

Pink News, UK

Alas, the Harm has already been done; or was that the plan all along? Ed.

Sunday Times admits report bashing transgender charity was untrue

Nick Duffy

17th January 2018, 7:12 PM

The Sunday Times has admitted that a report attacking transgender charity Mermaids was untrue.

The newspaper, which has become a frequent publisher of stories critical of transgender people over the last few months, published a correction this week admitting one of its stories was not accurate.

The report, printed in the newspaper on October 8, claimed that transgender children's charity Mermaids is subject to a court order banning it from contact with a child.

The child in question, who cannot be named from legal reasons, allegedly identifies as transgender girl – and was subject to court action when they were removed from their mother.

[\[Photo\]](#)

## Mermaids UK charity ban as boy forced to live as girl

A controversial transgender group has received cash from the government and Children in Need

Andrew Gilligan

October 8 2017, 12:01am,  
The Sunday Times



The seven-year-old boy, who was home-schooled, was dressed in girls' clothes  
ALAMY

The Sunday Times had claimed in its headline that the charity “has been banned by the High Court from any contact with a family after the mother”.

It went on to scrutinise government funding for the charity, which provides vital support for families of transgender children.

But after Mermaids complained, the Sunday Times this week issued a correction to the story admitting that no court order exists.

It said: “In our article ‘Charity ban as boy forced to live as girl’ (News, October 8) we reported that Mermaids, the transgender charity, had been banned by the High Court from making contact with a family.

“Mermaids has informed us that it has not been the subject of a court order; rather, it was told by the child’s mother that the judge had said that the child was to have no contact with Mermaids.”

The newspaper also admitted its claims that the group advocates “fast-track cross-sex hormone treatment for children” was false.

The drugs in question are actually puberty blockers, drugs with reversible effects that can delay the onset of puberty for transgender kids but do not include hormones.

The newspaper’s correction added: “It has also asked us to clarify that Dr Birgit Möller did not offer fast-track cross-sex hormone treatment for children; the treatment offered on a fast-track basis was hormone blockers.”

Mermaids said: “We are pleased that The Times has printed a correction to its previous inaccurate article about Mermaids.”

The same issue of the newspaper quoted notorious trans-exclusionary radical feminist Germaine Greer.

According to Greer, “biological women are ‘losing out everywhere’”.

She added: “I’m sick and tired of this. We keep arguing that women have won everything they need to win. They haven’t even won the right to exist.”

Negative coverage of transgender people in the British press surged in 2017.

The government recently postponed a transgender rights review after a transgender ‘moral panic’ in the media which has seen relentless weekly stories targeting transgender people.

The stream of stories have led to a flood of complaints to press regulators IPSO and Impress, but no newspaper has thus far been sanctioned for its coverage.

[The Times published a string of articles targeting a 19-year-old transgender girl](#), after she was named a women’s officer by her constituency Labour Party.

The newspaper targeted Madigan for taking on the local women's officer role and for applying for the party's Jo Cox Women in Leadership Scheme.

A Times reporter interviewed anti-trans activists who claimed her presence is a "monstrous insult" to women.

55 female Labour activists involved in the Jo Cox Women in Leadership scheme penned a letter to the editor of The Times disputing their coverage – which the newspaper declined to publish.

Prince Harry [previously praised the work of Mermaids at a Buckingham Palace reception.](#)

Susie Green, CEO of [Mermaids](#), met members of the royal family at an event to recognise her work on mental health with trans young people.

Green says she told Prince Harry of the work Mermaids does to advocates for and support transgender children and their families.

So impressed was the fifth in line to the throne that he called the charity's work "amazing" during their exchange, she told PinkNews.

Speaking to PinkNews ahead of the ceremony, Susie Green said: "Following a rough few days of media mayhem, it is a huge honour to be invited to represent Mermaids and all the work we do at Buckingham Palace.

