallow the blood. "It was almost impossible," he remembers.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/transgender-axe-attacker-almost-smashes-13904826>

Mumsnet founder Justine Roberts: Transgender activists try to curb free speech on site

Andrew Gilligan

April 15 2018, 12:01am, The Sunday Times



Roberts: 'threat to freedom' DAVID BEBBER

The founder of Mumsnet says transgender “thought police” are pressurising advertisers to withdraw from Britain’s most popular parenting website because it allows the discussion of trans topics.

Justine Roberts said she had been approached by three significant advertisers who had been threatened by trans groups.

“Transgender activists have contacted Mumsnet advertisers and said they will be organising a boycott of their products if they don’t remove their advertising from Mumsnet,” Roberts said. The website had told the advertisers that it “works hard to keep the discussions civil” and was determined to let them continue.

“What’s worrying to me is the thought-police action around speech and the shutting down of the right to be able to disagree and immediately labelling it as transphobic,” Roberts said.

The threats are the latest move in a campaign by transgender activists to inhibit discussion of potential legal changes that would allow people born male to self-identify as women.

Feminists say the plans threaten women’s rights and protected spaces. Trans activists say that to oppose them is bigotry. They have pressurised dozens of venues into cancelling meetings on the subject.

One meeting that went ahead at the House of Commons led to a complaint to the parliamentary standards commissioner against David Davies, the MP who organised it.

Trans activists bombarded the Commons authorities with demands that the meeting be cancelled with one, Ariel Moss, boasting on Twitter that she “rang them three times today under different voices and phones”.

Sometimes attempts to break up meetings have turned violent. Last week a trans activist, Tara Wolf, was convicted of assaulting a feminist who was attending a rally against the proposals. Mumsnet, which has 12m monthly users but does not hold physical meetings, has become a prominent online forum for debate on trans subjects. A recent discussion about whether self-identified trans women should be allowed to use female-only cabins on the Caledonian Sleeper train made national news.

Commented [A82]: It is already lawful to self-identify (and it works both ways – also applying to transgender men).

Commented [A83]: There is a diversity of opinion – feminist organisations are far from unanimous on the issue.

Roberts said: "A significant minority of our users feel very strongly about women's rights and very uneasy [about the proposals]. This is an issue that needs to be discussed and that's why we're prepared to take any potential advertising hit."

Mumsnet reported pre-tax profits of £2.1m on a turnover of £7.2m last year. Roberts said no advertiser had yet pulled out. "There is a section of the hardline trans side which thinks that any discussion at all is by definition transphobic, but we've explained we're working very hard to keep it civil," she said.

"We have some guidelines, we keep people within [them], we ban anyone that's persistently mean and that's the way we're handling it for now. Hopefully we'll be able to hold that line because we think it's important."

[@mragilligan](#)

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mumsnet-founder-justine-roberts-transgender-activists-try-to-curb-free-speech-on-site-z3sr3nf6q>

JANICE TURNER
november 11 2017, 12:01am, the times

Children sacrificed to appease trans lobby

[janice turner](#)

From Topshop's cave-in on changing rooms to the SNP's guidance for schools, there is a mindless rush to appear right-on



Travis Alabanza is a performance artist who, in the tradition of Leigh Bowery, Boy George or Bowie, dresses to astonish and subvert. Blue lipstick, beard stubble, fab shoes, frocks, mad hair, attitude. What Travis isn't, however, is a woman.

Yet when Topshop in Manchester wouldn't allow him to try on clothes in the women's fitting area, he exploded on Twitter: "Not letting me use the changing room I decide is shit, sort it out." Within hours Topshop declared all customers "are free to use any fitting room located within our stores".

Note: Topshop hasn't built solid, separate unisex boxes as in, say, Urban Outfitters. They are just permitting men — any man — to walk into a flimsily curtained space where giggling teenage girls check out a friend's new dress in their bras. Topshop's female customers were baffled. Why sacrifice our privacy and safety? (When the US company Target adopted this policy, predatory men exploited it to snap photos under cubicles.) Why not create a discrete space for the few "non-binary" people like Travis to change?

Fair question. But the current trans movement is doctrinaire, uncompromising. Led by mainly older trans-women — ie born men — it won't acknowledge women's rights or feelings. It fights for two principles. First, "self-definition": a person is the gender they "feel" inside, so a trans-woman "is" a woman even without physical change or while retaining male genitalia. Second, "affirmation": everyone must acknowledge this inner gender identity. Hence the right to waltz into women's private spaces is sacrosanct.

