

A very concerning conversation

As a cub scout leader, I have been talking to Scouts HQ staff about my concerns about their transgender guidance since last year. I was pleased to see that they had updated the policy, but concerned that this was not clearly announced. I wrote an [article](#) analysing the changes which was published by Transgender Trend. I posted about the article **!st Scouts Facebook Group** (a large group of scout leaders and parents mainly in the UK) highlighting that the new guidance has closed a safeguarding loophole (complete confidentiality), taken a more cautious approach to encouraging transition, and considered the inclusion of all.

was one of the scout leaders that has been talking to them about this, as i was concerned that the old guidance created safeguarding loopholes and encouraged gender non conforming children to think that they must be 'born in the wrong body'. I am pleased that they have updated their guidance to make it more cautious, while still supporting inclusion of all young people in scouting

Key things they've changed:

- Removed the guidance to give children assurance of "complete confidentiality" if they disclose to a leader that they think they might be trans. More emphasis on safeguarding in the guidance.
- They removed the idea of "true gender", the normalisation of breast binding and discussion of two year olds being diagnosed as transsexuals
- The guidance is more cautious about encouraging children to transition, recognising that there can be uncertainty, and often feelings of gender dysphoria is something children grow out of

- There is more emphasis on talking to parents, and they have removed the assumption that parents are only "supportive" if they affirm that the child must be transsexual.
- More recognition that other children in the pack have an legitimate expectation of privacy, and it may not be appropriate for a male child to use showers and toilets where girls expect privacy (and vice versa). New guidance suggests flexibility, individual unisex options where possible so that everyone is comfortable.


I've written about it here

https://www.transgendertrend.com/scout-association-new-transgender-guidance-big-step-forward/?fbclid=IwAR3o78xvBGtI8iQ6ROu_q0

What was the response from scout leaders on 1st Facebook Scouts?

1. NAME CALLING AND BULLYING

Gregor Murray and others called me and other female scout leaders who posted that the new guidance was a sensible improvement “TERFs”, “transphobes”, “bigots”, scum and hateful. Another female scout leader and I were questioned about our scouting credentials. It was said that I was not fit to be a scout leader.



Gregor Fisher Murray What a massive step backwards. Really sad to see TSA listening to TERFs rather than actual trans people. Disgusting all round.


21:27

← Replies 🔍




Shaun Kenneth Johnson
Gregor Fisher Murray what's a terf

1h Like Reply




Gregor Fisher Murray
A trans-exclusionary radical feminist. People who base their bigotry of trans people in a mistaken belief that we're all out to harm women.

1h Like Reply



Maya Forstater
[REDACTED] Its an insult directed at women, often associated with threats of violence and intended to shut down debate
<https://terfisaslur.com/>




Gregor Fisher Murray
I have not called feminists scum, I have called TERFs scum. And they are.

I will call out TERFs for being TERFs. No apology there.

Transgender Trend's advice will lead to dead children. No more, no less. ... [See More](#)

1h Like Reply 1







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Write a reply...

 **Martin**  so you deny that transwomen are women.

Can I check that you are active in the scout association, your group or district?

10m Like Reply  1

 **L**  are you now the thought police? That's a rather threatening comment, report



0:47


← Replies 🔍

raised concerns about the previous guidance. I know some other leaders and parents have also. I am pleased to see they have revisee the guidance

40 m Like Reply

 **Martin**  **Maya Forstater** so you are a transphobic biggoted terf

17 m Like Reply

 **Gregor Fisher Murray** I know what I have seen with my own eyes.

You are completely irresponsible, and completely unfit to be a scout leader in my opinion. How on earth would you treat a child that confided in you that they were struggling with their gender identity!?

Like · Reply · 2m

 **Mark**  **Maya Forstater** sorry but transphobes are not welcome here. Hopefully admins will take down your post and you'll take your hate elsewhere.

4m Like Reply

(NB: SWERF “sex worker exclusive radical feminist” is a term used to dismiss feminists who argue that the prostitution and pornography industries exploit women, as opposed to the position that being a prostitute should be encouraged as an ordinary career choice for young women).

