

**Call for inputs – country visit to the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls
10 February 2024**

Response from LGB Alliance

ABOUT LGB ALLIANCE

LGB Alliance was formed in October 2019 in response to the decision of Stonewall, once itself an LGB rights campaigning organisation, to ban any discussion on issues of sex and gender and how they relate to lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Specifically, there were serious concerns about Stonewall's unqualified adoption and promotion of the belief that everyone has a "gender identity" – a concept about which there is no scientific consensus – as separate from, and overriding, biological sex. We refer to this belief as "gender identity dogma/theory". LGB Alliance believes that gender identity dogma reinforces outdated and regressive stereotypes.

We would like to see a world where any boy or girl, man or woman, can express themselves however they like as long as they respect the rights of others. LGB Alliance is a lesbian-led organisation. We have no wish to present lesbians as victims, but it is fair to say that in the UK in 2023 lesbians are among the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society. They are targeted both as women, and – even more threatening to some – as women who are not sexually interested in men. Discrimination, verbal and physical abuse start at an early age and continue throughout life.

1. Issues related to violence against all women and girls, based on intersecting grounds and including its different manifestations

Since 2015 the UK has seen a new type of violence against all women and girls which can best be described as the attempt – in some cases quite successful – to negate their rights, often giving rise to dangerous situations. How has this happened?

Stonewall was for decades one of the UK's most respected charities. Rightly so. It helped to secure important rights for lesbians and gay men – by which we mean people with same-sex sexual orientation. In 2015, with gay marriage achieved, Stonewall radically changed its mission. It adopted the belief that everyone has a "gender identity" and redefined homosexuality as "same-gender attraction". The public was largely unaware of this change and continued its enthusiastic support. The dramatic shift between 2015 and 2019 can be seen most clearly in the charts compiled by Michael Biggs on the words appearing in the annual reports of Stonewall and other similar groups.¹

As a gay rights charity, Stonewall had won unparalleled funding and influence across all areas of the civil service and government, as well as military, judicial and commercial sectors. Because it was held in such high esteem and embedded via a programme called “Diversity Champions” which uses an annual “Equality Index” to measure how organisations behaved, most policy makers in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to support it.

Stonewall’s success has led to the founding of hundreds of similar groups who brand themselves as LGBTQ+ or similar, but which in reality represent only the interests of TQ+ people. A database of these groups is accessible through LGBT Consortium <https://www.consortium.lgbt/member-directory>. The directory lists 486 “All LGBT+ Communities”. There are no LGB-only groups. There are no lesbian groups that exclude men who “identify” as lesbians. Such exclusion is deemed “transphobic” as Paul Roberts, CEO of LGBT Consortium, explained in court.²

Why do these events and groups produce dangerous situations for all women and girls?

In adopting gender identity dogma, Stonewall and all other “LGBTQ+” groups reject the importance, and in some cases the existence, of biological sex. In the tribunal hearing of Allison Bailey against Stonewall and Garden Court Chambers in 2022,³ the witness Kirrin Medcalf, **Stonewall’s head of trans inclusion, stated “Bodies are not inherently male or female. They are just their bodies.” When asked: “So what do the words male and female mean then?”, Medcalf responded “Whether your gender identity is male or female.”⁴ Since 2015, this has been Stonewall’s position. This means that the grouping “LGBTQ+” excludes homosexual men and women – lesbians and gay men. The grouping “LGBTQ+” was never agreed to after a consultation or in a democratic vote of any kind. It is presented as progressive, kind and “inclusive” when in fact it is the opposite. This is one of the reasons it is hard to oppose, as so many uninformed people feel some guilt about their previous behaviour towards lesbians and gays and have been led to believe that “trans” people are a similar group. They are not aware of the demands made by gender identity activists for the complete erasure of lesbians and gays – since we no longer exist in a world where self-defined “gender” replaces biological sex.⁵**

Given Stonewall’s unique influence, it is hard to overemphasise the impact of this belief, as disseminated throughout the UK’s police, health service, civil service, schools and universities, the arts sector, sport, and virtually all private and public organizations in the UK. In some cases, as noted above, it leads to dangerous situations for all women and girls, but especially for lesbians.

