

Iain Anderson
Stonewall
188–192 St John Street
London
EC1V 4JY

10th July 2023

Dear Mr Anderson,

We wrote to you on 30th October 2022, when you became Stonewall’s Chair of Trustees, and said that you “believe in a big tent” and wanted to talk to women’s groups. You did not reply to our letter, other than to say on Twitter that “Stonewall will not invest time arguing with groups who are working to remove trans people’s rights or deny them their dignity.”

As far as we know, you have yet to meet with any groups of the sort which might indicate that your aspiration a “big tent” style of discourse is realistic or genuine. We also note that your organisation complained to GANHRI that the EHRC Chair, Kishwer Falkner, “has spoken in support of anti-trans ‘gender critical’ beliefs and appears to have liaised disproportionately with ‘gender critical’ groups in her capacity as Chair”.

We are concerned that Stonewall’s position of claiming to desire “big tent” diverse discourse is contradicted by your actions, which promote an environment of hostility and dehumanisation. Toxic discourse of this nature arguably gives rise to scenes such as those that unfolded at Trans Pride in London on Saturday, where a speaker incited the crowd to do violence to women and girls, saying: “If you see a TERF, punch them in the fucking face.” It is of great concern that the attending crowd cheered that statement, which amounts to a serious offence of criminal incitement.

Stonewall participated in that event, but has yet to condemn the speaker’s despicable and dangerous incitement to violence, or the reaction of the crowd. We find that extraordinary. We would any reputable charity involved in this event to unequivocally condemn any calls for violence irrespective of ideological positioning.

We have separately written to the Mayor of London and Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis regarding these matters. We take the view that sensible organisations must do

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Directors: Michael Biggs, Rebecca Bull, Julia Casimo, Naomi Cunningham, Maya Forstater, Emma Hilton

all they can to foster calm and reasoned discussion, which certainly includes swiftly condemning open calls to violence by convicted criminals (as in this case). We urge you to join us in condemning what was said, and work with us towards an open and respectful dialogue in which threats of violence such as this are not tolerated or ignored.

We continue to be willing to meet you. We would welcome the opportunity to assist your understanding of how women's and girls' exercise of free speech is adversely affected by violent threats such as these made at events Stonewall supports.



Maya Forstater
Executive Director

Helen Joyce
Director of Advocacy

Incident of incitement to violence at Trans Pride

At Trans Pride in London on July 8th 2023, a speaker was seen addressing the crowd using a PA system. He said: "If you see a TERF, punch them in the fucking face."

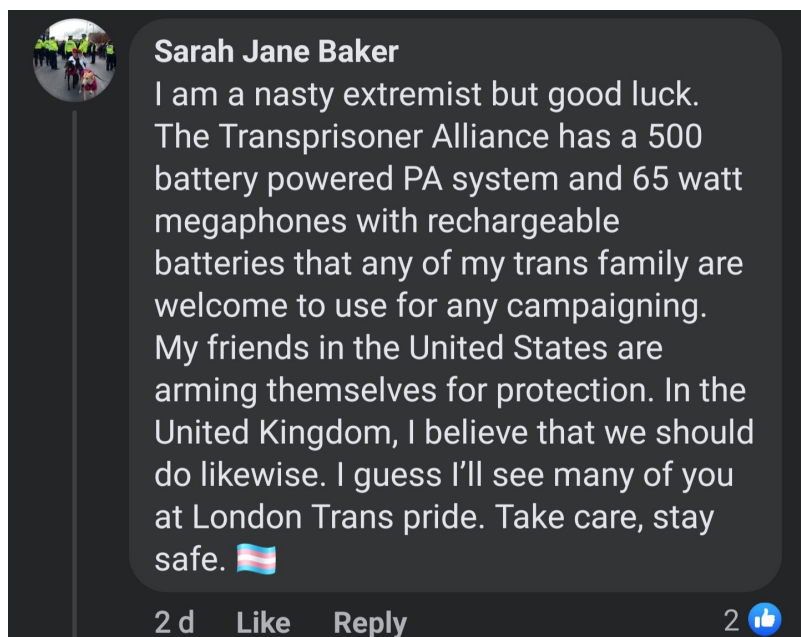
"TERF" stands for "Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist" and is a term of abuse generally directed at women who stand up for women's rights and who do not accept that men can be women. It is often associated with threats of violence.¹

