

LGB Alliance was created in 2019 and is a lesbian-led charity registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. It exists to support and campaign for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals who recognise that sexual orientation is based on sex.

The established “LGBTQ+” groups and the majority of government and public bodies in the UK have replaced “sex” with self-defined “gender”, which has no basis in science. This means we no longer have a name for, or can describe, the discrimination we face. This has resulted in widespread and prominent new forms of violence against LGB people. Since we are an LGB organisation, we focus in this context primarily on the forms of violence against lesbians.

1. What are some of the most prominent forms of violence against women and girls today that are specifically or primarily based on sex?

Under the prevailing culture, lesbians are expected to blend into LGBT groups where it is seen as “transphobic” to reject potential partners of the opposite sex who “identify” as lesbians. In addition, some young lesbians, who are distressed about their sexed bodies and who may be struggling with their sexual orientation, are exposed to pressure from online platforms and peer groups that lead them to believe they are actually boys/men. The evidence shows that in the vast majority of cases, their distress would eventually resolve with puberty and these lesbians would have no need to be medicalised.

Women and girls who do not comply with the dominant “gender identity” doctrine are often ostracised, blackmailed, “cancelled”, or face other forms of harassment and abuse. Challenging this ideology can result in a loss of livelihood and reputation, as has been seen in high-profile cases brought to court by lesbians, such as the barrister Allison Bailey.

2. What are the consequences of the most pervasive forms of sex-based discrimination today on women and girls?

The erasure of the traditional definition of lesbians as biological women who are attracted to other biological women results in a blurring of boundaries that leaves women vulnerable to violence ranging from sexual harassment and sexual abuse (by encouraging them to perform sex acts with men who “identify” as women), to workplace discrimination and verbal abuse, cancelling or doxing online.

The pressure on distressed teenage lesbians to think that puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones will solve their problems means that the many health risks associated with these drugs are ignored or downplayed. On a more personal level, we hear every day from young women – detransitioners – who transitioned many years ago and now deeply regret it. They have deep voices, beard growth, many are infertile and have poor sexual function, and now realise they made an irreversible mistake. In effect, these young girls are being incentivised to harm themselves and are often rewarded by society for doing so. The end result is confusion often accompanied by life-long mental and physical health issues.

Looking at women in general: there have been numerous instances of biological men “identifying” as women gaining entry to female-only spaces, whether this be locker rooms, female jails, or rape crisis centres. In many cases, women in these spaces, where they are often at their most vulnerable and in need of protection, have faced further sexual abuse, rape and intimidation from these male inmates. The colonisation of such spaces by men who claim to be women, a minority of whom do so for predatory purposes, sends a broader message that vulnerable women are no longer fully protected

and that the needs of men who “identify” as women take priority.

3. Are there emerging forms or evolving dynamics of sex-based violence against women and girls that call for a deeper and more nuanced understanding of such sex-based forms of violence?

Yes. The violence faced by distressed teenage girls who are pressured online into identifying as trans or manipulated into believing they were “born in the wrong body” – most of whom are same-sex attracted – calls for a nuanced analysis of the roots of the discomfort and distress that is being reported *en masse*. It is clear that in this scenario, the conflation of “gender identity” and biological sex has dangerous and irreversible consequences.

Lesbians (women attracted to women) who are encouraged to participate in sexual acts with biological men who self-define as women, or are criticised for not doing so, are another example of an emerging and dangerous form of sex-based violence that deserves greater attention. The use of the letter combination “LGBTQ+” has resulted in the *de facto* erasure of same-sex-attracted women, leaving them exposed and at risk of sex-based violence.

4. What forms of sex-based violence against women and girls are underrecognized or underreported, and what measures can be taken to identify and address them?

In the current climate it is difficult to advocate for women and girls, especially lesbians, without the issues they face being conflated with gender identity doctrine. This has led to a gradual erosion of rights for lesbian women and girls, and a clear prioritising of the wellbeing of trans-identifying males over the safety of women – heterosexual as well as lesbians. This is epitomised by placing biological men who “identify” as women in supposedly women-only spaces populated by vulnerable women (such as rape crisis centres).

Examples of the abuse of vulnerable women in women-only spaces to which biological men “identifying” as women have been admitted are numerous and proven, yet no serious measures have been taken to protect these women. Discourse that attempts to analyse these situations and mitigate harm is suppressed by trans-activist groups who are quick to classify such attempts as “hateful”. This suppression of debate, in which the media and many government bodies are complicit, makes it impossible for relevant organisations to properly investigate, identify and address such threats against women.

The first step towards identifying and addressing these forms of sex-based violence would be to separate the language of “gender identity” from words that refer to biological sex.

Another under-recognised form of sex-based violence is the celebration of trans-identifying teenagers. The worst – and frequent – examples of this are images glorifying self-harm, in the form of scars resulting from optional mastectomies, which are held up as “stunning and brave”. This celebration of self-harm is utterly pernicious. It gives distressed teenage lesbians the impression that they will be rewarded – and will only be accepted – if they internalise the belief that they are attracted to women because they were “born in the wrong body”. This pervasive online and societal trend needs to be examined and addressed as a matter of urgency. At present, schools and other education establishments are complicit in this harmful propaganda. This must be stopped. There is a need for education on the physical and mental risks of “transitioning”.

5. How are language and terminology today being used to describe and address sex-based violence against women and girls? What are the implications and consequences of this usage?

At present, we see heterosexual men who “identify” as women describing themselves as “lesbians”. This is clearly a gross inversion of that word’s true meaning: women attracted to other women. This verbal nonsense creates confusion, and where individuals are connecting online it can result in the sexual exploitation of lesbians by men falsely claiming to be women.

Fundamental freedoms and sex-based violence against women and girls.

6. What challenges and opportunities do women's organizations and victims encounter in their advocacy around the issues of sex-based violence against women and girls?

One of the greatest barriers is the top-down pressure effected by the media, government and other organisations with significant authority that appear to suppress free speech and healthy dialogue around issues of sex-based violence, consistently (and incorrectly) conflating them with "gender identity" discourse.

7. What challenges and opportunities do experts, researchers and academics meet in researching, analysing and understanding the current forms of sex-based violence?

First and foremost, in all research, reports and studies, individuals must be clearly classified by biological sex – that is, as male or female. This will be an important first step towards untangling the confusion of data and unreliable results generated by "self-identification".

#### **National, regional and international legal and policy frameworks to prevent and respond to sex-based violence against women and girls**

1. What are the consequences of the inadequate consideration of the relationship between sex as a ground for violence against women and girls in law, policy and practice including the ability to access effective assistance and protection from State and non-State actors?

The consequences are clearly an increase and continuation of sex-based violence. The broader message conveyed by inadequate policies that prioritise trans-identifying individuals, especially biological males, over women and girls is that the rights of women and girls are of negligible importance. The rights of trans-identifying men are always ranked higher.

Biological women and girls have always been more at risk of sexual exploitation, forced marriage, physical abuse and other forms of violence. This is largely connected to men's greater biological strength and to women's reproductive role. Denying these obvious biological facts essentially removes the definitions that formerly allowed state and non-State actors to effectively identify and respond to sex-based violence.

#### **Recommendations**

13. What actions should relevant actors take (States, international organizations, civil society, others) to better identify, prevent and respond to sex-based violence against women and girls?

There is a need for a concerted effort to revive and insist on free speech and healthy dialogue surrounding sex and "gender" issues. The relevant actors will not be able to make changes if there is a continuation and proliferation of the various blind spots already outlined in relation to "gender identity" doctrine. It must be made clear that not everyone subscribes to "gender identity" doctrine and there should be no compulsion to do so.