1. In many sports, males are now competing against women and girls, leading to situations that are not only unfair but also, in some cases – most notably contact sports – dangerous. Historically, lesbians have found sports to be a refuge from the demands of a society which expects them to be interested in boys and dating. They have found friends and support precisely because this is a female-only environment. How cruel that this is being removed -- as well as the opportunity to excel in any given sport in fair competition.
2. Boys are allowed to identify as girls at many schools, using girls’ changing rooms and toilets, and sometimes sleeping in girls’ dormitories, creating unsafe situations and a potential for violence.

3. There has been a general trend towards getting rid of all single-sex provision in hospitals, schools and across society, creating dangerous situations for vulnerable women and girls. England and Wales have a “National Advisor for LGBT Health”, Dr Michael Brady. It is completely unclear why the grouping “LGBT” – and no other section of society – has its own “national advisor” to the NHS. Dr Brady is a gender identity activist. He zealously seeks to erase any distinction between males and females and promotes the document known as “Annex B”, which prescribes that women-only wards can include males who identify as women – in breach of the stated provision of single-sex wards. This breach is made possible, as elsewhere in society, by the deliberate conflation of the terms “sex” and “gender”.⁶
4. Male criminals who “identify” as women are sometimes placed in women’s prisons, creating intolerable stress and danger for women prisoners. Women prisoners are among the most vulnerable in society – many having experienced abuse and trauma.
5. Those objecting to gender identity dogma are ostracised, targeted with rape and death threats, subjected to abuse and sometimes lose their jobs or careers. Over 60 legal cases have been crowdfunded and fought in the UK by those whose rights have been impacted by the imposition of the gender identity belief system. Many of the highest-profile among them have been lesbians such as Allison Bailey and Professor Jo Phoenix.⁷

Gender identity is promoted in the name of the “LGBTQ+ community”. LGB Alliance strongly distances itself from this imputation and takes the position that LGB must be separated from TQ+. **Denying or trivialising biological sex does not benefit LGB people at all. Quite the opposite: it negates the very existence of homosexuality.** Moreover, the ongoing assault on women’s single-sex spaces is leading the public to take a more negative view of LGB people. The BBC, Thomson Reuters and all left-leaning media report on these issues almost exclusively from Stonewall’s point of view. Lord Charles Moore has described the explicit suppression of LGB Alliance’s views by the most senior executives at Thomson Reuters Foundation.⁸

2. Information on groups of women and girls particularly at risk of being exposed to gender-based violence

SCHOOLS

Young women who do not conform to gender stereotypes are the most at risk from the teachings of gender identity dogma. Many are taught at school that girls who prefer “boys” activities and style of dress may have been “born in the wrong body”. The Department for Education has said that Relationship and Sex Education must be fact based but this is routinely ignored. There are many groups producing material and/or instructing teachers to teach gender identity dogma as if it were factual – including: mermaidsuk.org.uk; stonewall.org.uk; theproudtrust.org; genderedintelligence.co.uk; allsortsyouth.org.uk; gires.org.uk; diversityrolemodels.org; equaliteach.co.uk; lgbtyouth.org.uk; and tie.scot.

It should be emphasised that most of those working in this sector believe their model of “inclusiveness” is promoting equality. In fact it is doing the opposite: sowing division and above all promoting the harmful belief that it is possible to change sex and that “gender non-conforming” young people might benefit from drugs and surgery.

LGB Alliance has written about fact-based sex education, and it is a key area in which we campaign.⁹ We support the direction taken by the organisation Transgender Trend – which is that all RSE must be fact based and no “gender non-conforming” child should ever be told that it may be a good idea to change their body.¹⁰

Mention of homosexual relationships, particularly lesbianism, has been replaced by lessons about “gender fluidity” and “queerness” and a range of sexual practices commonly shown on porn sites.

