

Stonewall's 'Culture Wars and Hate' survey – Analysing the Data

On the day the UK Supreme Court clarified who a woman and man are in legal terms, Stonewall was attempting to pre-empt the ruling, seeking media attention to announce the results of their survey of 2,000 members of the LGBTQ+ "community", which they claimed uncovered that 31% had been subjected to conversion practices such as exorcism or purifying substances. 38% said they had been excluded from family or community as a form of conversion practice. Most marked was that 23% of 18-34 year olds claimed to have been physically assaulted in an attempt to change their sexuality or gender identity. 18% of the youngest groups said they had suffered "corrective rape" or "sexual assault".

"Is it plausible that 30% of trans people have been exorcised in a country that, until extremely recently, supported an entirely affirmative approach to transgender medicine, and where the police might coming knocking if you express the wrong views about gender identity on social media?"¹

Maybe they were releasing this in a desperate attempt to stay relevant. LabourLGB and Lesbian Labour view Stonewall as a failing organisation and this release only added another nail in their coffin. Because on closer examination the findings are ludicrous.

Take, for instance, Stonewall's assertion that 8.2% of LGB&QT+ people in the UK have experienced an exorcism in the last five years alone. Assuming that there are 1.5 million LGB&QT+ people in the England and Wales, then UK clergymen are performing gay exorcisms at a rate of 21,000 per year. The goodly [and godly] parish priests of our nation, working 9 to 5, Monday to Saturday (with time off on Sundays for 'usual duties') would be performing 85 exorcisms a week - and that's without lunch! How do they do it?

Indeed, as The Spectator pointed out, our overworked clerics are doing two wedding ceremonies for every exorcism. Are these exorcisms being performed concurrently or sequentially to fit everything in? At first glance, this may seem to contradict the government's National LGB&QT+ Survey which found in 2017 that only 2% of LGB&QT+ people had undergone conversion practices.

'These alarming figures shed light on just how common these practices remain.
' stated Simon Blake, CEO of Stonewall. But do they?

Take for example the methodology used by Opinium, the polling company commissioned to carry out the survey. It broke down responses by "trans man", "trans woman", and "non-binary", but did not record actual sex. The data suggests that 3% of gay men and 5% of bi-sexual men were subjected to sexual assault in the past year. This suggests an epidemic of women preying on men to convert them to being straight which defies both statistics and common sense.

The survey further allows heterosexual people to claim to be LGB on the basis of their false gender identity or their heterosexual 'queer' identity. Historically, data on sexuality has been dubious. Most of us know the old anecdote that 10% of the population is gay. However the 2021 England and Wales Census put the 'LGB+' population at the more modest figure of 3.4%. The 1.5 million figure above assumed a rate of just 2.1%. This means an even higher workload for our priests!

The survey also recruited respondents from within the amorphous category "LGBTQ+", a framing that alienates those of us who are same-sex attracted but reject the association this has with gender ideology, who would have self-excluded. Also the category itself is so broad as to be meaningless, and will certainly have included many people who are heterosexual, 'queer' people of both sexes, and those identifying as "asexual".

¹ John Armstrong in "The Spectator" 3 April 2025

Might a biased sample also explain the rate of LGB&QT+ exorcisms found by Stonewall? It is unlikely. Opinion have attempted to reweight the sample results to better reflect the UK population. While inevitably such reweighting will be imperfect, it is hard to imagine it causing errors of several orders of magnitude. The survey is not robust social science: it's a push-poll designed to create headlines and apply political pressure for its call for a "fully inclusive" ban.

Perhaps the wording of the questions produced confused respondents as they did in the last census for England and Wales when, at Stonewall's encouragement, the Office for National Statistics asked, „**is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?**“

Understandably, many respondents who couldn't, or wouldn't, understand the question simply answered 'No.' Needless to say, the figures were found to be contradictory and were subsequently withdrawn by the Office for Statistics Regulation. All this despite being warned by women's groups that the question was unlawful.

Question wording does not seem to be the issue with the exorcism question. While being a little sceptical about the response categories, the question does mention 'exorcism' with clarity. Rushing through the survey, simply madly ticking boxes to get to the end can also be ruled out. Why would trans respondents be four times as likely to say they have been exorcised as other respondents? Were some respondents just joking? Approximately 12% of respondents also claimed to have experienced corrective rape. This is not remotely plausible, nor remotely amusing.

Having eliminated technical deficiencies in the survey, the most likely explanation of Stonewall's findings seems to be that respondents were either fibbing or fantasising. No one is required to tell the truth in a survey. There is no checker on the truth: surveys rely completely on the honesty of the individuals completing them.

Perhaps it was a case that respondents knew who the survey was for, why it was being conducted and the answer Stonewall was looking for rather than the actual truth. For instance, legislation to ban conversion therapy has been at the top of Stonewall's political agenda. Some respondents may have felt that it was more important to give a response that would help promote a ban than give a response that was strictly accurate.

If this hypothesis is right, the expectation would be that the highest rates of exorcisms would be found among the most politically active, ie. the young, the trans identifying, the metropolitan. This defies historical reality: older people who actually lived through Section 28 and suffered persecution reported far fewer instances of abuse than the generation raised on pronouns and "progress" flags.

Unsurprisingly, the data does indeed appear to be consistent with this theory. For example, 0.5% of those aged 50+ claim to have experienced an exorcism compared to 16% of 18–24-year-olds. The rate of exorcisms in London is double that of the country as a whole. Who knew our youth were such devout church goers.

The most alarming thing about these bogus statistics is how few news agencies bothered to verify them: they just accepted Stonewall's word for it. The BBC, who should be striving for impartiality, parroted this misinformed research without asking the most basic questions. Stonewall is not a statistical agency. Journalists should have dug into the data and the methodology for collecting it. It discredits the BBC that their journalists failed to do this.