



July 2023

Welcome back to *Trans Bites*, the newsletter giving you the stories affecting trans people in the UK today that the UK national media aren't. To find out more, follow the links – or drop us a line.

### **Dishonourable members**

On June 12, MPs debated the definition of sex in the Equality Act 2010 in Westminster Hall. Despite calls for respectful dialogue, the debate was marred by unbecoming behaviour. MPs Jess Phillips and Miriam Cates. Phillips made controversial remarks about trans women; and Cates made claims associating trans people with sexual predation.

MPs Rosie Duffield, Joanna Cherry, and Neale Hanvey showed visible contempt when Kirsty Blackman shared a deeply troubling conversation with a constituent questioning their will to live due to transphobia. The actions and comments made during this debate highlight the gravity of the ongoing issue of transphobia and the need for respectful, informed discussion on trans rights within government. For an in-depth analysis of the debate and its implications, [check out this piece in Trans Writes](#).

### **It's not about the cats...**

Late June, the papers went wild with the Shock! Horror! revelation that pupils in UK schools were identifying as cats and this was with the connivance and support of woke teachers. Of course, they weren't.

There's a useful analysis of what was really going on [here](#).

Still, it got the folks at GB News frothing, and led to interventions by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, plus the Equalities and Education Ministers.

### **...it's about trans kids. Again!**

The real reason this popped up is simple. Government was planning to introduce new guidelines for trans pupils in education. What better way to launch this than against a background of panic about a non-existent feline problem!

Except, it turns out, these would breach equalities law in multiple ways, including encouraging teachers to out children to abusive parents, and refusing to acknowledge their identified gender. [This proved too much even for this gang of scofflaws](#).

Those working in education should check out the current law on name change, to which TransActual [just published a handy guide](#).

### **Fascists getting more violent...**

Focus for much recent anti-trans violence has been drag reading events. 'Concerned citizens', including the highly concerning Patriotic Alternative have been turning up

to demonstrate. For which, read, have a bit of a tussle with the evil woke.

There have been a number of shouty incidents as well as [some increasingly violent stuff down in Honor Oak](#).

It is about the violence. Also, though, veterans of fighting the far right know it is about far more. It is about bullies testing the water; seeing what they can get away with; and if not stopped, they will get worse.

**...and violence begets violence**

Sadly, the violent/anti-LGBT streak in UK politics is spreading, as rhetoric from press and politicians encourages the worst. From [the murder of Brianna Ghey](#) earlier this year, to early July when We teenagers took it upon themselves to [shoot at trans people attending South-West Pride using a BB gun](#).

**Not that you'll be hearing about it any time soon**

Because the BBC have just [re-issued guidance to journalists instructing them](#)

[not to attend controversial events](#). Like Pride.

Of course, they must remain 'balanced' and beyond suspicion. Still, it would be nice if they also majored on advice not to issue events put on by the IEA or gender critical love-ins. But that is to ignore the fact that we now live in a world where the government demands teachers not teach anything controversial - and then defines 'controversial' as anything that doesn't take its fancy.

**...and violence begets violence**

In a recent ruling by Tribunal Judges Griffin and Neville, the LGB Alliance has retained its charity status, despite a challenge by Mermaids UK, an organisation supporting families with transgender young people. Mermaids argued that the LGB Alliance's activities, which they believe includes misrepresentation of Mermaids' activities, attempts to discredit the organisation, and inciting others to withdraw support, were detrimental to their cause. For all the nuance of this case, [read about it in TransWrites](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

*If you have found this newsletter useful in alerting you to topics not to be found in the entirely balanced UK media, let us know. Better still, introduce friends and colleagues who are welcome to subscribe at [press.transactualuk@gmail.com](mailto:press.transactualuk@gmail.com) or [info@transmediawatch.org](mailto:info@transmediawatch.org).*

*Or if you would rather not receive it in future and wish us no longer to contact you, please let us know and we will amend your contact details accordingly.*

*Trans Bites is a joint publication, produced by [TransActual UK](#), [Trans Writes](#), and [Trans Media Watch](#).*