Ana [redacted]

It's almost like the TSA would find support from organisations like Mermaids, who have experience working with trans young people, more helpful and reliable than biased and ill-informed hate groups. Especially TERFS Who claim to be experienced leaders, yet don't understand the structure of Scouting.

(Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers are sections - Only Cubs meet in packs!)

Excuse me, waiter, I didn't order the Swerf 'n' Terf

Just now Like Reply

Martin [redacted]

Maya Forstater you deny transwomen are women, that's transphobic, you don't agree with them that's a biggoted view and your a feminist trying to play down trans rights, that makes you a terf.

I am disgusted to hear you are a scout leader and feel worried and concerned about any interaction you might have with a trans young person or adult you have involvement with.

Just now Like Reply



Martin [redacted]

Max [redacted] yep a transphobic vile women who I am disgusted still holds a position in the TSA

2 h Like Reply

NB: Gregor Murray has previously been suspended as a Councillor for abusing women on social media, calling them “TERFs” and “utter cunts”

The ESC's representative noted that the Respondent's position was that the term 'TERF' was a descriptor and was not in itself abusive or offensive. The ESC's representative contended, however, that the Respondent's use of the term 'TERF' to describe the complainer in the circumstances where the complainer had asked them to desist from doing so, where the Respondent had responded indicating that it was warranted, and where the Respondent had previously publicly identified 'TERFS' as being “scum”, “hateful” and “vile”, demonstrated that the Respondent accepted that 'TERF' was a term of abuse and was using it as such.

<https://www.standardscommissionscotland.org.uk/uploads/files/1558349641190517WrittenDecision.pdf>

2. ANY DISCUSSION OF THE FACT OF BIOLOGICAL SEX CONDEMNED AS 'TRANSPHOBIC'

Any discussion of the fact that children and adults who identify as the opposite 'gender' remain their biological sex, and that this has implications for dignity, privacy and boundaries of others and for planning and risk assessment on camp etc... was dismissed as transphobic and "misgendering"



Michael [redacted]

You're clearly missing the point, a transgender girl is a GIRL. That's what we need to be getting across, inclusion and acceptance.

9m Like Reply



Martin [redacted]

[redacted] "They can't actually change sex and will always be biologically male." sounds transphobic to me!

7m Like Reply



Jennifer [redacted]

Language such as "male" child when talking about transgender girls sets off a few alarm bells when reading articles like this.

1h Like Reply



Tom [redacted]

Maya Forstater Your insistence on referring to trans girls as Male is pretty low effort. We can all see you for what you are.

11m Like Reply



Tom [redacted]

Yeah, the OP and this whole thing is an attempt to sneak transphobic TERF nonsense under the radar

14m Like Reply



to recognise that a child is male, even if socially we accomodate their preference for a female social identity rings alarm bells. Completely ignoring the sex of the children in our care (who need privacy, who may be menstruating, who can get each other pregnant, who we might need to take to hospital ...) is irresponsible.

12m Like Reply



Jennifer [redacted]

Maya Forstater so you are saying that transwomen are male. That is really insulting to me.

9m Like Reply



Monica Phoebe Tetley

Jennifer [redacted] and to me

7m Like Reply



Matthew [redacted]

Maya Forstater so what you're saying is you deliberately misgender children? That sounds pretty transphobic.

5m Like Reply



Aidan [redacted]

It's really not that hard to support a transgender young person, they are kids just like an other young person in your unit. All you have to do is talk to them and understand their needs, and respect them (use their chosen name and preferred pronouns). You don't need to understand it to respect it! Many transgender scouts use scouting as a way to get away from how they are feeling about themselves (i know thats what i did) it's a place where they can focus on better things. As leaders surely all we should be there to do is make sure they are safe and happy when in our care without giving a care what's in there pants 🧐

3m Like Reply



Ny [redacted] So the scout association have listened to a load of TERFs? Disgusting. I want no part in an organisation which doesn't allow children to be their true self. Although i'll believe it when I see it implemented.