"Kate, Will and Harry have made their commitment to mental health very clear, and although gender dysphoria is not a mental illness, unfortunately, due to massive prejudice and ignorance, discrimination is still rife and young people and their families are suffering because of this.

"Being recognised by the royal family is a huge boost to Mermaids, and the dedicated team of volunteers, staff and trustees that make our work possible.

"Our detractors try to play down the suicide attempt stats, the bullying and the self-harm, why?

"But for Mermaids, and for me as CEO, this is recognition of the fact that we are making an impact, and as the voice for so many families and young people unable to speak out for fear of repercussions against themselves and their children, we are thankful that gender variant and transgender children are being recognised, and our work on their behalf valued."

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/01/17/sunday-times-admits-report-bashing-transgender-charity-was-untrue/>

Manchester Evening News, UK

Secret location for women's rights debate amid fears that activists will disrupt it

**So secret no one knew it was happening.. A debate that hides is often one-sided. Ed.**

Women's Place UK, who are hosting the discussion, claim similar meetings have been disrupted or cancelled as a result of trans activists 'harassing' venue owners

By Charlotte Dobson | 20:53, 17 JAN 2018 | Updated 23:25, 17 JAN 2018

A women's rights meeting to discuss controversial transgender law changes will be held at a secret venue to avoid disruption from activists.

Organisers of a meeting to discuss proposed changes to the 2004 Gender Recognition Act have withheld details of the location from the public after previous meetings have led to them being labelled 'transphobic bigots'.

The proposed law change would make it much easier for people to legally change their gender. But some argue the changes could disadvantage women and have implications for toilets, changing rooms and hospital wards, while making it harder to gather data.

Feminist activist Beatrix Campbell, Ruth Serwotka, of Socialist Feminist Network and socialist transwoman Kristin-Jayne Harrison are due to speak at the sell-out public meeting, called A Woman's Place is Under Threat, tonight.

Women's Place UK, who are hosting the discussion, claim similar meetings have been disrupted or cancelled as a result of trans activists 'harassing' venue owners. Security will be on the door at tonight's event.

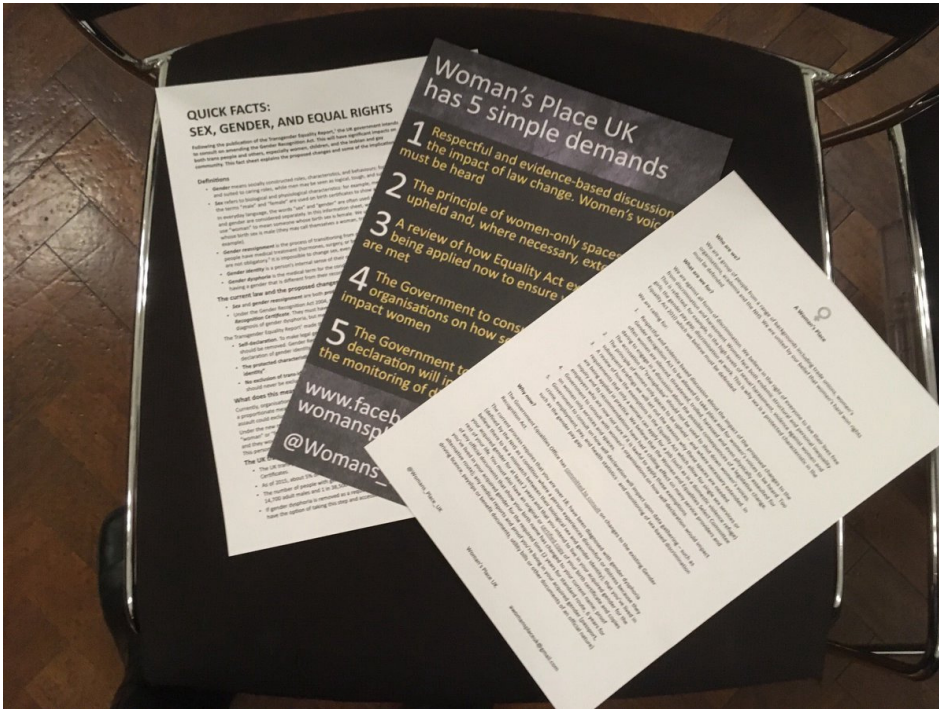
Emma Wilks, speaking on behalf of Women's Place UK, said: "In the past, details of similar events have been passed onto trans activists who have then rung the venue, saying 'there are transphobic people holding a meeting at your venue' or 'they are bigots'. They misrepresent us and some meetings have ended up being cancelled.

