

To:

ALL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Re:

"Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and queer women in Europe" report by Rapporteur Beatrice Fresko-Rolfo

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Autumn Session

<https://pace.coe.int/en/files/33732>

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Dear Representatives

We are writing to register our concern that the report that will be presented on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October has omitted details of the most serious violence and discrimination against lesbians in Europe.

We have provided evidence demonstrating that a serious medical scandal is taking place right now; the unnecessary medicalisation of gender non-conforming children and young adults across Europe. The worst affected group - data shows - are young lesbians. What is happening is described by some psychiatrists as "transing away the gay".

We are also concerned that the Rapporteur has adopted what appears to be an inappropriately narrow definition of "violence" in her report. As you know, the Council of Europe distinguishes numerous types of violence through the Istanbul Convention, including psychological violence (Art. 33) and sexual harassment (Art 40.). We trust all Representatives will take this on board as you read our evidence.

While we have sent two detailed letters to the Rapporteur, our evidence has not been mentioned in the report.

**We believe in liberal democracy, and for a democratic vote to take place all sides must surely be heard.**

**Please read our evidence and vote against the report.**

LGB Alliance  
29 September 2024

## Notes from LGB Alliance sent to Ms Fresko-Rolfo:

We were surprised to hear you adopt what appeared to be an inappropriately narrow definition of “violence” during our meeting. As you will recall, the Council of Europe distinguishes numerous types of violence through the Istanbul Convention, including psychological violence (Art. 33) and sexual harassment (Art 40.). We trust you will take this on board as you read our evidence.

As we outlined in our letter of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024, we do not share your belief that a man can be a lesbian. We are therefore forwarding evidence of violence and discrimination against our definition of lesbians – that is biological women whose sexual orientation is towards other biological women. We reject the currently fashionable redefinition of homosexuality as “same-gender attraction” and consider it homophobic.

We have given a very full explanation of this position in our previous letter – so we will not repeat it here. But we wish to emphasise that at a time of increasing violence towards biological women worldwide – we were saddened and perplexed to see you apparently assuming that men can or should be included in a group which for centuries has been understood to mean same-sex attracted female-bodied women only. We would ask you to think deeply about why any male should want to insert himself into a group which has long declared itself not to be sexually interested in persons with male bodies.

The needs and situation of men who self-identify as women – who can best be referred to for clarity’s sake as transvestites -- bear no relationship to those of lesbians.

Unlike many trans support organisations, LGB Alliance does not receive funding from any state or government bodies or corporate sponsors. We do not have the resources to put together as full a report as we would like, but we hope the evidence below will assist you in writing your own report in a balanced way.

We have selected a few examples to support our view that lesbians are under attack in a variety of ways – from those who tell young lesbians that they are really “trans women” in need of life-altering surgery - to those who tell us that we are the equivalent of racists if we reject male sexual partners.

Then there is the hatred of lesbians expressed in outright violence and a refusal to acknowledge our right of association without men present. These all combine to build an atmosphere where lesbians are not allowed to function as an autonomous group – and we believe this is a direct infringement on our human rights. We hope you will agree.

Our evidence of violence and discrimination against lesbians in Europe looks at five areas of public life:

1. MEDICINE - UNNECESSARY MEDICALISATION OF YOUNG LESBIANS
2. THE LAW – REDEFINING LESBIANS
3. INFLUENCERS – IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION
4. SEXUAL COERCION / RAPE - MALES WHO WANT SEX WITH LESBIANS
5. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

## 1 MEDICINE

### UNNECESSARY MEDICALISATION OF YOUNG LESBIANS

The most serious violence and discrimination seen against lesbians is that of experimental medicalisation on children who do not conform to gender stereotypes. Of these, some 70% are girls – the vast majority of whom are same-sex attracted.

Over twenty years ago, the Dutch Protocol—consisting of the prescription of a gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist (GnRHa) to halt puberty, followed (as it turned out, in some 98% of cases) by cross-sex hormones was implemented to treat adolescents with gender dysphoria, recently re-named gender incongruence.