Like · Reply · 1m

3. SEEKING TO UNDERMINE GIRL'S BOUNDARIES

No recognition that girls and women can legitimately object to sharing intimate spaces with people with male bodies including male genitalia.



Heidi [redacted]
Maya Forstater no i don't. But i also don't get threatened enough to be checking they've got the same kit as me and policing which shower they go in. If someone says they are female, they go in the ladies of they want to. This is not difficult.

5 m Like Reply



Martin [redacted]
"concerned about the current trend to diagnose children as transgender" - Didn't realise being trans was suddenly a fashion statement.

"We are also concerned about legislation which places transgender rights above the right to safety for girls and young women in public toilets and changing rooms" - that sounds pretty transphobic to me!

33m Like Reply



Martin

would you deny the right of a transgirl to also be in that girl only space?

35m Like Reply



Michael

A transgender woman is a woman, if she wasn't born that way does it really matter? Does she not have the right to use a women's toilet?

33m Like Reply



This view, in line with the new guidance was dismissed as 'transphobic'



Maya Forstater

Michael do young women not deserve the right to privacy away from people with male bodies when they are sleeping, undressing and washing (The Equality Act says they do) ? The new guidance encourages scout leaders to consider everyone's privacy. A child who identifies as a transgirl should not have to shower with boys if they don't want to, but girls should also not be forced to share intim... [See More](#)

23m Like Reply

Providing washing arrangements so that both male children who identify as girls, and girls can have privacy (as recommended in the guidance) is dismissed as 'transphobic rubbish' and 'exclusion'



Martin [redacted]

Maya Forstater sounds like transphobic rubbish to me.

If you have to have a separate toilet, sleeping or wash space for trans than for CIS that's exclusion

What you are talking about is exclusion of transkids not inclusion of all.

20m Like Reply



Michael [redacted]

So, a trans girl can't sleep with the girls because she has a male body, can't sleep with the boys as, well, she's a girl. So now she's isolated and alone, yep, that seems like progress to me. Maybe not. Maybe we should be teaching inclusion and acceptance, that seems a bit more adult like

4. USING SUICIDE AS A THREAT



Gregor Fisher Murray

Your guidance will leave children dead and you're worried that a descriptor isn't very nice?

Please get some sense of perspective.

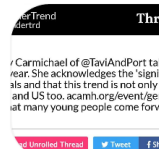
1h Like Reply



Maya Forstater

Gregor Fisher Murray - throwing around threats of dead children is extremely irresponsible. The Samaritans says to avoid speculating about any one 'trigger' for suicide. Dr Polly Carmichael, Director of the the Tavistock clinic states that the headlines about high suicide rates amongst children with gender dysphoria are

"deeply flawed" and that rates of self-harm, distress and suicidal ideation ar... See More



THREADREADERAPP.COM

Thread by @Transgendertrd: "Li...

53m Like Reply



Martin

I think if the terf shoe fits.. call it as it is.

7m Like Reply



Aidan

Maya Forstater the figure is deeply flawed yeah? Tell that to the hundreds of trans children, and their families, that have taken their own lives because of bigoted views such as your own. The facts are facts, without our support trans children are more likely to commit suicide!

2m Like Reply

5. RECOMMENDING NOT TALKING TO PARENTS

Suggests that Scout Leaders can determine if a child is “born in the right body” or just follow child’s self ID to undertake social transition - and should overrule and not communicate with parents if they disagree

 Steven 

I've had a young person in one of my sections before who was transgender and who strongly felt they 'were in the wrong body'. They really enjoyed scouts because everyone accepted them . And assisting them was no more difficult than modifying for a disability. But this guidance in full wouldn't help any more than the old guidance, in some places it's more difficult and not as good. And talking to the young persons parents was a non-starter as they insisted the young person was 'in the right body'. But steps in the right direction are needed to ensure we are fully inclusive. And I agree with Michaels comments. I have (separately to the above) experienced safeguarding issues with the self identifying issue which the guidance doesn't really address - we have to safeguard al our young people equally

 **B**

The article is a lot more inflammatory than the official advice and the author of the article clearly has a soapbox to yell from. My advice? Don't click the link to transgender trend. They have an agenda. Just read the official advice and if you have trans young people just respect their self definition. Simple.

