

Attention Rebecca Hilsenrath,
Chief Executive Officer,
Equality and Human Rights Commission,
Fleetbank House,
2-6 Salisbury Square,
London
EC4Y 8JX

23 Oct 2019

Dear Rebecca

Formal request for EHRC intervention at Stonewall

A group of influential lesbians, gay men and bisexuals resolved at a meeting in central London last night to set up a new LGB Alliance to counteract the confusion between sex and gender which is now regrettably widespread in the public sector and elsewhere.

The participants – who included former employees and supporters of the lobby group Stonewall, plus doctors, psychiatrists, academics and lawyers with expertise in child safeguarding – agreed a mission statement for the new organization, focusing on biological sex rather than the gender theories which many regard as pseudo-scientific and dangerous.

This follows a continuing refusal by Stonewall, originally set up to fight legal discrimination against gay men lesbians and bisexuals, to respond to a petition (attracting 9,500 signatures), asking it to acknowledge the range of valid viewpoints around sex, gender and transgender politics in 21st century Britain.

We believe that it is now time to ask the EHRC to intervene and moderate between so many competing viewpoints. Stonewall is in receipt of very significant public funding and the wider public must be reassured that this money is being spent in a responsible way, particularly in light of the disproportionate monies being dispensed toward the trans community and the relative paucity of funds dispensed toward the lesbian community.

We think that you may want to review what might soon be termed “Stonewall Law”. The instructions now given by Stonewall to public bodies, with no legislative authority or public discussion, replace the Equality Act’s reference to gender reassignment with “gender identity”. So successful has “Stonewall Law” been that the planned compulsory education in Primary and Secondary schools from 2020 will tell children that “gender identity” is a reality which they need to understand. We believe this is dangerous and misleading.

In addition, we fear that Stonewall, in a wide range of public sector interventions, including its educational activities, may be in breach of its quasi-statutory duty under the 2010 Equality Act to foster good relations between those of a protected characteristic and those not. Both its most recent Chief Executive and current Chair have dismissed out of hand the widespread concerns of thousands of other lesbians at the erosion of their most basic rights and dignities. We hope you might want to review the neglect of lesbians in all areas of the work of Stonewall with often catastrophic consequences for young lesbians.

Incredible though it may seem, Stonewall, originally set up to promote the rights of people who are same sex attracted, may also be in breach of the Equality Act so far as sexual orientation is concerned. Under the law "Sexual orientation means a person's sexual orientation towards persons of the same sex". Stonewall has redefined the meaning of this by stating that "homosexuality might be considered..... a term used to describe someone who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards someone of the same gender." Here we see a clear example of Stonewall's purposeful elision of sex and gender. Combined with Stonewall's view that everyone "chooses" their "gender identity" this theory surely contradicts the wording of the law and need to be formally reviewed.

We would be most grateful for your earliest response and stress that we are happy to work with the EHRC in a positive and constructive manner.

Yours sincerely

Kate Harris
on behalf of LGB Alliance
lgballiancefuture@gmail.com