

Supreme Court Ruling

By Andrea Brookes April 2025

Sorry if this is late but I have had a difficult to cope with day today as I am sure I am not alone in, seeming to alternate between despair, crying and anger - the latter has got the upper hand at the moment. Anyway here are as promised, two analyses of the ruling which seem to conflict with each other which is probably a reflection on the confusion that was in the ruling itself.

[My attempt to summarise today's ruling, with a little bit of editorialising](#)

By u/not_caoimhe in r/transgenderUK and

<https://www.wearequeeraf.com/uk-supreme-court-rules-that-trans-women-arent-women-under-the-equality-act-2010/>

Reply by Joanne Cooper April 2025

I wonder where these definitions leave people who were born intersex? The trans women and men that I know are no threat to anyone, just lovely people who will now probably become more fearful. Is this an example of culture wars crossing the Atlantic? I wonder if there will now be more court cases to clarify this decision? Let's hope that things do become more tolerant, please don't lose heart.

Reply by Joanne Cooper April 2025

I wonder if the law of unintended consequences will now mean that trans men who may have a deep voice, a full beard and bulging biceps have to be treated in women's only spaces as they are female by birth even if their appearance is very different. I would imagine that could be a problem in hospital wards or refuges etc. Also if someone is a woman by birth, but doesn't look very feminine or dress feminine will she be asked to prove her gender?

It worries me that after this ruling trans people who just want to be themselves and live their best lives are facing uncertainty and worry. I just hope that local discretion and common sense will prevail.

Reply by Andrea Brookes April 2025

Well we certainly got on the news yesterday

Yesterday was the first day of protests against the Supreme Court ruling and there were protests held across the UK with more planned today and over the ensuing months and I would really encourage anyone that is concerned about their lives being disrupted by this ruling going along to show solidarity, you don't have to go and speak, you don't have to go dressed, just go along and show support, you will not feel out of place however you turn up - the more the number the more press coverage we get and we need press coverage on our side now more so than at many other times in the past.

Somewhere in excess of 20,000 people attended the protest in London, our small impromptu one in Reading made about 100, other cities and towns had similar great numbers turnout. I was so gratified by this as there had been no more than 24 hours to prepare and get it advertised and posted, I really did not know if I would be speaking to the pigeons or a crowd, fortunately it

became the latter and there were so many moving and emotional stories from trans, non-binary, intersex, genderfluid, allies and cis people, including one that had me virtually on the edge of tears from the mother of a young trans person and another speech from a 16 year old who should have been studying for their GCSEs instead of protesting, but they wanted to defend their life and their future.

So where do we go from here, there is a lot of energy that has built up, we need to channel that into generating some positive change, not sure what yet, but always welcome ideas.

And one of our Editors and Scottish correspondent has posted elsewhere that M&S has excluded a young lesbian from using the ladies in their stores because she looks like a man - this is obviously what women want (according to certain cigar smoking harpies) as a result of this ruling.

Below are some photos from the protest in Reading and separately I shall post my speech