For months, researching the rise in referrals to gender clinics of teenage girls, I've been shocked at how the trans lobby, abetted by a cowed LGBT movement and deluded politicians, are prepared to sacrifice the wellbeing of children to attain those two goals.

This week the Scottish government published its transgender guidance for schools, drawn up solely by activist groups such as Mermaids. If Justine Greening implements a highly contentious women and equalities committee report, such rules will apply everywhere. On changing rooms it states: "If a learner feels uncomfortable sharing facilities with a transgender young person, they can be allowed to use a private facility . . . or to get changed after the trans young person is done." So if a girl objects to showering with a male-bodied pupil, she must go elsewhere or wait outside. For overnight trips: "If a transgender young person is sharing a room with their peers, there is no reason for parents of the other young people to be informed." So you have no business knowing if your daughter is sleeping alongside someone born a boy.

It recommends schools allow a child to change gender without parental consent. Moreover, if parents are not wholly behind a child's decision: "It may be useful to approach the local authority for additional guidance", ie report them to social services, perhaps to question custody.

Commented [A84]: The "trans movement", like any group of people, contains a spectrum of thought on all of these issues.

Commented [A85]: There is no basis for referring to the movement for transgender equality as a "lobby".

Commented [A86]: It is not clear that Mermaids contributed in the Report.

Commented [A87]: The report's recommendations don't cover the same issues.

Commented [A88]: These were not "rules" — they were only "good practice".

Commented [A89]: It is not a school's decision whether and how a child transitions.

Commented [A90]: This is an unreasonable inference, especially in the context: it is guidance for how a school should support a child who is transitioning in school when, perhaps, the child's parents are not supportive.

This craze to expedite gender transition in children goes against all clinical advice for “watchful waiting”. The young brain evolves, children change their minds, puberty is troubling for many reasons. Yet the Scottish guidance allows no one to dispute a child’s view, maybe acquired on Reddit and Tumblr, that he or she is in “the wrong body”. Or to suggest that a child may simply be gay. The apparatus of medical transition, a hormone regime causing sterility, plus surgical removal of healthy tissue, is seen as wholly positive. PE teachers must tolerate girls using binders to strap down their hated breasts “which can lead to shortness of breath and can be painful during physical exertion” because they have “a positive impact on a young person’s mental health”.

We are being ordered to endorse a practice reminiscent of Chinese foot-binding or the Victorian tight-lacing craze where girls fainted to achieve the tiniest waist. Should we also hand out fresh razor blades so self-harm wounds don’t go septic? Or “affirm” anorexics’ delusions that they are fat?

In my research I heard from teachers, doctors, parents and trans-folk aghast at children being pushed towards drastic treatment before they can possibly understand how it will affect their future relationships and lives. None would speak out publicly: like Topshop, they feared being labelled transphobic.

Because how quickly we transition kids is the new measure of an enlightened society. Announcing proposals to let 12-year-olds change their legal gender, the SNP equalities secretary Angela Constance boasted that “Scotland rightly has a reputation as one of the most progressive countries in relation to LGBTI rights.” This proves the SNP is more right-on than even Corbyn Labour. Meanwhile the Tories, in a cynical pursuit of youth votes, push for legislative changes they don’t even grasp. “Being trans is not an illness,” said Theresa May recently, “and it should not be treated as such.” So why does it require surgery, drugs and lifelong patienthood?

While trans children are a liberal totem, 50 more are being referred to London’s Tavistock clinic every week. “If there was a 1,000 per cent rise in six years in any other field,” said one doctor, “there would be a major inquiry. Instead no one asks why.” Because trans kids are becoming, as in the US, an industry that makes careers, brings Children in Need and Lottery grants, humanitarian prizes, plaudits, MBEs; it provides a legion of photogenic young foot-soldiers to help secure older trans demands, and for the private clinics, who’ll put your 13-year-old girl on testosterone, it is a mighty cash cow. But in a decade, when our adult children turn to ask, “Why did you let me do this? Why didn’t you stop me?” we may wonder if this was progress or child abuse.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/children-sacrificed-to-appease-trans-lobby-bq0m2mm95>

Commented [A91]: Respect for transgender children at school has nothing to do with the process of referral for medical action.

Commented [A92]: The guidance does not set out how gender dysphoria should be diagnosed or treated. It is merely about respect for children either questioning their identities, or going through the process.

Ministers pledge to tackle 'trans discrimination' in NHS screening



[Laura Donnelly](#), HEALTH EDITOR

26 FEBRUARY 2019 • 10:00PM

Ministers have pledged to end “trans discrimination” in NHS screening programmes, which means women who identify as men are not being invited for cervical checks.

