



29th April 2025

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities
Department of Education
By Email

Dear Bridget,

I am writing to send you a copy of a letter from a constituent who has a teenage trans daughter. I appreciate that forwarding this correspondence directly to you as Secretary of State is not usual procedure and I would normally write to the Minister with day-to-day direct responsibility. However, I wanted to make you directly aware of how difficult the current situation is for trans people following the recent Supreme Court ruling of 16 April in the “For Women Scotland” case.

The message below is one of hundreds of emails that has come in from concerned constituents. I have pulled this one out to send to you as it so powerfully demonstrates the very real and serious impact the ruling is having.

I urge you to take steps to protect this already marginalised community and would greatly appreciate a response to my constituent's concerns.

My very best wishes,
Sian

Dear Sian,

We've met previously a couple of times regarding my trans daughter, at your Brighton surgery and at Westminster.

Thanks for the statements you have been making on behalf of trans and non binary people following the ruling. Your ally ship is seen and it is valued.

I don't need to list the ways in which this whole situation, from excluding trans people in the case itself, to the ruling to the way it is being reported and spoken about in parliament is causing the deepest distress to trans people, their friends and family as I know you are only too aware.

But to get personal, my husband and I have been crying on and off for a week now, and barely sleeping, with shock and disbelief at the cruelty towards and safety implications for our 14 year old trans daughter. For her schooling, for her ability to use public services like the library, to do basic things like shop for clothes and god forbid she gets ill and has to go to hospital. She is thriving as a trans young woman and we see all that being taken away for no other reason as sheer bigotry and hatred as it is inconceivable that she would use the boys' spaces. She transitioned 6 years ago and lives every minute of every day as the beautiful young woman she is.

To see judges, the media and MPs from across the chamber refer to people like her as men and boys - the lack of empathy and compassion, the erasure of her transition, literally is outrageous and I will never forget as long as I live watching Parliament live yesterday and not a single trans person was present as, just like the case itself, they were discussed, degraded and dehumanised with their rights being callously removed. Shame on our Government and this country.

We are now discussing plans to leave the country - having previously talked about it being a last resort it now feels increasingly necessary. It would mean having to leave my elderly parents behind and I am truly heartbroken to even have found myself in this position. I am a cisgender woman and NONE of this is in my name.

How can it be that voices like mine count for nothing and I can literally be having to consider leaving the country as a political refugee when this whole crazy situation is supposed to be about making women like me feel safe. Oh the irony!

Sian - please keep doing what you're doing to represent us. If there was any way to get us in front of Bridget Phillipson or any other equalities person in the Government that would be amazing. Mothers like me will fight with what little energy still remains after the last few years of non stop state sponsored abuse on trans healthcare and human rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Siân Berry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Siân Berry MP
Green Party, Brighton Pavilion