



Labour Party Conference 2025 Fringe Event by LWD

The Supreme Court Ruling - Lesbians, the impact for LGB and the Labour Party

Hello

Firstly I would like to publicly thank LWD for giving Lesbian Labour & LabourLGB a platform at National Conference to have our voices heard ... something which has been denied to us ever since we were FORCE TEAMED with TQ+

In Lesbian Labour we talk about the SILENT L for lesbian, despite being the first letter in LGBTQ+ In fact the first 3 letters of this alphabet, LGB have also been silenced.

The Labour Party used to consult with Lesbian and gays, and hear our concerns...

- repealed **Clause 28 in 2003**
- introduced **Civil Partnership in 2005**
- Followed by the **Equality Act (2010)**

It was only 15 yrs ago when we were able to confidently take our place in society as out lesbian and gays.

BUT then came the forced teaming with TQ+. No-one consulted us, no-one asked our opinions, no-one carried out any 'risk assessments' into how this would impact our rights...

Now same-sex attraction has been erased. Most people, when hearing the term LGBTQ+ only think of 'trans rights'.

We cannot talk about LGB rights without it being seen as 'anti-trans'.

The problem is that **2 protected characteristics have been amalgamated into one - Sexual Orientation - same sex attraction (LGB), has been force teamed with (TQ+) Gender reassignment.**

In reality, same sex attraction is the polar opposite of 'trans', which is a rejection of birth sex. **Sexual orientation is not the same as gender reassignment, as the Equality Act recognises.**

So the Supreme Court Judgement for Lesbians (and by default gay men) was HUGE -

For the first time, lesbian rights were considered.

The Court agreed that sex must mean biological sex. **If not**, lesbians & gay men must be expected to accept those of the opposite sex as potential partners.

If 'sex' is just a feeling, or just a piece of paper, Sexual Orientation is meaningless as a protected characteristic and, ALL our protections are removed.

Here are a couple of Key quotes from the Judgment

Paragraph 204. spells it out: **section 12 of the Equality Act** (which) **defines the protected characteristic of sexual orientation ... Read fairly, references to sex in this provision can only mean biological sex.** People are not sexually oriented towards those in possession of a certificate.

Paragraph 206 says, **lesbians, as a group, are females who share the characteristic of being sexually oriented to females**

Paragraph 208 notes that a certificated sex interpretation, would have a chilling effect on the ability of lesbians to associate in lesbian-only spaces

The ruling is momentous - Our existence, and a definition of lesbian, as legislated in law, was finally validated.

ANYONE now not implementing the law, is vulnerable to court action.

So From that moment on, we expected the law to be implemented, policies to be re-written and to have our rights of association upheld.

WE ARE STILL WAITING Despite same-sex attraction being central to the judgment - virtually no-one, either in politics, the media or any LGBTQ+ groups has since mentioned the implications for Lesbians. No-one has apologised for the years of fear, the loss of our communities, friendships, societies and support.

The impact of this loss has been hugely damaging, as lesbians come under ever greater pressure to accept males as sexual partners, this is especially so for younger lesbians.

The media has been awful, presenting the judgement as anti-trans, rather than as a clarification of the rights of women and lesbians.

Shockingly in Parliament during Lesbian Visibility week debate, Just after the judgement, virtually every politician - bar Tracy - lamented the apparent 'loss' of trans rights. In fact, the Supreme Court made it clear that trans peoples rights are not affected.

In this debate about lesbians, 'trans' was mentioned 32 times, non-binary 6 with 'gender identity' thrown about as proof of progressiveness.

The significance of the SC ruling for lesbians was ignored. It was as if it never happened and since then we have seen a doubling down by the LGBTQ+ lobby groups fighting **against** our rights and to overturn them. Kate Osborne in fact said that the ruling was a step backwards for her as a lesbian... How badly informed can an MP be?

THERE BEEN NO PROGRESS since the ruling and if fact, for many its worse. Our biggest concerns are the doubling down by activists embedded within organisations and the inaction around enforcement of the law

Some in councils, police, trade unions, staff networks, and even within our own Party, accuse those wishing to uphold the law of being anti-trans.

Activists in Labour Branches and Trade Unions are proposing, and getting motions passed, calling for the law to be ignored or thwarted.

Anyone who believes in the rule of law should be concerned by this.

On 9 September a media headline shouted - "Trade unions vowed to oppose the Supreme Court **trans** ruling" - 'official guidance on single-sex spaces "flawed".

The media are complicit in misrepresenting the judgement, thus furthering the erasure of LGB rights.

The Prime Minister has told local and regional authorities that there is no need to wait for guidance. as the judgement is extremely clear.

Even this is NOT enough to jolt them into action.

Such government inaction and disinterest has created a vacuum allowing dis-information to fester .

All this hanging around for the EHRC guidance has meant people don't see any need to change what they have been doing.

If there are no consequences, so why bother?

Instead, it's business as usual whilst, we continue to be vilified and excluded from consultation about our rights.

And non-compliant "LGBTQ+ Action Plans", continue to inform policy and services.

Recently I met with over 30 lesbians from all over the UK, to ask what their experience has been **since the SC ruling**.

They described a - "doubling down" of trans-activism, fear, compulsory conformity.

I heard about accusations of being right-wing, self-censorship, about employer-imposed pronouns and courses along with Bullying, harassment, threats of losing jobs and silencing ..

We all know someone publicly accused, seen what it does to them, their families, and careers - Jo Phoenix, Kathleen Stock, Lizzie Pritt, Julie Bindel, Bev Jackson, Kate Harris. All Lesbians. Homophobia in 21st Century Britain is encouraged.

Compelled Conformity is everywhere - The LGB Alliance has just published an excellent Report on this - copies at the back - highly recommended reading.

So - what lies ahead?

We need to start again from the Grassroots knowing that the law **IS** behind us.

Rebuilding our community is a priority - LGB Alliance Cymru and FiLiA have produced a guide for lesbian organisers based on the Supreme Court ruling, written by Naomi Cunningham, KC, It is entitled "The Legal Defence of Lesbian Space" - there are copies at the back.

I have a list of some STRATEGIES for you TO CONFRONT CHALLENGES ahead:

1. Join Lesbian Labour and/or LabourLGB we represent Lesbian & Gays within the Party = Take our leaflet and spread the word, become a member, donate a couple of quid if you can.
2. Invite us to speak at events and meetings to explain why a divorce from the TQ+ is necessary and is not about removing the rights of trans people.
3. Support LGB members who raise the issue defending biological reality is still a lonely place and we will only succeed if more people find their voice.
4. **Labour**, at ALL levels of government, must **commit to meaningful engagement** with **ALL the stakeholders**. So .. MPs, Members of Senedd and at Holyrood, Councillors: - we need you to help us get a seat at the table - we are stakeholders and should be consulted as Lesbians & Gays. **LGBTQ+ have proven they are NOT interested in LGB issues**. Our voices must be heard separately
5. Councillors, school governors and others - make your policies comply with the law, for sex and sexual orientation... as well as gender reassignment to avoid expensive reputational damage. **Demand that Equality Impact Assessments** are carried out which show, sex and sexual orientation as separate protected characteristics, when making decisions. **Protect your organisation and your service users**.

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Finally - we face elections in the devolved nations next year. They are a huge test for Labour. Reform is making great strides, not least on the back of this issue. A recent YouGov survey showed the public overwhelmingly know the truth about biological sex. Labour's fudge, and our dismissal of so many in our constituencies, will cost us precious votes. **Go back to your CLPs and campaign for sex-based reality.**