"It's a public meeting and we are not stopping anyone from attending. We are happy to hear everyone's views, we just want the meeting to go ahead in a respectful way. If people are disruptive we will ask them to leave."

The meeting's discussion will centre on how to maintain women's rights as transgender laws evolve.

The most recent proposals announced by the Government could result in the gender transition process being 'de-medicalised' or 'streamlined'.

[Photo]



[Womans Place UK](#) [@Womans Place UK](#)

The room is filling up. No photos do you'll just have to take our word for it! [#WPUK](#)

[1:48 PM - Jan 17, 2018](#)

Currently people need a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and have to provide evidence that they have been in transition for at least two years before they can apply to legally change their gender.

Proposed changes to the 2004 act would allow people to self-identify as the gender they choose, without the need for a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria, or to surgically transition.

Those opposed to the changes say self-identification may also mean the end of women-only hospital wards and other spaces where a 'male' presence would be 'unwelcome', including changing rooms and toilets.

These are the matters up for discussion at the Women's Place UK meeting. Details of the venue were not disclosed online or revealed to ticket-holders in the days before the event.

Ms Wilks added: “The discussion is centred on how to maintain the rights of women and girls.

“We accept there are issues with the current gender transition process, however, we feel self-identification is potentially problematic. We think there should be gate-keeping around getting a gender recognition certificate.”

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/secret-location-womens-rights-debate-14168886>

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Pink News, UK

Quakers to host anti-trans activists who want to abolish gender recognition law

I always thought that the Quakers were a religion of love ... Ed.

Jasmine Andersson

17th January 2018, 6:58 PM

A Quaker Hall in the UK will be hosting a transphobic hate group event in spite of protestations from the trans community.

Women's Place UK, which are known to propagate discrimination against the transgender community, will be hosting an event at Manchester Quaker Meeting Hall this evening.

The TERF group will discuss the Gender Recognition Bill at their event, [A Woman's Place Is Under Threat](#), asking people to "come and have your say on this controversial proposal."

A current proposal to revise the Gender Recognition Act which would allow transgender people to let people change gender without medical checks, is to be placed under scrutiny at the event.

"In July the government announced a consultation on their proposal to 'demedicalise' the process of changing gender, so that people can self-identify as the gender they choose, without any need for a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria," reads the event listing.

"But what exactly is 'gender', and what will be the impact of self-identification on women and on women's rights?"

What are the implications for transgender people themselves? Will this reform spell the end to single sex spaces and the provision of single sex services, such as those provided by rape crisis centres and women's refuges? Will the changes make it harder to gather accurate data on the pay gap between men and women; on domestic violence against women; and on the health services women require?" asks the group's event page. A series of tweets from the @Womans\_Place\_UK have been listed to allow to indicate their status as a TERF group, including their mission statement.

The group have also worked with TransgenderTrend (@transgendertrd), who describe themselves as "a group of UK parents who are concerned about the current trend to diagnose 'gender non-conforming' children as transgender."

[6 Jan](#)

[Sarah Jayne @sarahjpsych](#)  
[Replying to @stellacreasy](#)

...I'm now at a total loss with this subject. I would need to go on retreat to balance it in my head. I am a feminist. I am a humanitarian. I'm not a bigot, an extremist of any sort, I'm not a reactionary. So where should I stand on this. Twitter, head blown educate me.

