OBJECT NOW UK l

Introduction

We are a prize winning-feminist campaigning unfunded , (therefore independent) volunteer group, founded in 2004. We are a non-political organisation.

We campaign, from a radical feminist theoretical standpoint, against the oppression of women as a sex class. We promote understanding of the nature and extent of the harms specific to the sexual exploitation and objectification of women that leads to our historical and continuing pernicious oppression.

OBJECT acts to expose these sex-based human rights violations that women and girls experience, locally, national and globally.

OBJECT campaigns, researches and acts against the following 5 systems

1. Pornography

2. Prostitution

3. Sex Encounter Venues  (eg lap/pole dancing, strip joints)

4. Surrogacy

5. Transgenderism/ Gender Theory as articulated by the expert SOGI

**OBJECT’s Response to the  Independent SOGI experts ( IE) call  for input into a thematic report**.

OBJECT are astonished that the Objectives of this thematic review being carried out by the IE appear to assert that Feminist and Gender Critical Groups are in some way not only hampering the progress of the LGBTQI+ global community, but suggests those in opposition to the implementation of ‘Gender theory beliefs’ across the U , have links with varying right-wing organisations, and as such are seen as responsible for instigating violent attacks towards this group of people. OBJECT vehemently refutes such assumptions.

OBJECT, a Women’s Rights organisation, refute any such claims that challenging gender theory beliefs involves expressed discrimination against protected groups. We welcome all efforts to reduce violence and campaign for upholding of the rights of those who are same sex attracted and those who do not conform to sex-based stereotypes. OBJECT asks how does a ‘gender theory’ approach by the UN promote the human sex-based rights agendas of women and the SOGI communities ?

Conflating Gender Critical /Feminist groups with extremist secular or religious groups is to assert we are anti LGBT+. We are not.

It has been OBJECT’s experience that when we respectfully challenge ‘gender theory’ we are not listened to, our arguments receive no answers, we are subject to abuse including death threats and are discriminated against for our opinions and theoretical standpoints. OBJECT has real concerns about the threats to freedom of speech and expression that now surrounds the no-debate platform upon which ‘gender theory’ now stands. Acceptance without exception is a great slogan but not if it excludes women from debating their sex based rights. Women and their views also want, deserve and demand to be Accepted without Exception.

OBJECT have grave concerns about any attempt by the UN Human Rights Councils to remove women/girls sex based rights as clearly set out in CEDAW 1979 in exchange for what you as the IE expert term ‘Gender Theory’, which has as its purpose the invalidation and removal of the category of sex. OBJECT argue such a move would be extremely damaging for women globally and by erasing our sex would threaten the very existence of the UN’s founding Human Rights documents.

OBJECT’s 5 campaign areas seek to identify the core issues related to women/girls’ oppression and note that sex (not ‘gender’, a term still to be definitively defined) is the determining factor underlying the profound and wide-ranging forms of discrimination against women and girls.

**Pornography**

Women are the main actors of objectification in all forms of pornography. Women exiting the porn industry state how they had to tolerate relentless sex-based misogynist verbal abuse and rigorous and relentless physical violence on all parts of their person, these were sex based abuses not gender. The suicide rate amongst women in the Porn industry between the ages of 18-35 is one of the highest in that age group. Adopting ‘gender theory’ data collection methodology would in our opinion render  this group of women invisible and the harms they experience would go unchallenged, a huge human rights violation.

OBJECT centres women’s sex-based right  to be treated with dignity and respect especially by physically-stronger males socialised to consume us as a resource. To campaign for the elimination of pornography is not a threat directed towards the LGB+ community or a call to any form of violence towards this community or any other.

**Prostitution**

The ‘gender theory’ approach to prostitution appears to believe, in the face of all reputable evidence, that women (and some GBT+ people) have agency to choose to be sold to men for sexual gratification. This view conveniently obviates the need to eradicate such sex based violations of women’s rights to live with dignity and respect such that poor or destitute women are forced into prostitution in order to feed themselves and their children. All statistics (see [www.nordicmodelnow.org](http://www.nordicmodelnow.org)) show that men buying women/girls for sex has increased sex trafficking of minor girls and young women. Grooming gangs who target minor girls for the sex trade is now a major human rights violation globally and specialist law enforcement are now needed to track, stop and prevent this sex-based criminality (in which gender plays no part) by mostly male gangs.

‘Gender theory’ damages women and girls and sees their material reality as irrelevant in the quest for a gender neutral, world that invalidates the millennia of women and girls’ oppression that has always been based upon the fact that **as a sex** human females are subordinate to men’s wants, desire, demands and controls systems.