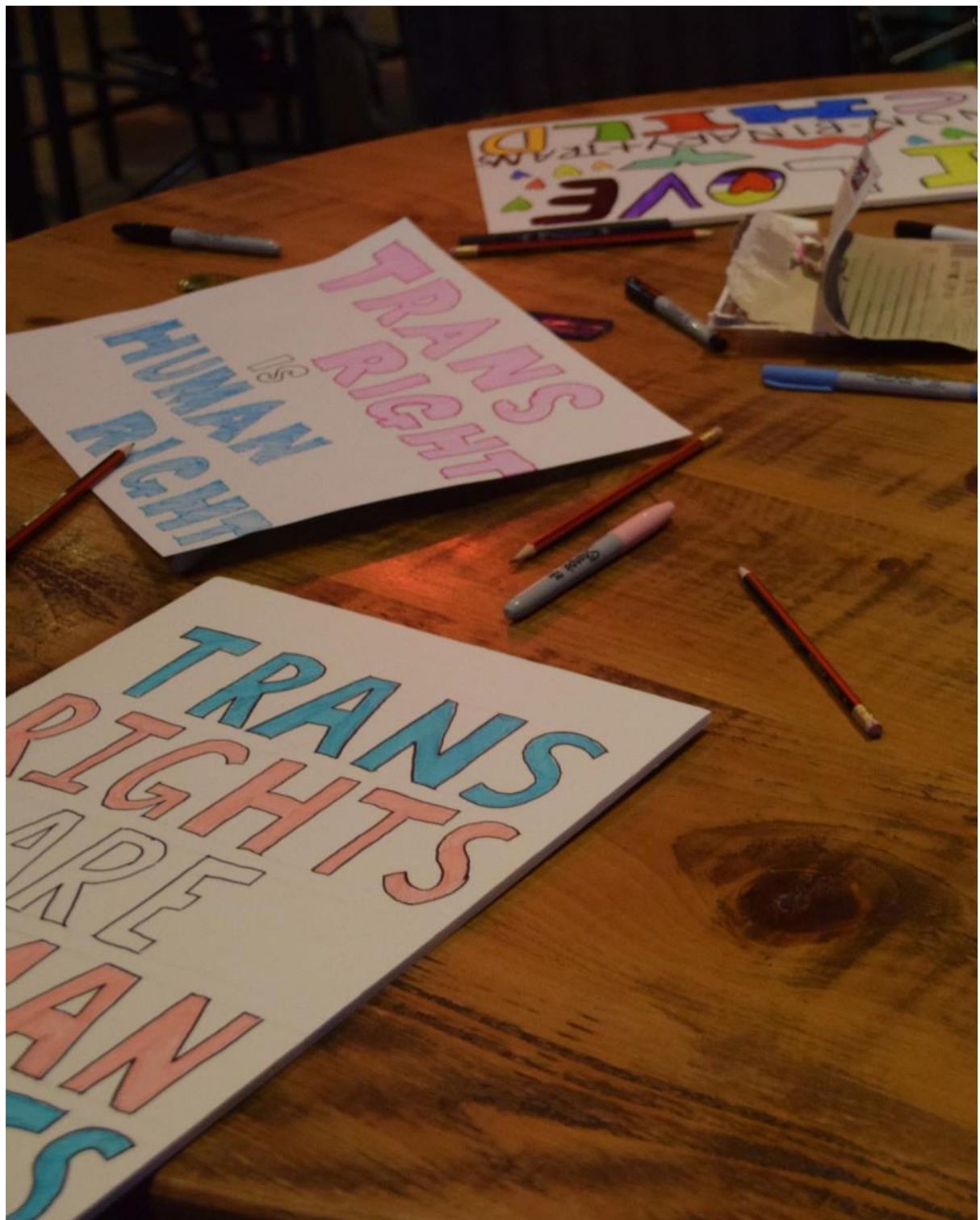
















And here is my speech from yesterday

Hello to everyone and thank you so much for coming along today to show your support for your trans siblings and condemnation for this awful and in many ways probably unsound discriminatory and transphobic ruling from the Supreme Court. One of the principals of the legal system is to hear both sides of an argument, that most definitely did not happen in this case as not a single trans voice was allowed to be heard, not even the recently retired only openly trans judge in the UK.

Wednesday 16th April 2025 will go down in history as the day that the UK lurched even further in its moves against equality and inclusion, something that many people would never have considered possible under a labour government. Just a few short years ago the UK was top of the nations across Europe where it was safe to be LGBTQIA+, last year it was 17th in that table, where will it be this year, just how much closer to Orban's Hungary?

The Supreme Court decided to interpret the intentions and expectations of the government that drafted the Equalities Act in a way that, as we discovered from one of those civil servants yesterday, was the direct opposite of those intentions. They had intended that trans people with a GRC would be afforded the same protections and rights under the law as cis people born of the same acquired gender.

A key phrase used was biological sex, so what does this mean? For the court it meant that if a person is shown as female on their birth certificate and if they look female, have periods, can reproduce have breasts and a vagina, then they are female – sorry trans men they didn't include you in this except by inference. But this is NOT the description of a woman, it does not include those who are born without reproductive organs or non-functional ones, it does not include those with Turner's syndrome or Swyer's syndrome and how does it describe someone with PCOS who can grow a full beard for example (this is not all sufferers of this condition but it can and does happen). Or any of a number of other genetic variations – do they now count as women? Does it depend on what they look like – is it really a beauty contest? Human biology is not simple and it is not common sense as any biology student at college would tell you. So much for clarity!

A little over 64 years ago, some chromosomes and genes in the fetus that eventually became me started working and created what would eventually become male sexual organs. About six months later some more activity happened which would later develop into the super-sized walnut that is my brain. These were not controlled by the same DNA sections, nor by the same chromosomes and genes and they can and do differ. As I now know that brain was and is a female one.