[HelenXX @HelenLVZ](#)

Sarah, try [@Womans Place UK](#) for sensible, balanced information on what we are fighting for and [@Transgendertrd](#) for the horrific impact of Gender identity on confused children

[5:38 AM - Jan 7, 2018](#)

<https://twitter.com/HelenLVZ/status/949953477148540928Judith Green @TybilAlper>

All-Women Shortlists exist to achieve parity for women in parliament. They are permitted under the Equality Act on the basis of the protected characteristic of sex. It is not bigotry to point out the contradictions between the legal basis of AWS and a policy of 'self-id'.

[7:46 AM - Jan 14, 2018](#)

[14 Jan](#)

[Womans Place UK @Womans Place UK](#)  
[Replying to @Womans Place UK](#)

For more info about who we are and what we want, read our launch statement  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4hJVribfFSUc2Q3VTJoYi1RWjQ/view?usp=drive\\_web ...](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4hJVribfFSUc2Q3VTJoYi1RWjQ/view?usp=drive_web)

[Womans Place UK @Womans Place UK](#)

If you agree with our statement and our demands please contact your MP - write using our handy guide or ask to meet them at their surgery.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4hJVribfFSURF82YXIOYlpPOFk/view ...](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4hJVribfFSURF82YXIOYlpPOFk/view) We are getting reports of supportive responses.

[4:54 AM - Jan 14, 2018](#)



[12 Jan](#)

[Harvey Jeni @GappyTales](#)

Please donate if you can possibly afford to, in order to mount a legal challenge to [@UKLabour](#) regarding all women shortlists.

Understand this is bigger than shortlists. This is about policy shaped around gender identity over and above sex, without any clear definition of terms.

<https://twitter.com/msjenniferjames/status/951951821924454400> ...

[Harvey Jeni @GappyTales](#)

If we are going to legislate for gender identity rather than sex, then we had better have clear definitions as to what words such as 'gender identity', and 'woman' now actually mean.

Sex is currently a protected characteristic in law.

[6:22 PM - Jan 12, 2018](#)

[https://twitter.com/Womans\\_Place\\_UK/status/952479072797552642](https://twitter.com/Womans_Place_UK/status/952479072797552642)

But in spite of protestations, Chief Executive Office Sarah Donaldson, has said that the Meeting Hall will run the event, stating that “that the group are hosting a debate concerning changes to the Gender Recognition Act and is not campaigning against trans people in general”.

“The event that is taking place this evening has been organised by a group called Woman’s Place UK. There is a strand of opinion that say they are a transphobic hate group, but they deny that they are,” says Donaldson.

“At this point, I’m concluding my investigation in relation to a point that’s been raised with me but I’ve not cancelled the event.

“I recognise that whether the event goes ahead or not, some people will feel hurt and upset about that.

My understanding is that the group are hosting a debate concerning changes to the Gender Recognition Act and is not campaigning against trans people in general. There are clearly differences in opinion as to whether they are or are not a transphobic hate group, and I appreciate that for some people that whatever decision I make will be disappointing and hurtful.”

In the group's forming mission statement, they say that "the accusation of "transphobia" should not be used to shut down women's voices."

"Respectful and evidence based discussion about the impact of the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act to be allowed to take place and for women's voices to be heard," reads the statement.

"Too often women are silenced, threatened, trolled, harassed and even physically assaulted for daring to engage in a discussion about the possible consequences of a legislative change."

Quakers as a whole are considered to be supportive of the LGBT community and its rights.

[The Quaker Gender and Sexual Diversity Community](#) are a faction dedicated to supporting quakers of all sexual orientations and genders.

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/01/17/exclusive-quakers-to-host-anti-trans-activists-who-want-to-abolish-gender-recognition-law/>