## Introduction

This is a response to the call for evidence by the United Nation’s Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

TransActual are a community interest company[[[1]](#footnote-1)] working across the UK, founded in late 2018, and formally incorporated in July 2020. Our aims are to educate wider society on the issues facing trans and non-binary people in the UK, as well as to empower trans and non-binary people to overcome them. We have rapidly become one of the UK’s leading voices in this sector and have good, solid working relationships with other leading organisations in the LGBT+ sector. We are grateful to those other organisations which have co-signed this submission.

The Independent Expert has asked a number of specific questions, but we think it is helpful first to give an overview of the current situation facing trans people in the UK and how we got there. For a more detailed, academic analysis, we recommend reading TERF Wars[[[2]](#footnote-2)], specifically the introduction and the chapters by Prof Sally Hines and Cristan Williams.

We would also caution against adopting a Westernised view which might be best described as LGBT assimilation into a heteronormative society as the ultimate signifier of progress[[[3]](#footnote-3)]. While it is important that LGBT people are not excluded from societies simply by virtue of being LGBT, meaning that, for example, states must recognise relationships between and parenthood of or by LGBT people as equal in terms of respect and law to those experienced by other people, there needs to be respect and equality given to social structures developed within other cultures.

## Background

The UK was one of the last European countries[[[4]](#footnote-4)] to enact legislation enabling trans people to be recognised legally in their lived-in sex. While there were shortcomings identified in the Gender Recognition Act 2004[[[5]](#footnote-5)] at the time it was enacted, such as the prohibition on marriages continuing post gender recognition, the legislation was generally seen as one of the most progressive in Europe at the time – mainly because it did not require surgeries[[[6]](#footnote-6)] which trans men found incredibly invasive and risky.

The Equality Act 2010[[[7]](#footnote-7)] drew together existing strands of equalities legislation and provided a common basis for 9 protected characteristics[[[8]](#footnote-8)] (including but not restricted to sex, sexuality and gender reassignment) as well as introducing protections for discrimination by perception, implicit discrimination and discrimination by association. Trans people had been protected from discrimination in employment since 1999[[[9]](#footnote-9)], and from harassment by employers since 1997.

In 2013 the UK’s Parliament passed the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act[[[10]](#footnote-10)], which removed the requirement for divorce in couples where one spouse was seeking legal gender recognition. Instead a concept of spousal consent, until then only required by one rarely used and arcane process for changing names[[[11]](#footnote-11)], was introduced specifically for these couples[[[12]](#footnote-12)]. This was rapidly named spousal veto by campaigners, as it placed the ability for a spouse, whether supportive or hostile, to block legal gender recognition[[[13]](#footnote-13)]. This Act only applied in England and Wales. Scotland passed their own Act in 2014[[[14]](#footnote-14)], while same sex marriage wasn’t enabled in Northern Ireland until 2020[[[15]](#footnote-15)][[[16]](#footnote-16)].

Out of 7 demands made by trans people at the time – including equal pension rights, removal of spousal veto, removal of other specific discrimination in marriage laws – Government only conceded on 1, equal pension rights for spouses[[[17]](#footnote-17)] of trans people, and then proceeded not to fully implement it.

### Media Coverage pre-2015

Around the same time, trans people were expressing increased concern around the bias inherent within media coverage.

While broadcast coverage was rare, broadcasters tended to treat trans people as exotic creatures, in much the same way as a nature documentary, or reduce trans people’s experiences to a stereotypical surgical journey. Trans men, non-binary people and intersex people were almost completely invisible.

The mainstream press tended to cover trans issues in a small number of standard tropes – where trans people were presented as deviant and therefore undeserving, or as comedic. There was a reduction to stereotype and an association with criminality. This was highlighted in oral evidence by Trans Media Watch to the Leveson Inquiry into Press Standards and Ethics at the start of 2012[[[18]](#footnote-18)].

Lord Justice Leveson’s report added another category to the press reporting described by Trans Media Watch – that of unnecessary outings – and urged the press to radically improve[[[19]](#footnote-19)]. Despite this, the press did not change their ways until the spring of 2013 after Lucy Meadows, a newly transitioned primary school teacher, had taken her own life after significant harassment by the press[[[20]](#footnote-20)].

When the press resumed reporting on trans issues a year or so later, they did so using what they called supportive outings. This coincided with some celebrities, including Caitlin Jenner[[[21]](#footnote-21)] and Kellie Maloney[[[22]](#footnote-22)] announcing they were trans.

### Political Asks and Responses

During 2014 a number of trans organisations came together to produce a trans manifesto which they asked candidates at the 2015 General Election[[[23]](#footnote-23)] to sign up to. The manifesto had three broad asks, reflecting the needs of the trans communities - regard trans individuals as equal citizens with equal rights; empower trans individuals to be authorities on all aspects of their own lives; and encourage diverse, representative, realistic and positive portrayals of trans individuals. A number of people subsequently elected as MPs signed this pledge.

Following the 2015 General Election, the House of Commons created a new Select Committee[[[24]](#footnote-24)] in order to hold the Secretary of State for Women and Equalities and the Government Equalities Office to account. The first inquiry they held was on the issues facing trans people. The subsequent report[[[25]](#footnote-25)] highlighted a number of areas, including significantly improving access to transition-related healthcare and reforming the Gender Recognition Act, recognising that countries across the world had started implementing self-declaration processes for legal gender recognition.

In the run up to the 2017 General Election, then Prime Minister Theresa May announced that any incoming Conservative Government would reform the Gender Recognition Act[[[26]](#footnote-26)]. However, the required public consultation took 15 months to launch[[[27]](#footnote-27)], and the UK Government did not report on this until almost 2 years after it closed, something attributed to the procession of Secretaries of State for Women and Equalities (Justine Greening [2016-18], Amber Rudd [2018], Penny Mordaunt [2018-19], Amber Rudd [2019], Liz Truss [2019-]).

### Media Coverage post-2015

By the beginning of 2016 the UK’s media had started to investigate some of the issues that trans people faced and seemed broadly sympathetic. It was in this environment, where progress on trans issues was largely assumed to be non-contentious and had cross-party support, that Theresa May announced reform of the Gender Recognition Act (*GRA reform*)[[[28]](#footnote-28)].

