

Iain Anderson
Chair of Trustees
Stonewall

22nd July 2023

Dear Mr Anderson,

We note Stonewall's statement on 21st July which says it will never use its "precious resources on dialogue" with what it terms "anti-trans groups", which it describes in terms of "people who are vehemently against LGBTQ+ communities".

This statement is both vague and disappointing, since you have previously called for "tolerance and respect". You said in an interview with the BBC in February 2023 that Stonewall engages "across the piece" and in your interview with Beth Rigby of Sky you issued a challenge to organisations to engage in constructive dialogue towards a strategy for reconciling conflicting rights.

As you know, we have written to you twice asking for a meeting.

You may not know that members of the Sex Matters team were recently invited to attend a round-table discussion hosted by UCAS. Stonewall staff were also due to attend. On the day they sent their apologies. This may have been because we were there.

We are not "vehemently against LGBTQ+ communities" (or any other communities). We simply do not believe that any community can dictate to others what they must believe, or how they must act.

Please can you confirm:

1. Whether you consider Sex Matters to be an "anti-trans group" to which the charity applies its policy of not expending time on dialogue?
2. What specific criteria the charity uses to determine which organisations it blacklists from dialogue?
3. Whether this policy extends to not participating in meetings hosted by third parties which involve groups that the charity considers "anti-trans"?

If you do not consider us an anti-trans group, please accept our request for a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Maya Forstater
Executive Director



Helen Joyce
Director of Advocacy



Naomi Cunningham
Chair

Sex Matters is a human-rights organisation campaigning for clarity about sex in law, policy and language | sex-matters.org | info@sex-matters.org

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