



23rd April 2025

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP,
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Ms Abbott,

Labour policy on transgender people will leave a stain as bad as Section 28

I am writing as a constituent, and former member of the local Labour party, to express my horror at the recent shift of Labour policy towards transgender people. As a gay man myself, I know trans people; they are my friends; and they are deeply worried, and scared.

It has been with a mounting sense of disgust that I have seen more and more politicians jump on a bandwagon that seeks to portray trans people as mentally ill, troubled individuals who don't really know what they want.

Or, if they do know what they want, they're cast as predatory, 'pretending' to be women, simply to gain access to toilets and assault other people. It's no surprise that when making accusations like this, only one or two people are ever held up as examples – because if you look hard enough, you can find a bad example in any group.

But to focus on those is, frankly, the same sort of stereotyping and bigotry that we saw in the 80s and early 90s, when any gay person was considered a danger to children; newspapers screamed about "mincing poofers" and denounced sportswomen like Martina Navratilova as a danger to children.

I'm sure you'll also remember how the idea of black men as rapists has so often been used as an excuse for other bigotry. And you must know that women are at most danger not from strangers in a bathroom or changing room, but from those whom they already know.

Painting trans people as inherently a danger – which is what much of the rhetoric about access to facilities ultimately boils down to – is nothing more than the same nonsense peddled about countless other groups, including lesbians and gay men, in the past.

Both trans people and others in the LGBT community know that we have much in common; though some finer details may differ, we all want to be able to live our true lives, to love whom we want, and to be able to access jobs, housing and public services without discrimination.

Yet the recent actions of the Labour party are giving many of us great cause for concern; the overwhelming majority of us accept trans people as they say they are; in survey after survey, lesbians are amongst the most accepting of trans women, notwithstanding the Supreme Court's misguided conception that they can define who is or is not a lesbian.

It's not so long ago that the leader of the Labour Party used the identity of Brianna Ghey to score points in the House of Commons; it now appears that far from actually caring about the victim of an awful crime, he saw her simply as a political prop. Now, if we are to take his spokesman at their word, he'd refuse even to acknowledge Brianna's gender. What mindless cruelty!

We see also the policies of Wes Streeting at the NHS, who appears to be carrying on his own personal crusade against trans healthcare, citing as ever the widely discredited Cass Report.

People, both young and old, will suffer directly because of the changes to trans healthcare; some are already being told by GPs that they can no longer have the drugs they need. Younger ones have been told they simply won't get any care. How is this fair? How is this right?

It feels very much to me as if the attacks on trans people are the thin end of the wedge, and instead of going along with them to please potential billionaire donors, the Labour party ought to have had the guts to stand up to them, and say trans people are not predators, trans people do deserve to live safely in their acquired gender, and young people deserve compassionate care.

Instead we have reports and Supreme Court judgements made by people who heard no trans voices, considering them too biased to listen to, while those who rail against them have been repeatedly indulged. It's like forming policy on multiculturalism by listening only to the feelings of white British people.

On top of all this, there have been reports that the US may pressure the UK Government to drop anti-LGBTQ hate speech laws in order to get a trade deal. We all know that no trade deal with the US will come anywhere near replacing the losses caused by Brexit, and any sane government would be looking to fix those, rather than pandering to the right.

Yet this is what we have to expect now. As a young person in my 20s and 30s, I had faith that the Labour party would stick up for my rights as a gay man. As I approach the last years of my 50s, I am horrified to see that the party of which I was once a member now seems determined to leave on our community a stain as bad as Section 28.

Yours sincerely,