However, there were already signs that those opposed to trans inclusion had become more active. This included the start of a debate in the UK press about whether trans women were “real women”[[[29]](#footnote-29)] – the implication being that they weren’t because they hadn’t experienced menstruation and sexual harassment. The Government’s announcement of their intention to reform the Gender Recognition Act gave significant impetus to such campaigns.

The idea that women were being silenced or erased, that biological sex was of the utmost importance, that equality rights pertained to biological sex only rather than expression of gender identity or any of the other aspects of womanhood – all these started to dominate media discussion of trans people. Trans men, non-binary people and intersex people again rapidly became invisible in media discourse.

One of the shortcomings in the post-Leveson regulation of the press remained around discrimination – where complaints could only be upheld if a piece named an individual and that individual complained[[[30]](#footnote-30)]. The new Independent Press Complaints Organisation (*IPSO*) – in reality just a rebadged version of the discredited Press Complaints Commission – made much over a discrimination complaint over a piece on a trans person which was brought forwards by a trans organisation, albeit with that trans person’s authorisation. The complaint was upheld[[[31]](#footnote-31)] – so far, the only complaint that IPSO has upheld on discrimination grounds[[[32]](#footnote-32)] – although the offending paper did not comply fully with the new regulator’s demands[[[33]](#footnote-33)] and there were outstanding issues around victimisation of the complainant[[[34]](#footnote-34)].

Indeed, since then IPSO has rejected complaints from trans people creating problematic precedents for the whole of press regulation – accuracy is now subjective: inaccuracies in a piece can be justified if the journalist believed them to be true[[[35]](#footnote-35)], and that quotes could be invented if the journalist thought it was the kind of thing that individuals might say[[[36]](#footnote-36)].

Furthermore, trans women started to be positioned as threats to other women. Much was made of the Karen White incident – where a trans woman was moved to the female prison estate and then committed sexual assaults[[[37]](#footnote-37)]. The Prison Service later admitted that their new procedures regarding risk assessment had been bypassed[[[38]](#footnote-38)] and that White should have been recognised as posing a risk. There was much press speculation over whether an infamous murderer had declared himself to be trans – reports later found to be completely baseless[[[39]](#footnote-39)]. An incident in Hyde Park, where a group of people opposed to trans inclusion were encountered by trans people and their supporters, turned ugly. One trans woman (Tara Wolf) was subsequently found guilty of assault[[[40]](#footnote-40)], a case which has been used relentlessly to assert that all trans women are violent and dangerous, although it does appear that she had been subjected to provocation[[[41]](#footnote-41)].

### Rise of Organised Opposition

Groups saying they were speaking for women started springing up – Fair Play for Women[[[42]](#footnote-42)] and A Women’s Place UK[[[43]](#footnote-43)] being the main ones initially – all of whose focus was to organise dissent to the Government’s proposals on GRA reform[[[44]](#footnote-44)].

Other groups expressing concern over the capability of under 18s to consent to trans-related healthcare and trans supportive environments in schools[[[45]](#footnote-45)] also sprang up. One prolific group in this area, Transgender Trend, is headed by an individual who is “*not qualified in medicine law, or teaching, and does not have professional experience working with trans people*”[[[46]](#footnote-46)] – someone who admitted they had only met “*about 10*” trans people after starting their group[[[47]](#footnote-47)].

Such groups appeared to be well-organised and well-funded, although were completely opaque in their financial dealings and governance structures. Key players in or closely associated with these groups were hosted by US-based organisations led by evangelical right-wing Christians[[[48]](#footnote-48)]. They rapidly gained a foothold in the media, almost always appearing whenever trans issues were being discussed. One Channel 4 discussion programme saw members of the audience shout “penis, penis” whenever a trans women, Munroe Bergdorf, spoke[[[49]](#footnote-49)]. They started routinely protesting outside events organised for, with or by trans people[[[50]](#footnote-50)][[[51]](#footnote-51)][[[52]](#footnote-52)].

The media started positioning trans women against other women, creating the erroneous impression that all women were on the same side of the argument. Women who did speak up in support of trans women were almost completely ignored.

Speakers who had a history of making statements diminishing the equality of trans people, such as Germaine Greer, found themselves subject to protests at events where they were booked to speak. Despite the fact that these events almost always went ahead with the speakers speaking[[[53]](#footnote-53)], that didn’t stop the narrative emerging that these people were being “no platformed”[[[54]](#footnote-54)][[[55]](#footnote-55)].

### Current Media Debates

This prompted a debate around freedom of speech, which always seemed to be tied to trans issues and predicated on an individual’s right to promote a particular, usually detrimental, view about trans people in such a manner that wouldn’t be countenanced for any of the other characteristics protected under UK equalities law.

This evolved into debates around cancel culture and silencing – where people were objecting to other people’s right to protest peacefully – wokeness – where people were objecting to having to be careful about what they said about particular groups of people – and gender ideology – which was never clearly defined.

Those complaining of being silenced almost always managed to appear on a number of different mainstream media outlets.

At the end of 2017 a parliamentary inquiry into freedom of speech at universities found that no platforming incidents were rare[[[56]](#footnote-56)].

The only NHS provider dealing with trans children came under increased scrutiny, with a small number of complaints around safeguarding – which were not upheld – made into a major news story[[[57]](#footnote-57)]. The charities working in this area started experiencing repeated challenges on the basis that those under 18 were not equipped to know their identity, and that the charities were acting immorally[[[58]](#footnote-58)], trying to convert youngsters into being trans.

Allegations that trans women caused a danger in single-sex spaces, such as toilets and changing rooms, became endemic at this time. Single anecdotes were used to extrapolate wildly to the whole population. Statistics about trans people were grossly distorted to make it appear that the vast majority of transitioned trans women – those who would use such spaces, entirely legally – kept their male genitalia[[[59]](#footnote-59)]. The aim was to make women afraid of trans women who, while apparently being easy to identify[[[60]](#footnote-60)], were also capable of such deception as to slip under the radar completely unnoticed[[[61]](#footnote-61)]. The lack of evidence of trans women using these spaces to commit crimes of violence was irrelevant – it was all about creating fear and panic.