Parents are now becoming aware of the dangers of indoctrination by lobby groups and in response the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, has commissioned a review into the content being used in schools. In many cases this has been deemed to be both inappropriate and deeply misogynistic – normalising violent sexual practices such as anal penetration and choking for children – practices most likely to lead to violence against women and girls. The Minister said in October last year that parents must be allowed to see materials used in RSE lessons.¹¹

The interim report from the Cass Review

The independent Cass Review has drawn attention to several categories of young people who are at risk of being persuaded onto an inappropriate medical pathway: in particular, those on the autism spectrum, those suffering from depression and anxiety, and cared-for young people. These problems affect girls most – who constitute the vast majority of those referred to gender clinics.¹²

While the NHS has ordered the youth clinic GIDS of the Tavistock and Portman Trust to close because of its numerous failings, including undue influence by activists, it is being replaced by private clinics offering puberty blockers to young people who demand them.¹³

Lesbians are being targeted in numerous other ways

- The once flourishing lesbian culture, where lesbians could meet socially or enjoy shared cultural events, has gone. This is because men invade any lesbian-only event, claiming that if they “identify” as lesbians they are entitled to be there under the law. This is false. Sexual orientation is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act and lesbians and gay men have the right of association under Article 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights. But Stonewall has taught organisations that it is the law. It says what matters is a person’s self-defined “gender identity”. Anyone wanting to challenge “Stonewall law” will have to do so through the courts. Young lesbians thus encounter older males who “hit” on them, giving rise to potentially dangerous situations.¹⁴
- Lesbians are not permitted to specify that they only wish to meet biological females on explicitly lesbian dating sites. Many men “identifying” as lesbians frequent these sites. Though most accept rejections politely, some do not, becoming aggressive, and dangerous situations can arise, especially if the lesbian is young and vulnerable, and finds it difficult to say no.¹⁵

- In today’s excessively polarised youth culture, “boyish” girls who are attracted to other girls are teased and bullied. Since the gender identity culture has taken root online and at schools, they hear repeatedly that they may “really” be boys. Some of these girls become convinced this is true and demand “gender affirming” drugs from gender clinics – where their sexual orientation and (frequent) mental health issues are rarely discussed. This is perhaps the most violent assault of all on lesbians, since the medical pathway leads to infertility, lifelong dependence on medication, and a wealth of other medical and social issues, as well as a permanently deep voice and beard growth. Puberty is the essential rite of passage from childhood to adulthood and blocking it should be qualified in most cases as medical malpractice. Regret may not set in for 8 to 10 years, and the NHS has no service set up to help these detransitioners.¹⁶
- Former CEO of Stonewall, Nancy Kelley, promoted an oppressive climate for lesbians. She referred to lesbians as “sexual racists”¹⁷ and compared those who believe sex is binary and immutable to antisemites.¹⁸ LGB Alliance was set up to promote the rights and interests of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. However, it was set up by two lesbians, and both the CEO and the chair of the board are lesbians. This is not a coincidence but a necessity. **It is lesbians – women with the intersecting ground of homosexuality – who bear the brunt of the attacks on LGB people by the “LGBTQ+” world – with tragic irony the groups once set up to protect gays and lesbians.** The trans youth charity Mermaids tried to get LGB Alliance’s charitable status reversed, and LGB Alliance co-founder Kate Harris was forced to defend in court the definition of a lesbian and to deny that some lesbians have penises. This crass discrimination is called “progressive” in the dystopia created by Stonewall.
- During the hearing of the case brought by Allison Bailey (see above), Cathryn McGahey KC, vice-chair of the Bar Council’s ethics committee recommended that lesbians think of themselves as akin to whites in post-apartheid South Africa. She compared a workshop where lesbians are coached to accept males as sexual partners (“overcoming the cotton ceiling”) as “similar to South Africa attempting to racially integrate society”.¹⁹

Another high-risk group consists of young women seeking “transition” who believe they are, or can become, gay men. They may encounter dangerous situations. Here again we see the influence of Dr Michael Brady (see above, p. 2). He was responsible, through the organisation CliniQ at King’s College Hospital Trust, for promoting a guide to help young women “pass” as men in gay sex clubs, saunas and so on. This is the height of irresponsibility, exposing young women to potential abuse and violence from young men who are misled into thinking their sexual partners are other men. The guide recognises the risks of HIV infection and sexually transmitted disease and offers advice should symptoms occur. Sex by deception is a criminal offence in the UK, and yet here is a guide, paid for by the NHS, promoting this crime to a particularly vulnerable group – young women the majority of whom have diverse mental health issues.²⁰

3. Policies and legislation in place or being considered with a view to preventing and combating violence against women and girls.