Under current NHS rules, men who identify as women are being sent invitations for cervical screening - even though they have no risk of the disease, since they have no cervix.

However, women who identify as men are not being offered the checks, nor breast screening, because screening invitations are based on the identity details registered with a GP.

Yesterday Health Minister Steve Brine said he intended to address the issue.

He told MPs he wanted to see changes made to ensure that “trans” patients born as women were offered access to screening.

“Obviously its tiny numbers but they shouldn't be discriminated against - and I am damn well determined they won't be,” he told the Health and Social Care Committee.

Current guidance from Public Health England says trans people who register with their GP as their birth sex will be invited to appropriate screenings, but warns that if they register a change of gender they may lose access to services.

Commented [A93]: Transgender people repeatedly referred to as their birth gender.

Last year Cancer Research UK removed the word "women" from its smear test screening campaign in order to ensure transgender people go for smear tests.

While previously the charity urged women aged between 25 and 64 to get tested, it now promotes the service to "anyone with a cervix."

The campaign, launched last summer, said: "Cervical screening (or the smear test) is relevant for everyone aged 25-64 with a cervix. Watch our animation to find out what to expect when you go for screening."

The charity has defended its choice of wording, pointing out that transgender men are often at risk of cervical cancer.

At the time, Fiona Osgun from Cancer Research UK said: "Cervical cancer develops in anyone who has a cervix. This includes women as well as people with other gender identities such as trans men."

But pressure group Fair Play for Women said such messages were "unnecessary" and could put women off going for screening.



Steve Brine was speaking to the Health and Social Care committee

Earlier last year, the British Medical Association sparked criticism after it said pregnant women should not be called "expectant mothers" as it could offend transgender people.

Last month an investigation by The Telegraph revealed that hospitals routinely allow male patients to share female wards if they self-identify as women.

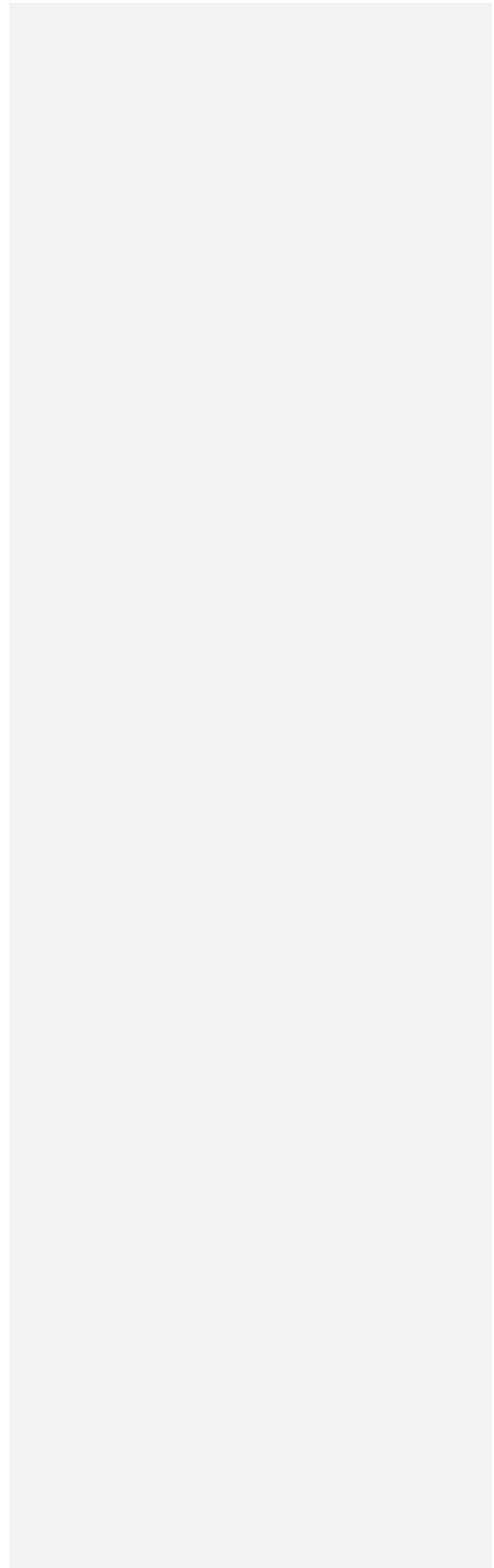
Despite official guidance intended to eliminate mixed sex wards, none of the NHS trusts in England require a patient to have begun transition for them to be treated as their preferred sex, according to responses to more than 100 Freedom of Information requests.

One trust advised staff to consult with the transgender patient if a female victim of sexual assault objects to sharing facilities with someone who may be biologically and legally male.