Trans people were almost invisible in mainstream media throughout this time. On the rare occasions trans people did appear, it was almost always to answer questions framed as if trans people were threats and the complaints about them were valid. In 3 years, the media had moved from asking what problems and dangers did trans people face, to asking what problems were these “dangerous” trans people creating.

An IPSO report, published in late 2020[[[62]](#footnote-62)], stated that press coverage of trans issues had increased by 400% between 2009 and 2019. Its analysis claimed that there was no press hostility against trans people, but also admitted that it did not analyse pieces by the *Times* and *Sunday Times* because they were behind a paywall. Those two papers have acted remorselessly against trans inclusion – publishing 324 pieces on trans issues in 2020 alone[[[63]](#footnote-63)], none of which were written by trans people and almost all of which pushed the message that trans people were threats.

The BBC found it necessary to include voices opposed to trans inclusion on every news piece relating to trans people, while trans voices were excluded from reportage which focused on opposition to trans inclusion. Evidence is emerging of significant internal lobbying within the BBC on every single trans piece, in apparent breach of the BBC’s own guidelines. The BBC’s media editor, Amol Rajan, awarded JK Rowling’s essay the 2020 Russell Prize for best writing[[[64]](#footnote-64)], quoting from Enoch Powell’s “Rivers of Blood” speech[[[65]](#footnote-65)]. The BBC has consistently denied there is a problem, yet they recently defended their position on a prominent piece on trans issues where no trans person had been consulted, let alone interviewed[[[66]](#footnote-66)][[[67]](#footnote-67)].

It was into this environment that Secretary of State Liz Truss started making statements around GRA reform, including statements such as the need to protect single-sex spaces and children from irreversible decisions[[[68]](#footnote-68)]. Such statements were viewed by trans people as hostile – who did single-sex spaces need protecting from, and what decisions was she referring to? The Sunday Times ran a front page story alleging that the Government would not only drop GRA reform proposals but also restrict trans peoples’ access to single-sex spaces[[[69]](#footnote-69)]. Understandably this caused massive alarm for trans people.

In September 2020 the Government finally published the report into the consultation and dropping the proposals for reform[[[70]](#footnote-70)]. The consultation report[[[71]](#footnote-71)] showed that the majority of respondents were in support of all the different aspects of reform, despite an orchestrated campaign against the proposals.

Truss has also announced that the Government will move to promoting a different equalities agenda[[[72]](#footnote-72)], based on addressing economic inequalities rather than on characteristics of individuals or groups. This will require significant restructuring of the Government Equalities Office.

### Current Campaigns Against Trans Inclusion

The UK has recently seen a concerted level of campaigning to protect so-called “sex-based rights”, based upon a particular and contested interpretation of the Equality Act, and completely counter to CEDAW. The claim is that the protected characteristic of sex refers only to biological sex (despite the complete absence of this wording appearing in any UK legislation) and therefore cannot apply to trans people (despite the Equality Act including protections against discrimination by perception or association and the conflation of the terms “sex” and “gender” throughout English law[[[73]](#footnote-73)]).

This campaign has become multi-faceted, impacting many current issues including but not restricted to Mr Potato Head[[[74]](#footnote-74)], guidance to NHS midwives in Sussex[[[75]](#footnote-75)], the recording of sex in the census[[[76]](#footnote-76)][[[77]](#footnote-77)], and the new Ministerial and Other Maternity Allowances Act 2021 (*MOMA Act*).

On 25 February 2021, the UK Government replaced the default inclusive gender-neutral language in the MOMA Act with gendered language[[[78]](#footnote-78)], requiring trans men to identify as mothers in order to be treated equally. This was the first time in decades where the Government had explicitly decided to make new legislation less inclusive than originally drafted. In the House of Lords debate, the Government indicated it now intends to review the gender-neutral drafting of new legislation.

Meanwhile new campaign groups keep appearing who are fixated on removing current rights and protections from trans people[[[79]](#footnote-79)], despite the UK Government’s decision to drop GRA reform. All these groups are opaque about their financing[[[80]](#footnote-80)], appear as if they’re concerned for a wider group of people[[[81]](#footnote-81)], yet only present trans people as a threat who need to be considerably restricted within society. Such groups have also started campaigning against LGB-inclusive education in schools, adoption rights of gay and lesbian couples, and even the concept of same-sex marriage itself.

Analysis shows that these groups are self-referencing and more-or-less completely disconnected from mainstream campaigning groups[[[82]](#footnote-82)][[[83]](#footnote-83)].

Campaign groups hostile to trans inclusion have subjected many local authorities and public bodies to judicial reviews[[[84]](#footnote-84)] and thousands of freedom of information requests[[[85]](#footnote-85)], sometimes leading to withdrawal of trans-inclusive guidance[[[86]](#footnote-86)] because local authority finances and staff are already stretched by the covid-19 pandemic. They count these as legal wins, claiming that it is proof that local authorities have acted illegally[[[87]](#footnote-87)].

Individuals associated with these groups appear very active on social media and some threaten litigation, especially around being called “TERFs” or “transphobic”[[[88]](#footnote-88)].

Medical treatment under the NHS for trans under-18s has been significantly impacted by a court ruling[[[89]](#footnote-89)], subject to appeal, restricting access of trans youth to puberty blockers. It is unclear why the NHS did not challenge the suspect evidence presented from US evangelical Christian sources[[[90]](#footnote-90)] at the original hearing, but the NHS immediately imposed more draconian measures than actually required by the court ruling[[[91]](#footnote-91)] without undertaking any equalities impact assessments[[[92]](#footnote-92)] as required by law.

In an ongoing parliamentary inquiry into the Government’s decision to drop GRA reform, a witness who is opposed to GRA reform made statements[[[93]](#footnote-93)] including giving birth “*is such an absolutely centrally female thing to do*”[[[94]](#footnote-94)] (attempting to erase any idea that trans men who give birth can be considered as men), that it’s acceptable for male-bodied people to be excluded from women-only areas[[[95]](#footnote-95)] and that the legal basis for this is already in place, and committing violent offences against women “*is something fundamentally incompatible with being a woman*”[[[96]](#footnote-96)] (ignoring the question about what should happen to those cis women who commit such offences).

