



Trans Media Watch publish new report on media coverage of trans people in sport

A report, published by Trans Media Watch, found media coverage of trans people in sport was skewed, selective and grounded almost solely in anti-trans talking points, with little attempt to provide space to alternative views.

Media Representation of Trans Athletes, published November 2023 looked at 290 articles from nine major UK newspapers' websites in July 2022. It found:

- Twice as many anti-trans voices reported, compared to trans ones;
- A primary focus, within these articles, on themes of 'fairness', 'vilification', and 'safety', with a very few paying lip-service to 'inclusion';
- Missing entirely from this discourse: any coverage of the social role of sport (most trans people play sport because they enjoy it!); wider representation of community and scientific views; any wider exploration of what is meant by 'biological advantage'; or the supposed ideal that sport is about the playing – not the winning.

Since then, we have seen the progressive exclusion of trans people from the playing of sports in the UK. In many instances, these bans seem to reflect the main talking points of this media coverage, rather than any wider consideration of the evidence.

Trans Media Watch are not experts in sport; but we know what a level playing field looks like – and this is not it. We therefore call on UK media, and their regulators, IPSO and Impress, to restore some minimum of balance to the reporting of trans people in sport, and:

- Talk to trans people (athletes and non-athletes alike);
- Spend more time covering news, less time making it;

- Expand their coverage to include alternative viewpoints; not just on what we mean by concepts such as 'fairness' and 'safety'; but also, on the wider role of sport in society.

- ENDS -

Further Information

Contact jane fae via jane@ozimek.co.uk or on 07780 994646

Accessing the report:

A copy of the report is attached with this release. In addition, it may be downloaded from <https://transmediawatch.org/media-representation-of-trans-athletes>.

In addition, if you would like to obtain a hard copy of this report for your library, please contact jane fae, as above.