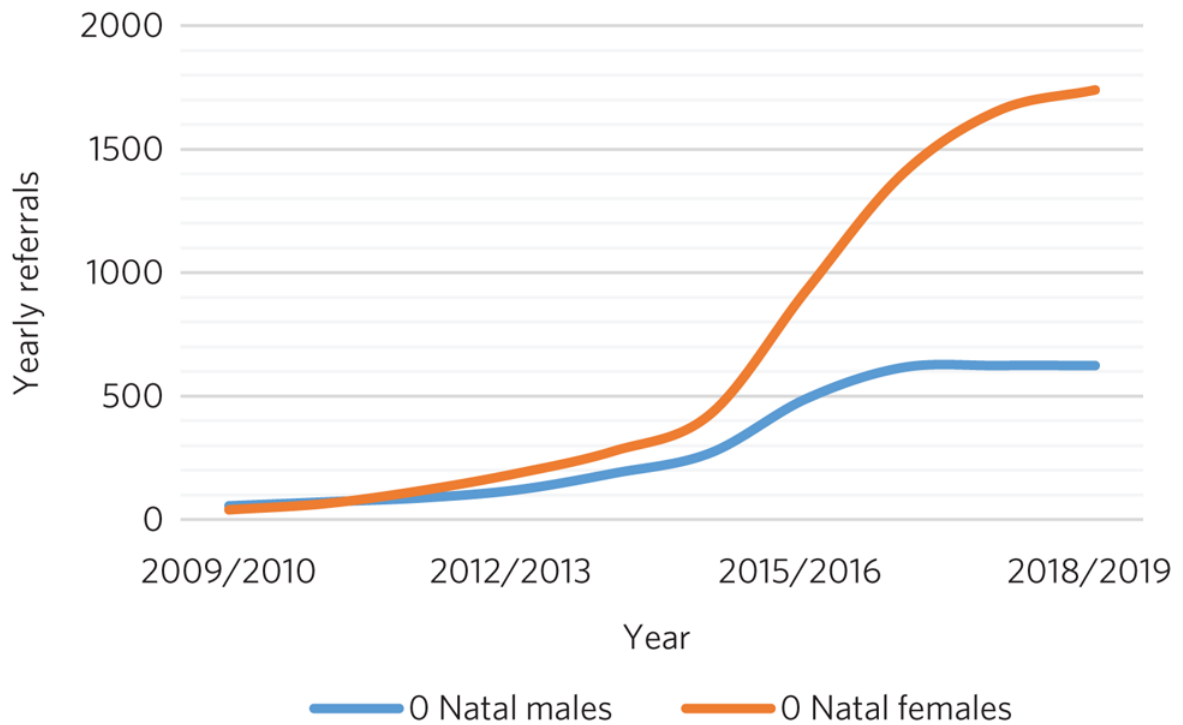
<https://academic.oup.com/jsm/article/20/3/398/7005631#>

Since then, clinical and nonclinical activists who believe, or in any case endorse the belief, that some children are “born in the wrong body” have promoted the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. This has had a devastating effect on teenage girls, in particular. Especially those who are on the autism spectrum, and/or who have other comorbidities including eating disorders and self-harming, and/or a history of being abused.

Many other influences act on girls – and these are very different from the pressures affecting boys – to lead them to seek to alter their bodies. The “pornification” of young females across mainstream and social media, in advertising, fashion music, happened alongside a new phenomenon called “Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria” by Dr Lisa Littman, where girls with no previous indication of any type of discomfort with their bodies decided that they were boys.