On the BBC’s Newsnight programme in late 2018, another prominent campaigner[[[97]](#footnote-97)] opposed to trans inclusion and associated with one of the new “women’s-rights” groups called for segregation of trans people – implying trans men and trans women should share a third set of gendered toilets and changing facilities[[[98]](#footnote-98)]. The call passed almost without comment.

The Scottish Government announced plans to single out discussion and criticism of trans people in freedom of expression provisions in new hate speech legislation[[[99]](#footnote-99)], although it did subsequently drop those plans[[[100]](#footnote-100)].

The UK Government has recently announced plans for a freedom of speech “Champion” and further legislation to “protect” freedom of speech across university campuses[[[101]](#footnote-101)] – again, despite any evidence of anything other than an almost vanishingly small number of incidents[[[102]](#footnote-102)].

Furthermore the UK Government has made no secret of its intentions to replace existing Human Rights legislation[[[103]](#footnote-103)] and issue “clarifications” around the Equality Act[[[104]](#footnote-104)].

### Scotland and Northern Ireland

It should be recognised that gender recognition is a devolved area of law in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The two devolved governments have different political compositions, which underpins differences in approach.

The Scottish Government has also paused GRA reform[[[105]](#footnote-105)], following two consultations. Holyrood has many politicians who wish to progress GRA reform but are unsure how to counter the narrative that this would impinge on women’s rights. Trans rights appear to have become a proxy for a power struggle within the governing SNP[[[106]](#footnote-106)][[[107]](#footnote-107)].

The unionist voice (in the form of the DUP) has a more significant voice as well as a veto within the Northern Ireland Assembly. The UK Government imposed same-sex marriage onto the Province in late 2019[[[108]](#footnote-108)] following years of obstruction within the Assembly, mainly by the DUP. GRA reform is not currently being seriously discussed.

### Effects on Trans People

The effects on trans people in the UK have been alarming. Recognising that only a small fraction of transphobic incidents are reported to the police[[[109]](#footnote-109)], transphobic hate crimes have risen by 400% from 2015 to 2019[[[110]](#footnote-110)].

The NHS transition pathways have been closed to new admissions since the start of the covid-19 pandemic, with waiting lists now in excess of 3 years (despite a target time of a maximum of 18 weeks) at all clinics. While three new NHS clinics were announced by Liz Truss at the same time as she dropped plans for GRA reform, it is unlikely they will make any dent in the waiting list times. Openings of 2 of these 3 “new” clinics had already been planned by the NHS for at least 2 years. Many trans people oppose this specialisation of the transition pathway – the need for local GP-based specialist centres has been understood for at least 15 years. But equally an increasing number of trans people are now finding it difficult to access appropriate treatment from their GPs.

Trans people are now left without any mainstream media outlet reliably reporting on any issues which affect them. Media coverage is seen as horrifically biased, negative, de-humanising and relentless[[[111]](#footnote-111)].

In 2017 a trans woman from the UK was granted residency in New Zealand[[[112]](#footnote-112)] because of the systemic transphobia within the UK. Since the start of 2020, many trans people have expressed a desire to leave the UK[[[113]](#footnote-113)], feeling that it is now an unsafe place to live. Some, including some campaigners, have left. Many trans people have made significant adjustments to their lifestyle[[[114]](#footnote-114)] as a result of the new environment within the UK[[[115]](#footnote-115)].

## Responses to Specific Questions

### 3. What kinds of information and data are collected by States to identify forms of violence and discrimination faced by people based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

The UK has had procedures in place for police forces to record information about hate incidents and hate crimes motivated by hatred of sexuality and “transgender identity” since 2007[[[116]](#footnote-116)]. As the House of Commons Library’s briefing makes clear, it is recognised that all hate incidents are under-reported to the police, and the National Crime Survey (run by the Office of National Statistics) does not record crimes against those aged under 16.

Galop’s Transphobic Hate Crime 2020 report[[[117]](#footnote-117)] identified that only 1 in 7 trans people reported hate incidents against them to the police, and that 70% of trans people thought the police would do nothing with the report.

The Home Office hate crime statistics for England and Wales[[[118]](#footnote-118)] shows that the number of reported hate crimes against trans people has risen substantially over the past decade (from 296 in 2011/12 to 2,540 in 2019/20). These now constitute around 2.5% of all recorded hate crimes, while the trans population is estimated to be a maximum of 1.5%. It is likely that the actual number of people who would put themselves in a position where they may experience transphobic hate crime is significantly smaller than 1% of the UK’s population.

The published Home Office hate crime statistics do not record a breakdown of type of crime within each recorded category.

### 4. Is comprehensive sexuality education taught in schools?

Relationships and Sexual Health Education (RSHE) was due to become compulsory in state-funded schools from September 2020. However this was deferred until April 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Secondary schools in England are mandated to provide both sex education and relationships education which must be inclusive of LGBT identities[[[119]](#footnote-119)]. Parents/carers may opt their child out of sex education, but the young person may opt in once they are within two terms of their 16th birthday.

Primary schools in England are mandated to provide relationships education. Statutory guidance states that teaching must include different types of families, but the inclusion of families containing LGBT people is suggested rather than compulsory. Ofsted’s most recent guidance[[[120]](#footnote-120)] states that children and young people should learn about all of the different protected characteristics of the Equality Act – which includes sexuality and gender identity.

In 2020 the Government Equalities Office withdrew its free training on LGBT-inclusive RSHE[[[121]](#footnote-121)], resulting in minimal free training being available to schools and teachers. Government also stopped funding a programme to combat homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools[[[122]](#footnote-122)].

LGBT inclusivity is mandated in RSHE in Scotland for secondary school and encouraged for all ages[[[123]](#footnote-123)].

Draft guidance from the Welsh Government[[[124]](#footnote-124)] indicates that sex education is to be mandatory for secondary school pupils, and that LGBTQ young people must have access to relevant and suitable sex education.

### 5. Are there examples where the concept of gender has been used in religious narratives or narratives of tradition, traditional values or protection of the family to hinder the adoption of legislative or policy measures aimed at addressing or eradicating violence and discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity?

Fundamentalist Christian groups such as the Christian Institute[[[125]](#footnote-125)] and Christian Concern[[[126]](#footnote-126)][[[127]](#footnote-127)] regularly attempt to intervene in legal cases and policy decisions where LGBT peoples’ rights are involved.

