



Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance
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Dear Ms Dollimore,

Supreme Court Ruling

We are writing to demand that you speak out against the Supreme Court ruling that rolls back trans rights by decades. It is also an unethical decision that has already led to major confusion, deliberate misinterpretation by much of the media, and increased attacks on trans, non binary and intersex (TNBI) people, from individuals and organisations such as British Transport Police.

In addition, it will prove to be unworkable anyway, without a huge increase in policing of toilets, hospitals, and other public spaces.

The Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance is a volunteer-led charity that has supported and advocated for LGBTQIA people since its formation 22 years ago. We have witnessed the damage that media and public hatred such as unchecked homophobia and transphobia causes to individuals and families.

Trans people make up about 1% of the population. Intersex people are another 1.5%. No minority group should be targeted and subject to verbal and physical abuse from the public, let alone mental torture and fear mongering from government bodies and the mainstream media.

This draconian ruling has partially come about through the Tory government appointment of the "gender critical", i.e. anti-trans, Baroness Falkner, as chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The fact that trans, non binary and intersex people were barred from speaking as the Supreme Court debated is blatantly undemocratic.

TNBI people are no different from any other minority group. They should be treated with respect and dignity by all and allowed equal access to NHS treatment (the current waiting list is still over three years for many).

Within hours of the ruling, LGBTQIA support groups around the country mobilised. Two days later over the Easter weekend, thousands protested. In Hastings we held a rally attended by over 250 people (TNBI, active allies and concerned fellow citizens).

We organised with Hastings Women's Voice, Trans Pride Hastings, Hastings and District Trades Council, Hastings and Bexhill Stand Up To Racism, and others. You will hopefully have seen the photos and listened to the inspiring speeches on our social media.

Last summer, you sent a video message of support to Trans Pride Hastings stating you support trans rights. Unless that was a hollow pledge, it is time to stand up against the anti-trans policies and statements enacted by your colleagues Kier Starmer and Wes Streeting.

Please stand with us, the BMA, other organisations, and MPs who have spoken up in the House and in the media. For instance, Dawn Butler and Nadia Whittome. Nadia sums up the situation well when she said, "Attacking the rights of a marginalised group isn't a win for feminism. Demanding that women be defined by our biology isn't a win for feminism. The people driving this are not acting in the interests of women. They're taking us all backwards and ushering in the far right."

We look forward to your support in this urgent matter. Just as Brexit enabled increases in racism, this ruling has already emboldened the transphobes across the mainstream media, online and on the street. Many of your trans constituents have already been targeted.

Unless the surge in transphobia is stood up to and overturned, the ruling will lead to more physical attacks and, inevitably, more deaths of trans, non binary and intersex people.

Yours,

Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance Board of Trustees