This dichotomy led me throughout my life into a constant struggle between what my brain told me was right and what society especially but also those lower organs told me was right. This struggle eventually led to two suicide plans being made, fortunately not executed, but the plans were laid. Until just over five years ago I came to the decision to do something about it – this was the only decision I made about this, the rest of it just was me and internal conflicts. Now I have transitioned as far as I can and all those thoughts of suicide have gone and I am a happy contented woman, living my life in peace and harmony, except for the normal stresses and strifes of living. That is until this week when a judge denied my, our, existence as valid and I spent the rest of the day alternating between bouts of crying, depression, anger and suicidal thoughts. That was when I decided that I was not going to give those ravening bigoted transphobic harpies I saw celebrating their "victory" the satisfaction.

So to answer that question, my chromosomal biology may be male (I don't know I've never looked and neither have they), my cell biology certainly of the largest number of human blood cells is female, my brain is female, my hormones are female, I am female, I am a woman, a human adult female.

If you will I would like to say something about so called safe spaces, they are not, at best they are safer spaces. I am going to quote from a post that I reposted last night from Ali Brown:

“I am a cis woman and have never once in the whole of my life been placed at risk, threatened or attacked by a trans woman in a bathroom or other single-sex women-only allegedly safe-space. I have, as a school girl and young adult been subjected to abuse from racist females in such facilities and seen a white woman verbally lashing out at a minority ethnic woman cleaner in a supermarket toilet – safe-space – for whom?

“Transphobes will never acknowledge the physical and emotional harm experienced by women and girls at the hands of other women and girls as it just doesn’t fit their agenda. Which makes it unsurprising that they ignore the abuse and violence meted out to women and girls both cis and trans, by cis males who are overwhelmingly responsible for violence against women and girls” This is not only a racist thing as other women have testified, it happens whatever the colour of your skin. It also happens the other way round as I experienced it first hand growing up and why men’s toilets are a danger place or at least somewhere I was reluctant to enter as the bullying was by other males.

They claim that we, as trans women, do this to gain access to women’s safe-places to abuse cis women and girls, they say this without any real evidence of course because there isn’t any. They also never explain why, if this was the case, we would put ourselves through the indignities of psychological examinations, probing into our thoughts and experiences, the costs of transition which can be tens of thousands of pounds – ask me how I know that. A process that lasts for years and years, during which you will be discriminated against, verbally and sometimes physically abused, lose friends and family, be treated as OTHER, lose jobs, income, housing, marriages etc. All of this just so we can go into a women’s toilet or changing room and do what? See what we can see better and clearer on the Internet, abuse someone, which we could have done on day one just by going into the space dressed as we were. There is no advantage I got from transitioning except the peace of mind and happiness to finally be one with myself. Perhaps that’s what’s really behind the hatred – they can’t stand seeing someone happy in their life as it must make you really bitter and twisted inside to carry all that hate against people who intend you no harm and do you no harm. Sorry to disappoint them but when I go to the loo I go to have a wee and to wash my hands.

I apologise to trans men, intersex and non-binary people if this has focussed on trans women, but you are largely ignored by them.

So what do we do about it? This is a start and allows us to come together and express our feelings, our anger and to find friends and others that are our allies or siblings. But we need to turn this energy into achieving something positive. Most importantly – BE YOURSELVES – be out be strong, be proud, find your community, post on facebook, tiktok, insta, bluesky even Twitter if you can bear it, mail and phone your MPs stress to them how frightened, diminished, scared, unjustly treated you are feeling, tell them how this puts trans rights back 20 years but also how it put women’s rights back too – especially those who do not conform to some patriarchal standard of feminine beauty, we know this is already happening.

Thank you

Reply by Jenny Seraph April 2025

What can I add to this? It covers it all. I am so proud to know you and have you as our press officer and political liaison.

We need as you say to carry on to keep on keeping on and being ourselves out their living and this ridiculous thing will be seen for what it is it is, unenforceable and the more we think about it the more we can see that it is truly a caricature of what gender really is.

Thinking through the scenarios. The diversity Are people using public facilities Boulders on the ridiculous.

One thing we do need to be mindful of is that this turf campaign is targeted funded and deliberate and looking for a particular response from the trans community so that we are seen as reactionary. We need to be above reproach in our responses to this because whatever we do the magnifying glass of scrutiny and prejudice will be used to discredit us.

The vast majority of ordinary people Out the living their lives and trying to make ends meet are supportive, caring, empathetic and kind we should not lose sight of this.

Reply by Andrea Brookes April 2025

The main focus of the coverage has been the graffiti on some statues around the London event. The Prides are considering helping the council to clean off the paint, which seems to be the chalk paint used to spray marking on fields for events. This would hopefully be a positive news story and perhaps would allow for the true story around the protest to be told.