Paul Conrathe[[[128]](#footnote-128)], who has been involved in senior roles in evangelical, fundamentalist Christian organisations, is a lawyer[[[129]](#footnote-129)] who has regularly represented those who object to LGBT inclusion in court cases[[[130]](#footnote-130)][[[131]](#footnote-131)][[[132]](#footnote-132)] – most recently in the Bell case[[[133]](#footnote-133)] which restricted access to puberty blockers by trans people who are under 18. Conrathe has a history of representing people in cases which attempt to restrict access to abortion.

Muslim groups have also been involved in protesting LGBT education in primary schools in Birmingham[[[134]](#footnote-134)].

Analysis of responses opposed to GRA reform in Scotland identified that roughly half came from “*Christian conservative groups which traditionally oppose abortion and same sex marriage*” and the other half from “women’s groups that fight for these rights”[[[135]](#footnote-135)]. The analysis continues “*Some of their arguments in response to the consultation’s questions were also markedly similar: that reforms would threaten women-only spaces, marriages, families, and the safety of women and children*”. It was noted that one response to the Scottish consultation was from ADF International[[[136]](#footnote-136)].

### 7. Are there examples in which narratives or “gender ideology”, “genderism” or other gender-related concepts have been used to introduce regressive measures?

In the UK, it is those who oppose trans inclusion who use the term “gender ideology” to reference a supposed agenda of trans groups and campaigners[[[137]](#footnote-137)][[[138]](#footnote-138)]. It is never clearly defined what this is, along with other terminology such as “transgender agenda”.

In her speech of 22 April 2020, Liz Truss (Secretary of State for Women and Equalities) used terms which trans people generally equate with those opposed to trans inclusion:

* She talked about the need to protect single-sex spaces, but didn’t clearly define who those spaces needed to be protected from. Campaigns which had used that language up to that point[[[139]](#footnote-139)], clearly implied that trans women should be excluded from those spaces.
* Truss said it was important to maintain “*the proper checks and balances in the system*” when considering GRA reform. This implied that the existing restrictions had been used to prevent “undesirables” from gaining legal gender recognition, but there are no statistics to back this assertion up.
* Finally, Truss said “*it’s very important that while people are still developing their decision-making capabilities that we protect them from making those irreversible decisions*”, which was understood as saying that nobody under 18 should be allowed to pursue transition-related healthcare.

Currently there is debate over the banning of conversion therapy, with the usual groups opposed to trans inclusion urging the Government to exclude conversion therapy performed on trans people from any ban[[[140]](#footnote-140)][[[141]](#footnote-141)].

### 9. Have there been public expressions or statements by political and/or religious leaders that have led to indefinite extension, modification or suppression of actions, activities, projects, public policies or application of gender frameworks?

We refer the Independent Expert to our answer to question 5 above.

### 10. Who are [the] main actors who argue that the defenders of human rights of LGBT individuals are furthering a so-called “gender ideology”? What are their main arguments? Have they been effective in regressing the rights of LGBT individuals? Have their strategies directly or indirectly also impacted on the human rights of women and girls?

We note again that, in the UK, it is those who oppose trans inclusion who use the term “gender ideology” to reference a supposed agenda of trans groups and campaigners.

There are several groups, some from an overtly religious perspective, others with opaque backing. Some have already been referenced in this submission, but organisations we understand to meet the criteria are listed below[[[142]](#footnote-142)]:

* ADF International
* Authentic Equality Alliance
* Christian Concern
* Christian Institute
* Conservatives for Women
* Fair Play for Women
* FiLiA
* For Women Scotland
* Heritage Foundation
* The Institute of Feminist Thought
* Labour Women’s Declaration
* Legal Feminist Collective
* Lesbian Labour
* LGB Alliance[[[143]](#footnote-143)][[[144]](#footnote-144)][[[145]](#footnote-145)]
* Merched Cymru
* Safe Schools Alliance
* Sex Matters
* Transgender Trend
* Woman’s Place UK
* Women Uniting

It can be argued that they have been effective in preventing the UK, including Scotland, from adopting measures such as GRA reform which are now becoming standard across many other countries. They have done so by generating a substantial level of fear across the media, which has the effect of demonising trans and non-binary people, presenting them as dangerous and violent predators.

While they would all deny being transphobic, the logical endpoint of the policies they are pursuing is to remove anyone who deviates from acceptable gender norms from public life – reinforcing a conformity, particularly upon women and girls, that there is a very narrow band of acceptable appearance and behaviour[[[146]](#footnote-146)].

### 11. Can you provide examples of coalitions working together on resisting attacks on gender ideology?

We note again that, in the UK, it is those who oppose trans inclusion who use the term “gender ideology” to reference a supposed agenda of trans groups and campaigners.

LGBT Consortium[[[147]](#footnote-147)] is the main infrastructure body for LGBT organisations across the UK. In 2013 it created a Trans Organisations Network[[[148]](#footnote-148)] to allow trans groups to focus on the development of the Trans Manifesto for the 2015 General Election. Consortium also facilitates regular discussions between leaders of groups, and groups which have specific focuses.

Organisations interested in protecting and advancing the rights of LGBT people, including but not restricted to Stonewall, LGBT Foundation, LGBT Consortium, Scottish Trans Alliance, Mermaids, Gendered Intelligence, TransActual, Trans Media Watch and The Proud Trust have irregular, informal discussions about a range of issues, including on consultations and campaigns.

We note that attempts have been made to marginalise most of the trans groups on the basis that they are lobby groups[[[149]](#footnote-149)] or run by activists. This is problematic for two reasons – 1, who do they expect to run these groups and what do they expect them to do, and 2, are they stating that the groups listed in response to question 10 are not lobby groups or are not run by activists?

## Conclusions

The environment that trans people face in the UK has moved from one of hope and anticipated progress in 2017 and 2018, to one of deep despair by the end of 2020.

Trans people are routinely and relentlessly misrepresented across the UK’s mainstream media with no effective right of redress.

The mainstream media is only interested in platforming trans people in a framing which presents them as problematic. There is now no discourse in mainstream media of the issues that trans people face.

Opaquely funded and well-organised campaign groups are using the media and the courts to significantly restrict trans people’s lives, while advocating for the removal of their existing rights. These groups frequently masquerade as being the voice of all women or the voice of all LGB people.