The speech was captured on video by Dazed, and re-posted on the Pride in London Instagram. It has been widely shared on Twitter.²

The speaker was Sarah Jane Baker (formerly Alan Baker), a trans-identified male with convictions for torture, kidnapping and attempted murder who was released on licence in 2019.

A premeditated threat

Not only did the speech incite violence; it appears to have been premeditated. In a Facebook post before the Trans Pride event, Baker announced a plan to attend and speak, encouraging followers to arm themselves.



In the preamble to the speech at the event, Baker said: "I was going to come here and be really fluffy and be really nice and say yeah, be really lovely and queer and gay... nah. If you see a TERF, punch them in the fucking face."

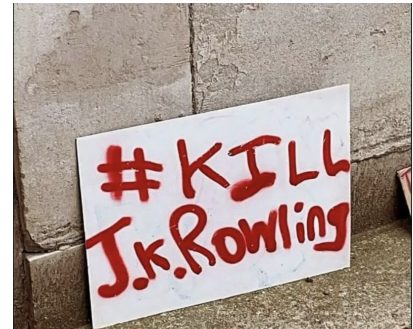
¹ www.terfisaslur.com

² <https://twitter.com/JammersMinde/status/1677959763873628161>

A pattern of escalating behaviour

Barker is a frequent protester against women's-rights events, for example outside the launch of the Lesbian Project on 25th March 2023 in Camden, and outside the Woman's Place UK event at University College London on 4th February 2023.

Barker has previously been associated with signs saying "Be Trans Do Crime" and "Kill JK Rowling" at Pride in 2021.



Barker appears to be able to act with impunity, for example on 24th July 2021 marching topless down Whitehall,³ and on 26th February 2023 unlawfully using a PA in Hyde Park.⁴



³

<https://www.newsflare.com/video/443699/topless-trans-woman-sarah-jane-baker-marches-ahead-of-reclaim-pride-march-in-london>

⁴ https://www.mumsnet.com/talk/womens_rights/4751462-let-women-speak-sunday-26th-feb-23

Metropolitan Police response

According to a Mumsnet user who reported the latest incident to the police, she received the following response:⁵

I have reviewed the matter you reported to us which relates to a Sarah Jane BAKER stating if you see a TERF you should punch them in the face.

TERF: trans-exclusionary radical feminism.

This is not a hate crime. A TERF is not a protected characteristic under the legislation. A TERF would be a person's opinion, whether this opinion is viewed as discriminatory in itself or not.

The female is suggesting (inciting) members of the crowd to punch individuals who act on this belief. This is not targeted at an individual, this is in a hypothetical situation. The crowd that were being spoken to were there for PRIDE day in London and were there for the purposes of expressing their support for LGBTQ+ members.

I believe the most appropriate offence may potentially be a PO s5.

I do not believe that this is proportionate to progress any further. We need to take into account article 10 of the ECHR – freedom of expression:

Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Human Rights Act 1998 reproduces article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which provides for the freedom of expression.

10(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.

I am closing this report without further investigation given the circumstances described above.

If you wish to speak with me further about this please do contact me.

Many thanks,

Daniel Warner
A/PS 263802
1141AW
Metropolitan Police
Charing Cross Police station
ERPT-B

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https://www.mumsnet.com/talk/womens_rights/4844898-if-you-see-a-terf-punch-them-in-the-fucking-face-speech-at-trans-pride-london-8-july-2023?