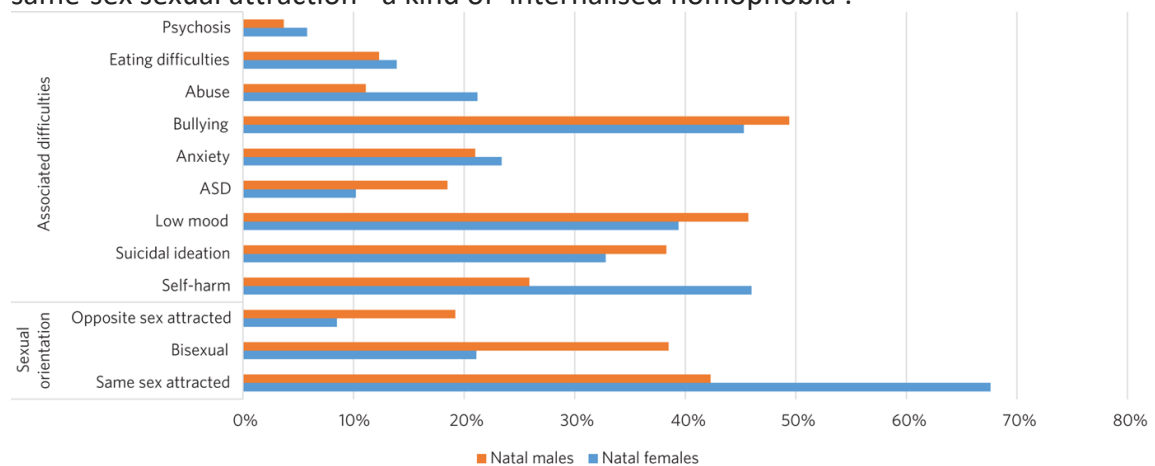
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0214157>

The impact of all this was seen in the change in ratio between boys and girls being referred to gender identity clinics. From around 2010 onwards, clinics around the world were seeing far more girls than boys – see example from the Gender Identity Development Service at the Tavistock Clinic in London, below. These figures are taken from p20 of Dr Hilary Cass’s historic report which has already changed medical approaches to the treatment of gender identity services for children and young people worldwide - <https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/>



We also see that the vast majority of females referred to the Gender Identity Development Service at the Tavistock Centre London are same-sex attracted:

“...in the UK, Holt et al found that associated difficulties were common in children and adolescents referred to the GIDS in London. **Same-sex attraction was particularly common among natal females, with only 8.5% of those referred to the GIDS describing themselves as primarily attracted to boys.** This raises important questions about current societal acceptance of young lesbians even within youth LGBTQ+ culture. It is possible that at least some gender-non-conforming girls come to believe themselves boys or ‘trans masculine non-binary’ as more acceptable or comfortable explanations for same-sex sexual attraction - a kind of ‘internalised homophobia’.



<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bjpsych-bulletin/article/sex-gender-and-gender-identity-a-reevaluation-of-the-evidence/76A3DC54F3BD91E8D631B93397698B1A>

The results of gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist (GnRHa) to halt puberty and subsequent gender-affirming hormones (GAHs) can include:

- Shortened lifespan
- Low bone mineral density and osteoporosis, fractures
- Cardiovascular disease and stroke
- Infertility
- Sexual dysfunction
- Mood changes: mood swings, depression, and anxiety
- Increased risk of dementia and cognitive decline

Other health issues: increased risk of ovarian and colon cancers, cataracts and gum disease.

Politicians and rapporteurs such as yourself must speak out to highlight the appalling physical abuse that is taking place right now. This is a worldwide medical scandal and those most badly affected are young lesbians.

## 2. THE LAW

### **RE-DEFINING THE MEANING OF WOMAN – AND THEREFORE LESBIAN – IN LAW**

In Oct 2022 LGB Alliance presented our intervention in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Court Ref: P578/22, in the Judicial Review of the revised statutory guidance produced by the Scottish Ministers under Section 7 of the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018.

For Women Scotland had challenged the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018 in a Judicial Review because the Scottish Government had attempted to change the definition of woman. LGB Alliance intervened in order to make the case that it is especially important for lesbians that the word “woman” is understood to mean biological women – those who were born as girls. As women who are sexually attracted to other women and not men, we do not accept that any man who defines himself as a woman can suddenly decide he is a lesbian and expect to be included in lesbian-only spaces, dating apps and any other lesbian only events and services. We regard this expectation as both misogynistic and homophobic, and an expression of violence against lesbians (sexual harassment: see Art 40, Istanbul Convention). We have the right to determine our own boundaries and will continue to fight for our existence.