The UK Government is listening to these campaigns, while largely ignoring the voices of those who are directly affected by the outcomes[[[150]](#footnote-150)].

Trans people in the UK are now scared for their own safety. Many now consider the country’s institutions as systemically transphobic, and many who are able to are now looking to leave the country.

*TransActual, 12 March 2021*

## Signatories

Helen Belcher, Chair, TransActual CIC (author)

Cat Burton, Chair, GIRES

Jane Fae, Chair, Trans Media Watch

Susie Green, CEO, Mermaids

Nancy Kelley, CEO, Stonewall

Shaan Knan, Trans Organisations Network Officer, LGBT Consortium

Amelia Lee, Strategic Director, The Proud Trust

Paul Martin OBE, Chief Executive, LGBT Foundation

Paul Roberts OBE, CEO, LGBT Consortium

Dr Jay Stewart, CEO, Gendered Intelligence

Jack Tielemans, Chair, National Trans Youth Network

1. [] http://www.transactual.org.uk [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [] TERF Wars: Feminism and the fight for transgender futures; Vincent, Ben; Eirakainen, Sonja and Pearce, Ruth eds. (2020) - http://oro.open.ac.uk/71667/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [] http://iglp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Rao-Echoes-of-Imperalism.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [] The UK government lost the case Goodwin vs UK in 2002, regarding the right of a trans woman to legally marry a man. At the time, the only European countries without any form of legal gender recognition were the UK, Ireland and Albania. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/7/contents [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [] Section 3 of the GRA lays out the evidential requirements, and the only medical report required is a diagnosis of gender dysphoria. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [] Chapter 1 of the Equality Act lists the 9 protected characteristics. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [] http://www.pfc.org.uk/olderleglislation.html [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. [] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/30/contents [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [] https://deedpolloffice.com/change-name/enrolling - note particularly the position that “*enrolling deed polls is, quite frankly, that the procedure is an anachronism from the 19th century, and a* waste of time.” [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. [] Section 3, clause 6A was inserted into the GRA by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. [] https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/16834/pdf/ - paras 21 and 22 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. [] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/5/contents/enacted [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. [] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1514/contents/made [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. [] https://www.bl.uk/lgbtq-histories/articles/a-short-history-of-lgbt-rights-in-the-uk# [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. [] Section 16 of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. [] https://www.discoverleveson.com/hearing/2012-02-08/1075/?bc=3 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. [] Report of the Leveson Inquiry, Part F, 8:34 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/270941/0780\_ii.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. [] https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2013/may/28/lucy-meadows-coroner-press-shame [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. [] https://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/bruce-jenner-im-woman/story?id=30570350 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. [] https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/aug/17/kellie-maloney-times-better-for-transgender-people [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. [] https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2015/03/trans-manifesto-2015-what-do-transgender-people-want-our-politicians [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. [] https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/328/women-and-equalities-committee/ [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. [] Transgender Equality – First Report of Session 2015-16 https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmwomeq/390/390.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. [] https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-transgender-not-illness-gender-recognition-act-lgbt-rights-sex-edution-homophobia-pink-news-awards-a8008486.html [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. [] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-plans-to-reform-process-of-changing-legal-gender [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. [] https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/oct/18/theresa-may-plans-to-let-people-change-gender-without-medical-checks [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. [] https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/05/jenni-murray-transgender-not-real-women-sunday-times-magazine [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. [] IPSO Editors’ Code, Section 12 - https://www.ipso.co.uk/editors-code-of-practice/ [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. [] IPSO 00572-15 Trans Media Watch vs The Sun - https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00572-15 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. [] https://hackinginquiry.org/how-the-press-gets-away-with-discrimination/ [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. [] https://hackinginquiry.org/the-headline-that-wasnt-impotent-ipso-bows-to-the-sun/ [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. [] https://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/jun/04/ipso-sun-trans-media-watch-rod-liddle-emily-brothers [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. [] IPSO 01059-18 Lennox vs The Times - https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=01059-18 [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. [] IPSO 07454-18 Belcher vs The Times - https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=07454-18 [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. [] https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/karen-white-transgender-prisoner-jailed-life-sexual-assault-rape-a8579146.html [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. [] https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/prison-service-apologise-mistakes-allowed-15271851 [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. [] https://inews.co.uk/news/media/ian-huntley-transgender-claims-apology-daily-star-257028 [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. [] https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/transgender-activist-tara-wolf-fined-ps150-for-assaulting-exclusionary-radical-feminist-in-hyde-park-a3813856.html [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. [] https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/transgender-activist-tara-wolf-fined-ps150-for-assaulting-exclusionary-radical-feminist-in-hyde-park-a3813856.html [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. [] https://fairplayforwomen.com/ [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. [] https://womansplaceuk.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. [] https://forwomen.scot/about/ [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. [] https://www.transgendertrend.com/ [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. [] https://www.buzzfeed.com/patrickstrudwick/trans-kids-should-be-outed-to-their-parents-says-a-group [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. [] https://www.buzzfeed.com/patrickstrudwick/trans-kids-should-be-outed-to-their-parents-says-a-group [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. [] https://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/dozens-picket-anti-trans-meeting-including-presentation-by-transgendertrend-founder-3811512 [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. [] https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/tvfilm/channel-4-slammed-by-uncomfortable-viewers-as-munroe-bergdorf-is-heckled-during-genderquake-the-debate-a3834421.html [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. [] https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jun/15/uk-feminists-protest-transgender-rights-event [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-44757403 [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. [] https://twitter.com/JackRaoul/status/1362397727771000832 [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. [] https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/nov/18/transgender-activists-protest-germaine-greer-lecture-cardiff-university [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. [] https://www.varsity.co.uk/news/14333 [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. [] https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1398525/Sky-News-Adam-Boulton-liberal-transgender-no-platforming-left-wing-row-latest-vn [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. [] Joint Committee on Human Rights – Freedom of Speech in Universities – sections 3 and 4 https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/589/58902.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51806962 [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. [] https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/mermaids-trans-charity-children-big-lottery-fund-support-transphobia-graham-linehan-a8688701.html [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. [] https://fairplayforwomen.com/penis/. There is no precise count of trans women in the UK. However, a best estimate for the total number of trans women is most likely in a range 20,000 to a maximum of 30,000, based on name changes recorded by DVLA and waiting lists for NHS services – and most likely somewhere in the middle of that range.