15m

Like

Reply



 **Curtis**

It is not complicated. You respond to

6. DEFLECTING FROM SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS BY SMEARING THOSE WITH CONCERNS

Rather than talk about safeguarding they resort to insults and smears of myself and of Transgender Trend.

discloses gender issues (and maybe eg talking about intimate aspects of their body with strangers on the internet) "complete confidentiality". I and others including Transgender Trend raised this with TSA and they have changed the guidance. There are a lot of people on h... [See More](#)

6m Like Reply



Martin S [redacted]
No I think its disgusting that you are hiding your feminist transphobic hate as "concern" for the wellbeing of young people..

5m Like Reply



Shaun K [redacted]
Maya Forstater How much money does your group receive from Fundamentalist Christian organisations.

Just now Like Reply



Gregor Fisher Murray

Transgender Trend are a dangerous hate group, who have been linked to promotion of 'conversation therapy' which is exceptionally dangerous and evil.

1h Like Reply



Gregor Fisher Murray

Women Speak Up is also a nasty, nasty organisation spreading misinformation about trans people.



Any chance we can ban the...



I would agree with that



Heather

Please remove this article - Transgender Trend is an anti-transgender association, this is highly misleading! TSA has been one of the most supportive places in our family's journey, but we really don't need to read this rubbish. Our young trans members are getting attacked from all directions, please lets keep Scouting as a supportive place

Just now Like Reply



Ny

I'd be incredibly disappointed to find out that Scouts have been working with a "gender critical" organisation instead of actual transgender young people to develop this "guidance" (which sounds incredibly harmful if true). Especially awful after being so excited to see so many proud Scouts in the Birmingham Pride parade at the weekend.

1h Like Reply

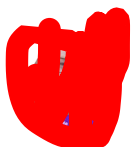


Mark

Nicole

I don't think she was involved in the guidance. Transgender trend is not supportive of trans individuals and it isn't listed in the guidance as a source of information that the association recommends. The article misrepresents the changes and a number of Maya's comments on this thread have caused offence to trans leaders in the group

5m Like Reply




Mark


Nicole don't think she was involved in the guidance. Transgender trend is not supportive of trans individuals and it isn't listed in the guidance as a source of information that the association recommends. The article misrepresents the changes and a number of Maya's comments on this thread have caused offence to trans leaders in the group


5m Like Reply


In fact TSA has not spoken to Transgender Trend, although they have received the TT Resource Pack from me. Transgender Trend (an organisation that was short-listed for the John Maddox Prize, and profiled as a good source of guidance by the Times Literary Supplement). Given that so many people whose behaviour raises so many safeguarding red flags are keen for the TSA not to speak to Transgender Trend I hope they do.

7. EXCLUSION AND SILENCING OF THOSE WITH CONCERNS

 **Tom [REDACTED]**
Any chance we can ban the OP, seeing as they're a transphobic propagandist?

7m Like Reply  3

 **Martin [REDACTED]**
I would agree with that


5m Like Reply  1


 **Mark [REDACTED]**
Maya Forstater sorry but transphobes are not welcome here. Hopefully admins will take down your post and you'll take your hate elsewhere.


4m Like Reply

 **Aidan [REDACTED]**
Colin Williston i stand with Tom on this, banning the OP would be best for the group, they are clearly here to spread hatred and hateful propaganda

53m Like Reply  4

 **Martin [REDACTED]**
Aidan [REDACTED] all under the pretence of "supporting" young people

48m Like Reply  3

 **Martin [REDACTED]**
Colin [REDACTED] so what do we need to do to get the OP banned? pretty sure someone who is that transphobic shouldn't be allowed in here

10m Like Reply