While the Equality Act 2010 includes both sex and sexual orientation among the nine “protected characteristics”, there is no clear legislation to protect against the spread of violence against women

and girls. Worse still, we are having to defend the very definition of the terms “sex” and “sexual orientation” from gender identity activists who want to replace all such terms with terms based on gender. This would actually make it impossible to draft such legislation, since there would be no clearly defined group to protect.

Stonewall has successfully persuaded much of the public that “Stonewall Law” is more “progressive” than the actual law. This teaches that “gender identity” overrides biology in all cases. Thus the rights of lesbians and other women to their own spaces and activities are being removed in schools, sports, rape crisis centres, universities, workplaces and across society.

In short: those who promote gender identity dogma are reversing decades of progress in women’s and LGB rights, creating new and dangerous situations, and burdening the everyday lives of all women and girls in the UK with threats of violence.

Our recommendations

1. Clarify that “sex” and “sexual orientation” in the Equality Act refer to biological/natal sex – ask all main parties to include this in their manifestos.
2. Ensure that all Relationship and Sex Education in schools is fact based and includes age-appropriate literature such as recommendations with positive role models for LGB teenagers.
3. Set up an EHRC inquiry into the influence of Stonewall and its misuse and misrepresentation of the Equality Act.
4. Take action to clamp down on rogue private clinics that seek to circumvent NHS policy on the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones.
5. Set up a designated NHS unit to provide the complex care required by detransitioners.
6. Encourage initiatives in which lesbians – women with the intersected ground of homosexuality – set up their own spaces and activities to rebuild lesbian culture.

Internationally

Ensure that the Convention CEDAW, which protects women’s sex-based rights, is protected from tampering by those seeking to change “sex” to “gender”.

NOTES

¹ users.ox.ac.uk/~sfos0060/LGBT_figures.shtml

² www.theguardian.com/society/2022/sep/12/gay-rights-group-was-set-up-to-promote-transphobic-activity-court-told

³ Judgment here:

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62e1307c8fa8f5649a40110a/Ms_A_Bailey_vs_Stonewall_Equality_Limited_Reserved.pdf

⁴ twitter.com/tribunaltweets/status/1524046201389260801 At 4:18pm (UK time)

⁵ twitter.com/twisterfilm/status/1204424809007980545?s=21

⁶ www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/15/fears-flawed-nhs-single-sex-wards-review-carried-trans-advocate/

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- ⁷ <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/k0igkzkfcgass0o9vulw4/7.-Crowdfunders.png?rlkey=qd0nd7wdh3saxxbbdmvkheten&dl=0>
- ⁸ www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/18/impartial-news-organisations-failing-practise-what-preach
- ⁹ lgballiance.org.uk/schools-campaign/
- ¹⁰ www.transgendertrend.com/wp-content/uploads/woocommerce_uploads/2020/06/Inclusive-Relationships-and-Sex-Education-in-Schools-RSE-2.09-015lp7.pdf
- ¹¹ educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/10/24/education-secretarys-letter-to-parents-you-have-the-right-to-see-rshe-lesson-material
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- ¹⁴ juliebindel.substack.com/p/do-lesbians-have-penises
- ¹⁵ www.spectator.co.uk/article/men-dont-belong-at-lesbian-speed-dating-events/
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- ¹⁷ www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10225111/Stonewall-brands-lesbians-sexual-racists-raising-concerns-sex-transgender-women.html
- ¹⁸ www.bbc.com/news/uk-57281448
- ¹⁹ reduxx.info/bailey-tribunal-lesbian-sexual-boundaries-like-racial-segregation/
- ²⁰ jirosworld.com/transgender/TransGuys-cliniq-safers.pdf