The number of genital reconstruction surgeries on trans women is estimated to be in excess of 15,000 – perhaps as high as 20,000. This means that between 50% and 80% or more of trans women have had genital reconstruction, and a few thousand more are on the waiting list for genital reconstruction surgeries.

Fair Play for Women have extrapolated from a statement by trans charity GIRES stating that around 1% of the population is potentially gender incongruent to some degree and decided that gender incongruence is synonymous with “binary trans”. In the process they ignored all non-binary identified individuals, as well as a range of categories including those who are not “out” and cross-dressers, without understanding that most of these people will neither transition nor ever make use of facilities assigned to the sex opposite to that which they were assigned to at birth. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. [] https://twitter.com/mimmymum/status/1177953893994635264 [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. [] https://yourstory.com/herstory/2019/09/transgender-women-comments-questions-tired-hearing [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. [] https://www.ipso.co.uk/news-press-releases/press-releases/new-research-on-reporting-of-trans-issues-shows-400-increase-in-coverage-and-varying-perceptions-on-broader-editorial-standards/ [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. [] https://twitter.com/jefflez/status/1346046772569899008?lang=en [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-55350905 [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. [] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rivers\_of\_Blood\_speech - the speech has historically been viewed as racist, making it even more incredible that an experienced journalist with Rajan’s heritage wouldn’t understand the implications. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. [] https://twitter.com/KatyMontgomerie/status/1363986578251603969 [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. [] https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/02/23/bbc-newsnight-trans-coverage-puberty-blockers-transphobia-complaint/ [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. [] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-for-women-and-equalities-liz-truss-sets-out-priorities-to-women-and-equalities-select-committee [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. [] https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/boris-johnson-scraps-plan-to-make-gender-change-easier-zs6lqfls0 [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-54246686 [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. [] Gender Recognition Act – Analysis of Consultation Responses - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/919890/Analysis\_of\_responses\_Gender\_Recognition\_Act.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. [] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. [] https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/our-statement-sex-and-gender-reassignment-legal-protections-and-language - “*'Gender’ refers to socially constructed roles of women and men and/or an individual’s conception of their identity. The term is often used interchangeably with ‘sex’, partly in recognition that much of the inequality between women and men is driven by underlying social and power structures rather than by biological sex. Although the Equality Act protects people from discrimination because of their sex, other UK legislation (such as the regulations requiring employers to publish their gender pay gap) refers to gender.”* [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. [] https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/life/potato-head-non-binary-dolls-rise-rise-gender-neutral-toys/ - Hasbro had made it clear that while the brand was changing name, the toys would remain gendered. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. [] https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/supporting-inclusive-midwifery-care/ [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. [] https://thepoliticalerasureofsex.org/ - UKRI granted £20,000 to this project, which was supplemented by a further anonymous gift of £50,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56338666 - on 9 March 2021 a judge made an interim order, pending full judicial review, that the guidance for the sex question on the 2021 census should only reference documents relating to a person’s legal sex rather than their lived sex. For this census, the ONS had originally issued guidance that referenced documentation representing lived sex, in line with their guidance for the 2011 census - https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110324104243/http://help.census.gov.uk/england/help/help-and-information/Aboutthequestions/Individualquestions1to15/Topics/Question2Yoursex\_U0002B.html. If such a ruling is upheld, it will affect continuity of data, as well as opening the possibility for implicit discrimination cases should trans people be challenged on how they’ve answered the question. Incorrectly answering mandatory questions, including the sex question, is punishable with a fine of up to £1,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. [] https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-02-25/debates/DFB70DF3-ABA0-4168-8DBF-DBDA63BA4AEE/MinisterialAndOtherMaternityAllowancesBill [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. [] https://lgballiance.org.uk/ [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. [] https://www.reuters.com/article/britain-lgbt-tech-idUSKBN28P0EE [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. [] https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/03/lgb-alliance-neo-nazi-homophobia-spinster-death-head-charity-commission/ [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. [] https://twitter.com/minusplnp/status/1366460569449021441 [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. [] https://twitter.com/minusplnp/status/1366460588768002051 [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. [] https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/07/safe-schools-alliance-anti-trans-bathroom-bill-lgbt-hate-crime-oxfordshire-county-council/ [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. [] https://legalfeminist.org.uk/2021/02/04/shining-a-light-on-stonewalls-activities/ [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. [] https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/statement-on-the-trans-inclusion-toolkit/ [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. [] https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1693/default/ - Q75 [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. [] https://twitter.com/joannaccherry/status/1358379850982113284 - while there is no evidence that Joanna Cherry MP is a member of any of these groups, she has expressed concerns using the same language as many of these groups [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. [] https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Bell-v-Tavistock-Judgment.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. [] https://twitter.com/jolyonmaugham/status/1338760394836488192?lang=en [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. [] https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/news/analysis-of-the-high-court-judgment-on-access-to-puberty-blockers/ [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. [] Answer by Jo Churchill MP in response to written question from Crispin Blunt MP - https://members.parliament.uk/member/104/writtenquestions UIN126776 [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. [] Women and Equalities Committee – Oral Session 10 February 2021 - https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1693/default/ [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. [] Naomi Cunningham response to Q52 [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. [] Naomi Cunningham response to Q67 [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. [] Naomi Cunningham response to Q89 [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. [] Ruth Serwotka of A Woman’s Place UK, on BBC Newsnight, 18 October 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. [] https://www.change.org/p/boris-johnson-a-plea-for-third-spaces-for-transgender-men-and-women [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. [] https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/01/27/scotland-hate-crime-bill-humza-yousaf-transgender-criticism-amendment/ [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. [] https://uk.news.yahoo.com/scottish-government-withdraws-amendment-exempt-205454143.html [↑](#footnote-ref-100)