The case has been referred to the Supreme Court and will be heard later this year.

[Attachment:](#)

## 3. INFLUENCERS – IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND CHARITY SECTOR

There is a view – promoted by senior members of the legal profession and leaders of the Charity Sector – that lesbians who reject the idea of having sexual relationships with men who call themselves lesbians are like racists. We regard this as a form of psychological violence (see Art. 33, Istanbul Convention) and offensive nonsense – but it is important to understand that this is a view held by some of those in extremely influential positions.

We will offer two examples. The first is the view of Cathryn McGahey KC, at the trial of Allison Bailey v Garden Court Chambers and Stonewall. Cathryn McGahey is not only a KC, but a member of the Ethics Committee of the Bar Council – the approved regulator for all practising barristers in England and Wales.

24 May 2022 Cathryn McGahey KC, at the trial of Allison Bailey v Garden Court Chambers and Stonewall, said that any lesbian who rejected sexual relationships with men should be seen in the same context as white South Africans struggling with racial integration post-apartheid. Is it possible to imagine anything more offensive and wildly untrue?

<https://www.thehelenjoyce.com/joyce-activated-issue-7/>

<https://reduxx.info/bailey-tribunal-lesbian-sexual-boundaries-like-racial-segregation/>

#### 4. SEXUAL COERCION / RAPE - MALES WHO WANT SEX WITH LESBIANS

This happens worldwide. South Africa is one country where “corrective rape” is frequently reported. But it happens everywhere. In 2019 a group called Get the L Out conducted a survey of 80 lesbians and reported how common it is for lesbians to be abused for stating that we are same-sex attracted. Here is one of the illustrations and an article reporting the research from the BBC. That this is a form of violence hardly needs to be said.

**66%** of respondents reported being intimidated or receiving threats in their LGBT groups.

For just stating **they were lesbians**, respondents reported experiences including:

verbal abuse, death and rape threats, pressure to commit suicide, threats of physical or sexual violence, threats to kill family members, receiving "transwoman nudes", threats of "doxing", actual online "doxing" (including exposure of their name, picture and home address), threats of exposure to employers.



**#GetTheLOut #CottonCeilingisRape #LesbiansAtGroundZero**

<http://www.gettheloutuk.com/blog/category/research/lesbians-at-ground-zero.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-57853385>

## 5. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

We respectfully ask you to Google "attacks on lesbians". You will see endless examples of lesbians around the world being physically attacked by men – simply because they are lesbians. We grow up expecting verbal and physical abuse. We are careful always. And yet it still happens. We ask the Rapporteur to make our safety a priority, instead of listening to men whose sexual fantasy is that they are a lesbian. Men can never be lesbians and this must be made clear and our protection prioritised.

Here are just two examples:

1. 30 May 2019 lesbians on London bus attacked -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-48555889>

2. 26 June 2021 Agression lesbophobe à la Marche des Fiertés Paris 2021

<https://x.com/ResistanceLesbi/status/1437050475803824131>



## SUMMARY

- 1. We request that members vote against the report presented by the Rapporteur and begin again.**
- 2. A pre-cursor for any report on lesbians must be to understand that lesbians do not have penises. A man cannot be a lesbian – ever. The new report must focus on biological women who are lesbians.**
- 3. Second, the Assembly must commission a new report on the medical scandal that is ruining the lives of so many young lesbians. The Cass report is a good place to start.**
- 4. LGB Alliance stand ready to assist the Assembly in this important work.**

29 September 2024

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## ABOUT LGB ALLIANCE

LGB Alliance is a company limited by guarantee with company number 12338881 and is registered as a charity in England and Wales with charity number 1194148.<sup>1</sup>

LGB Alliance's charitable objects, as set out in our Articles of Association, include the following:

To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit, in particular by the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity in respect of lesbian, gay and bisexual people, conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the useful results to the public, and cultivation a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity for lesbian, gay and bisexual people; and

To promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent UN conventions and declarations) and particularly the rights and freedoms of those who face discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://lgballiance.org.uk>