



Safe Schools Alliance UK



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## Recipient Addresses Redacted

24th June 2019

## Recipient Names Redacted

### Re: Draft of National Schools Guidance on Supporting Transgender Children

We are Safe Schools Alliance UK, a group of concerned parents, grandparents, teachers, governors, health professionals and education professionals. We are from a range of different backgrounds and have no religious or political affiliation.

We are a grassroots movement, formed of people from around the UK, who have come together because we are concerned about the influence of transgender ideology in our schools. We have seen our children's schools told to accept guidance which claims to challenge gender stereotypes, but which in fact reinforces them; guidance which removes the right of schoolchildren to access single sex spaces, such as changing rooms, toilets and overnight accommodation, even if the result will be to exclude some girls from school activities; guidance which enables the keeping of secrets from parents, and which unquestioningly accepts the use of breast-binders, and the possibility of hormones and surgery on our children's healthy bodies.<sup>1</sup>

We have been informed by the local authorities that we have spoken to that it is the responsibility of our schools to carry out Equality Impact Assessments, to ensure that they are considering all of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act, and not just gender reassignment.

Our members who are teachers, governors and parents know that this is not realistic. Schools rely on the local authority to provide accurate guidance.

However, the local authorities are currently relying on advice originating from Stonewall, Mermaids, Allsorts and Gendered Intelligence. These are all campaigning charities and lobby groups which do not carry out clinical or academic research into the subject on which they are advising LEAs, nor do they profess any concern to maintain equal rights.<sup>2</sup>

These charities lobby for a particular approach to gender-questioning young people, which involves affirming them as transgender in a way that is unsupported by the medical evidence.<sup>3</sup> Given the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5888a640d61795123f8192db/5bb6216a5253bf4eea4ebeb9\\_Trans\\_Inclusion\\_Schools\\_Toolkit\\_Version\\_3.2\\_2018.pdf](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5888a640d61795123f8192db/5bb6216a5253bf4eea4ebeb9_Trans_Inclusion_Schools_Toolkit_Version_3.2_2018.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://womansplaceuk.org/references-to-removal-of-single-sex-exemptions/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmjebmspotlight/2019/02/25/gender-affirming-hormone-in-children-and-adolescents-evidence-review/?fbclid=IwAR2x03nbwvufD-1LR0q8pItSe55BnMOyzC5gkwlm7NSzgGRv0lbt6HiEuc>



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recent involvement of Gendered Intelligence in promoting a sado-masochism and fetish art event to primary school teachers as a way of talking about gender identity<sup>4</sup>, we have serious concerns about the safeguarding checks carried out on these charities before allowing them to formulate guidance for schools.

We have challenged the current guidance in many local authorities around the UK, and as a result it has been suspended in Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. We are also aware that it has been withdrawn in Birmingham, pending review, and we know of other Local Authorities which have serious concerns about it. We are also aware that the Scottish Government has announced that it plans to replace the current LGBT Youth Scotland guidance on transgender young people, recognising that its approach “risks potentially excluding other girls from female-only spaces”.<sup>5</sup>

We understand that the EHRC are creating new guidance for schools on this issue.

Given the recent revelations in The Times about the close working relationship between the EHRC and Mermaids, and the EHRC’s apparent desire to “seek trans test cases against schools and service providers”<sup>6</sup>, we do not feel confident that this guidance will be created with the safety, dignity and privacy of all children in mind.

There is clearly an overwhelming public interest in ensuring that this guidance is something that will help schools to support all children, and will not create divisions between parents and schools. In the current climate, where any public voicing of reservations leads to accusations of transphobia, you will only get a representative view when people are able to contact you directly and confidentially.

We call upon the EHRC to:

- hold a **public consultation** on your draft transgender guidance before it is published, as you have done for other policies.
- Make public, as part of the consultation: all the stakeholders you have consulted about the draft guidance; the full submissions from all stakeholders; full details of your Equality Impact Assessment on the effect of your guidance on those protected by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act that are not gender reassignment, i.e. age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation; and, in particular, how you have assessed the specific impact on female pupils - up to the age of 18 - of being forced to share private spaces with male pupils who identify as girls

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.transgendertrend.com/gendered-intelligence-training-teachers-kiss-my-genders/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/statement-on-gender-recognition>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/parents-anger-as-child-sex-change-charity-puts-private-emails-online-tl0g5hwcg>



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We would appreciate a response to this letter within 10 working days. Please also acknowledge receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Safe Schools Alliance UK

**Signatories Redacted**