OBJECT believes women have the right to challenge any theory or orthodoxy, whether covert or overt, that has outcomes that harm women, girls and society in general. To campaign for women’s liberation from sex based crimes is not a hate crime.

**Sex Encounter Venues**

OBJECT achieved a law change requiring such establishments to be licensed and place under local authority scrutiny. We monitor that these laws are applied correctly to ensure that women’s rights are upheld and that these clubs are not a source of further exploitation that infringe on women’s sex based rights while working.

We work to ensure that if such sex based entertainment exists, then women need protections from sexual exploitation that is not based on a ‘gender’, but on the material reality of their born **sex** as girls and women.

To campaign for such protections is not a hate crime or a call to violence directed towards the LGB+ community and OBJECT, as a women centred organisation, refutes any such claims that seem to be embedded within the context of the ‘Call for Evidence’ to the UN IE, SOGI thematic review.

**Surrogacy**

OBJECT views the growing trade in selling babies through surrogacy with alarm, as does the UN’s special rapporteur on the global rise of surrogacy. Many countries have now banned the practice, based on evidence that globally the poorest women were and are the target for commercial surrogacy agencies and businesses. Whether operating as charities or as businesses, these are part of the circle of complicity in a practice which we suspect will be the scandal of the 2030s and 2040s as legal cases are brought against the deliberate creation of genetically-confused children and traumatised, physically damaged women via the practice of experimental medicine on both.

In UK recently the Law Commission set up a review of current Surrogacy Laws with the sole aim (against its remit of independence and thoroughness in reviewing the law) of fining how surrogacy could be made easier now that global corridors for the trade were being closed. Under Covid lockdown we saw on TV rooms of babies in other countries awaiting parents unable to collect them, babies removed from their genetic mother in a way never permitted in any other circumstance, and becoming institutionalised by the day. By Kennel Club regulations, puppies in a breeding kennel have to spend 6 weeks with their birth mother, yet a human baby can be wrenched away from its human physical and emotional support system on day one of its life. We OBJECT to that.

. The review sought, in our view wrongly, to remove ‘mother rights’ the instant the baby was born through legal means and render the birth mother powerless to change her mind retrospectively ( which often happens).

To campaign for the abolition of Surrogacy as a business is not a violation of the rights of LGB+ people, nor is it  hate speech to defend women’s rights not to be seen as a commodity whose sex designated reproductive system is exploited by those who are wealthy enough to buy such services, wherever they may be based.

**Transgenderism / Gender Theory**

OBJECT has no issues with adults defining themselves from a ‘gender theory’ perspective but note that this category is not protected in UK law. Object supports all protected characteristics as outlined in the UK Equality Act 2010. As a women’s campaigning group we particularly monitor how the act is applied in all categories that include women’s sex based rights.

OBJECT, along with many other UK-based groups, campaigns for more research and debate on the issue of ‘gender theory’. Our main concern is minor children and their inability to consent to life-changing medical and in some cases surgical interventions. A recent UK court judged that children under sixteen cannot fully consent to such serious pathway treatments on the basis that they lack the developmental capacity to understand the consequences of them.  In UK before such treatments can be prescribed, the courts to must decide on factors based on  Safeguarding/Capacity to Consent Laws.

OBJECT is concerned that demands for gender neutral language replace the  current descriptors of female/male men/women in law harms women/ girls men/boys. We call for open consultation before laws/conventions/guidance on this issue are changed.

We support the removal of sex/gender stereotypes that ordain sex-based gender roles that harm both sexes. Within this context however given the universally high levels of sex-based violence, abuse, coercion , economic deprivations, and exploitation that are material realities in women’s and girls’ lives, we do not see how the removal of sex segregated spaces, facilities, or services dedicated exclusively to women and girls can be justified in a world that continues to allow these abuses to continue.

OBJECT cannot see that these concerns are in any way hostile, discriminatory, hateful or incitement to any forms of violence against LGB+ people, given that most violence and abuse (according to CEDAW/CSW/ Human Rights Convention) is inflicted by or at the behest of men upon the sex class of women and girls. The continuing existence globally of sex based crimes against women/girls is evidence that, according to the UN, such acts are on the increase and all attempts to prevent male violence against women fail to achieve significant change. OBJECT is not aligned or affiliated with any organisations or group that promote discrimination against LGB+ people;  on the contrary we are proud to have such women amongst our volunteers and on our management team.