At the select committee inquiry into sexual health, NHS officials also pledged to introduce changes, so that women could undergo cervical smear tests while visiting sexual health clinics, instead of having to have a number of different checks.

Dominic Hardy, director of primary care delivery at NHS England, said the changes should be made by 2021.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/26/ministers-pledge-tackle-trans-discrimination-nhs-screening/>



Gulags were 'compassionate', 'educational' institutions, say trans rights campaigners



[Patrick Sawyer](#), SENIOR REPORTER

[Mason Boycott-Owen](#)

11 SEPTEMBER 2018 • 7:30PM

Students at a leading London university have been condemned as blind to reality after defending the system of Soviet Gulag labour camps where thousands perished as “compassionate” places of rehabilitation.

Trans rights campaigners at Goldsmiths University described the Gulags as benign places where inmates received education, training and enjoyed the opportunity to take part in clubs, sports and theatre groups.

In fact most historians agree they were a brutal network of labour camps used by Stalin's Soviet dictatorship to incarcerate internal opponents and so-called "enemies of the state", resulting in the death of more than an estimated 1.05 million people.

During a bizarre exchange on Twitter the LGBTQ group at Goldsmiths Student Union described life in the Gulags as “rehabilitatory” and “educational”.

Paradoxically the thread was written as an apparent justification for an earlier post by the same group which threatened to send a political opponent “to the gulag”.

Commented [A94]: This headline is undermined by the article, which says that it was in fact a broad “LGBTQ” group which made this remark, not “trans rights campaigners” specifically.

The threat was made against Claire Graham, a special education needs teacher, who wrote objecting to LGBTQ Goldsmith's threat to target feminist academics who they claimed were prejudiced against transgender individuals.

Trans activists refer to these women by the derogatory term TERFS, claiming they are guilty of hate crimes for their opposition to allowing men undergoing gender transition to use women's toilets and other female only spaces.

In its Tweets, Goldsmith LGBTQ said: "The ideas of TERFS and anti-trans bigots literally *kill* and must be eradicated through re-education."

Ms Graham said: "I said that I thought their choice of language, in talking about lists and purging people was intended to shut down debate about trans people and the law. I then received unpleasant and dehumanising threats about being sent to the Gulag. I feel bad for other trans people because this kind of response by some makes them seem so extreme and intolerant."

Goldsmith LGBTQ subsequently attempted to justify the threat to send Ms Graham to the Gulag by stating that "sending a bigot to one is actually a compassionate, non-violent course of action." The Twitter thread went on to state that the CIA had spread "lies" about the Gulag system, adding: "First myth to debunk: 'u work until u die in gulags!' The Soviets did away with life sentences and the longest sentence was 10 years. Capital punishment was reserved for the most heinous, serious crimes.

"The penal system was a rehabilitatory one. The aim was to correct and change the ways of criminals."

It added: "Much like wider Soviet society, everyone who was 'able' to work did so at a wage proportionate to those who weren't incapacitated and, as they gained skills, were able to move up the ranks and work under less supervision.

"Educational work was also a prominent feature of the Soviet penal system. There were regular classes, book clubs, newspaper editorial teams, sports theatre and performance groups."

In contrast, mainstream historians have concluded that the gulag system, which reached its peak under Joseph Stalin's rule, was a system of forced labour camps used to incarcerate a wide range of convicts, from petty criminals to political prisoners - including Stalin's left-wing, Trotskyist opponents and gay men and women.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, who survived eight years imprisoned in a Gulag incarceration, brought its horrors to the world's attention in his 1973 book *The Gulag Archipelago*.

Soviet files show that 1,053,829 people died in the camps between 1934 and 1953, mostly as a result of deliberate starvation.

The historian Anne Applebaum, author of *Gulag: A History*, said: "It was an incredibly brutal system designed to eliminate Stalin's enemies and terrorise the wider population. Most of the inmates were innocent of anything we would regard as a crime."

Ms Graham said: "The LGBTQ group's interpretation of the history of the Gulag system is madness."

Goldsmiths Students' Union has now suspended the group and withdrawn its support for its activities, saying the Gulag threat - and subsequent refusal by the group to apologise for it - clearly breached the students' union code of conduct.

In a statement backed by Goldsmiths University the students' union said: "We condemn the abhorrent content of the tweets and they are in complete opposition to the views and values of the Students' Union."

Members of Goldsmiths LGBTQ refused to comment when approached by The Daily Telegraph.