101. [] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-proposals-to-strengthen-free-speech-at-universities [↑](#footnote-ref-101)
102. [] https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/feb/27/gavin-williamson-using-misleading-research-to-justify-campus-free-speech-law [↑](#footnote-ref-102)
103. [] https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/the-sinister-threat-to-human-rights-buried-in-the-conservative-manifesto-brexit-european-convention [↑](#footnote-ref-103)
104. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55346920 [↑](#footnote-ref-104)
105. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-52119865 [↑](#footnote-ref-105)
106. [] https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/feb/05/joanna-cherry-sacking-brings-snp-trans-rights-row-off-twitter-and-into-the-light [↑](#footnote-ref-106)
107. [] https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-plea-significant-numbers-young-people-leave-snp-trans-rights-row-3115293 [↑](#footnote-ref-107)
108. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-51086276 [↑](#footnote-ref-108)
109. [] https://www.galop.org.uk/transphobic-hate-crime-report-2020/ [↑](#footnote-ref-109)
110. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-54486122 [↑](#footnote-ref-110)
111. [] https://teau.me/fourth-estate [↑](#footnote-ref-111)
112. [] https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/12/british-transgender-woman-given-residency-in-safer-new-zealand [↑](#footnote-ref-112)
113. [] https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/long-reads/transgender-rights-uk-lgbt-hate-crime-transphobia-statistics-a9557216.html [↑](#footnote-ref-113)
114. [] Transphobic Hate Crime 2020, Galop - http://www.galop.org.uk/transphobic-hate-crime-report-2020/ [↑](#footnote-ref-114)
115. [] https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/lgbt-adviser-second-quit-trans-rights-b1815690.html [↑](#footnote-ref-115)
116. [] https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8537/ [↑](#footnote-ref-116)
117. [] Transphobic Hate Crime 2020, Galop [↑](#footnote-ref-117)
118. [] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2019-to-2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-118)
119. [] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education [↑](#footnote-ref-119)
120. [] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework [↑](#footnote-ref-120)
121. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-54988187 - the anti-LGBT bullying campaign incorporated an element of teacher training [↑](#footnote-ref-121)
122. [] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-54988187 [↑](#footnote-ref-122)
123. [] https://www.gov.scot/publications/conduct-relationships-sexual-health-parenthood-education-schools/ [↑](#footnote-ref-123)
124. [] https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-02/relationships-and-sexuality-education-in-schools-guidance.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-124)
125. [] https://www.christian.org.uk/resource/the-transgender-craze/ [↑](#footnote-ref-125)
126. [] https://metro.co.uk/2017/12/10/teacher-sues-school-sacked-calling-transgender-boy-girl-7147404/ [↑](#footnote-ref-126)
127. [] https://christianconcern.com/ccevents/truth-in-science-11-nov-2020/ [↑](#footnote-ref-127)
128. [] https://www.companydirectorcheck.com/paul-anthony-conrathe-3 [↑](#footnote-ref-128)
129. [] https://www.sinclairslaw.co.uk/meet-the-team/paul-conrathe [↑](#footnote-ref-129)
130. [] https://cnsnews.com/news/article/uk-govt-faces-legal-action-over-homosexual-age-consent [↑](#footnote-ref-130)
131. [] https://www.monckton.com/ian-wise-qc-acts-for-harry-miller-as-judge-rules-polices-orwellian-action-disproportionately-interfered-with-millers-right-of-freedom-of-expression/ [↑](#footnote-ref-131)
132. [] https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/18434781.oxfordshire-council-transgender-guide-scrapped-girls-court-case/ [↑](#footnote-ref-132)
133. [] https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/06/keira-bell-lawyer-warns-on-internet-coverage-of-transgender-issues [↑](#footnote-ref-133)
134. [] https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/26/birmingham-anti-lgbt-school-protests-judge-ban-permanent [↑](#footnote-ref-134)
135. [] https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/christian-right-feminists-uk-trans-rights/ [↑](#footnote-ref-135)
136. [] https://adfinternational.org/who-we-are/ [↑](#footnote-ref-136)
137. [] https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/gender/2017/12/11/gender-ideology-tracking-its-origins-and-meanings-in-current-gender-politics/ [↑](#footnote-ref-137)
138. [] https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/17828/html/ - para 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-138)
139. [] https://fairplayforwomen.com/equality-act-2010\_womens-rights/ [↑](#footnote-ref-139)
140. [] https://www.christian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BanningconversiontherapyorbanningtheGospel.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-140)
141. [] https://twitter.com/ALLIANCELGB/status/1368930028872957957 [↑](#footnote-ref-141)
142. [] https://lgballiance.org.uk/2021/02/16/sex-in-the-census-joint-statement/ [↑](#footnote-ref-142)
143. [] https://www.change.org/p/stop-uncritically-platforming-anti-lgbt-hate-group-lgb-alliance [↑](#footnote-ref-143)
144. [] https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/uk-equalities-minister-antitrans-group/ [↑](#footnote-ref-144)
145. [] This group has several “sister” groups alleged to be operating internationally. However, analysis of Twitter follows shows that these international groups are followed by most of the same people as follow LGB Alliance. The vast majority of their website demonstrates their campaign is directed against inclusion for and equality of trans people, claiming (without any evidence) that lesbians are being “transed” against their will. “*We believe that this is related to the rise of pseudoscience and increased misinformation about basic biology along with a rise in homophobia and anti-lesbian sentiment and lesbian invisibility*.” (www.lgballiance.org.uk).

The Independent Expert may be interested in a Twitter thread on 10 March 2021 from Claire McGettrick from Cavan in Ireland where she describes the response to an Irish issue, referencing a supposedly Irish group whose supporters are largely UK-based – “*Although the group in question says it's Irish, the evidence appears to suggest that it has significant UK links & that its supporters are largely UK-based. The responses to my tweet confirm this in spades*.” (https://twitter.com/cmcgettrick/status/1369655883228184578) [↑](#footnote-ref-145)
146. [] https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/butch-lesbian-public-toilet-women-abuse-government-review-gender-neutral-facilities-833787 [↑](#footnote-ref-146)
147. [] https://www.consortium.lgbt/ [↑](#footnote-ref-147)
148. [] https://www.consortium.lgbt/what-we-do/our-networks/ [↑](#footnote-ref-148)
149. [] https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/17828/html/ - para 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-149)
150. [] https://www.itv.com/news/2021-03-10/exclusive-government-creating-hostile-environment-for-lgbt-people-says-adviser-as-she-quits-over-conversion-therapy [↑](#footnote-ref-150)