We need to investigate the causes of this sudden transgender explosion

NORMAN TEBBIT



23 OCTOBER 2017 • 3:14PM



Thank The Lord (or our Editor) for the article by Allison Pearson in last Wednesday's Telegraph: "When will the madness end in this brave new transgender world?"

When indeed. Not, I suspect, until we move on from blaming just the baleful influence of the social media or the equality industry.

Allison Pearson wrote: "All this fuss, even though such people make up only the teeniest sliver of our population. There are more Britons who keep guinea pigs than who identify as transgender."

I am not so sure as she is about that. I do not think there are too many guinea pig keepers at Westminster, but I am aware of a growing number of those claiming to be transgender, and I am concerned at the pressures being put on young school children to doubt whether they are girls, boys or of some indeterminate sex.

In our human species there have long been born a few individuals neither fully male nor female, but it was until recently a very few indeed. I cannot recollect any such individuals among my fellow pupils at school, nor in my intake for National Service in 1949, nor so far as I know among my children's generation at school.

Commented [A95]: It is not clear but appears likely that Lord Tebbit is mistaking people who are transgender with people who are intersex.

Evolutionary change seldom comes so suddenly or across such a wide front, so I think it is time we had some research into the extent of the phenomenon both in time and geographical reach. I do not know if the populations of third world or of urban or of rural societies are more or less affected.

Nor is it known if it is only our species or others living alongside us which have been affected, but that knowledge might point to a trigger such as pollution, which is the belief of some scientists.

I suspect that even to voice such thoughts may bring down coals of fire upon my head, but surely it is knowledge that is more likely than politically correct superstition to lead towards rational policies.

Commented [A96]: The error appears to persist here; or else Lord Tebbit is suggesting that pollution is increasing the likelihood of people being born with a different gender identity – which would be inaccurate and close to a conspiracy theory.



Print front page headline: "The skirt on the drag queen goes swish swish swish: trans classes for kids age 2".

Online article:

TRANSGENDER TOTS

Commented [A97]: The term "Trans classes" is inaccurate — there were no classes about being transgender. The references to "trans" appear to equate the activities of "drag queen" performers with people who are transgender.

Commented [A98]: There was no agenda to encourage children to question their gender identity. The story is about drag queen performers, not people who are transgender, in any case.

Drag queens sent to nursery schools to teach kids as young as two about ‘gender diversity’

Children as young as two are taught specially adapted songs by performers including Donna La Mode

• By Neil Syson

- 12th November 2017, 10:50 am
- Updated: 13th November 2017, 10:38 pm

NURSERY school toddlers are getting lessons from drag queens to teach them about “gender fluidity”.

Children as young as two are taught specially adapted songs by performers including Donna La Mode.

Among ditties suggested for the London sessions is a version of Wheels on the Bus, which goes: “The skirt on the drag queen goes swish, swish, swish.”

Men in women’s clothes are teaching kids as young as two — including one who dressed as Alice in Wonderland — at seven Government-funded nurseries to stop them committing hate crimes in later life.

Youngsters learn specially-adapted trans songs at the sessions and are told stories — one about a teddy bear which realises it is a girl and not a boy.

The Drag Queen Story Time classes are held by Bristol University law graduate Thomas Canham, 26. He hopes they will soon be rolled out across all 37 centres run by the London Early Years Foundation.

Among those delivering the lessons is Donna La Mode — dubbed The Fairy Queen of the drag world — who dressed as Alice to read to children at a Bristol community centre.

Donna tweeted snaps of herself in August, saying: “We packed out our biggest space.”

Mr Canham got the idea from the US and said an example of a song they might use was: “The skirt on the drag queen goes swish, swish, swish” — to the tune of kids’ favourite Wheels on the Bus.

He said of the drag queens: “It makes perfect sense. They’re performers, larger than life! It is exactly what children want.”

Commented [A99]: They were not receiving “lessons”. Performers were simply reading books to children.

Commented [A100]: As above, they are not “teaching kids” in the sense implied here.

Commented [A101]: They are not learning “trans songs”. They are singing songs, as nursery children often do, which do not rely on stereotypes about or a rigid understanding of gender. They also read conventional fairytales, in addition to stories which reflect feminist and gender-fluid themes.

Asked if tots were too young to learn of gender fluidity, he said: "We're not aiming to pitch narratives, just introducing the concept of it existing."

Foundation chief exec June O'Sullivan said: "By providing spaces in which children can see people who defy rigid gender restrictions, it allows them to imagine the world in which people can present themselves as they wish."

But gender dysphoria expert Prof Ashley Grossman said: "Only a tiny proportion of children develop dysphoria, this seems a little misguided."

"I'm sure it's with the best intentions but it could have the reverse impact."