

Sir Mark Rowley QPM
Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis
Metropolitan Police
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment
London
SW1A 2JL

10th July 2023

Dear Sir Mark,

On Saturday, at Trans Pride in London, a speaker incited a cheering crowd to violence against women and girls, shouting: "If you see a TERF, punch them in the fucking face."

Attached are a briefing on the facts of the case, a background note on the speaker, Sarah-Jane Baker, and a response from an acting sergeant of the Metropolitan Police to a complaint made by a member of the public.

We wish to raise serious concerns. Baker is a violent convicted male criminal subject to licence conditions from his most recent custodial sentence. The evidence suggests that his public advocacy for violence presents a clear risk to women and girls. We are deeply concerned that his offending is escalating, and it appears that the Metropolitan Police is not dealing adequately with it.

As our briefing makes clear, this offender has engaged in notional "protest" activities since release, all of which feature alarming indications of heightened risk. These include (but are not limited to) indecent exposure and unlawful use of an amplified public-address system in Hyde Park to disrupt a feminist event. In neither instance did the police act. This offender has now escalated to encouraging criminal offences while addressing a crowd. The only possible interpretation is that a man with a well-evidenced history of extreme violence has been emboldened by official inaction.

The Metropolitan Police's Violence against Women and Girls Action Plan states that:

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

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

“Working with partners, we aim to reassure women and girls across London and protect them from victimisation. We want to bear down on perpetrators and address behaviours and actions which target and harm women.”

That aim is difficult to reconcile with the response we append from Acting Police Sergeant Warner, and his remarks regarding freedom of speech.

Sergeant Warner selects and dismisses the minor charge of using threatening or abusive words or behaviour (S.5 POA 1986). No consideration appears to be given to more serious offences involving public disorder or the s.44 SCA 2007 variants thereof. We find that surprising.

Punching a “TERF” (i.e. a woman with gender-critical beliefs) in the face would be a serious offence, but Sergeant Warner says only this:

“The female [Baker] is suggesting (inciting) members of the crowd to punch individuals who act on this [TERF] belief. This is not targeted at an individual, this is in a hypothetical situation.”

The Acting Sergeant seems to suggest that the incitement to violence was justified on the basis that someone might act on their beliefs, or by the wider context of the crowd attending “for the purposes of expressing their support for LGBTQ+ members”.

The Acting Sergeant describes the offender as “the female” and uses the slur “TERF” without further comment. Baker is a violent male who been who claims to have severed his own testicles and eaten them.

The Police Code of Conduct calls on officers to act with honesty and integrity at all times. The oath of office requires political impartiality. Referring to a violent male convicted criminal as “female” strongly suggests partiality and bias.

We invite you to apologise for this inadequate response, to reopen the investigation and to meet with us and other gender-critical women in order to further and deepen your understanding of the frequent and often unpoliced threats of violence women faced by women speaking out on this issue. We wish to be quite clear: we regard the events of today as evidence of a clear pattern of rising risk in Baker’s case, and we request that you attend to your duty to protect women and girls from open and disgraceful calls of violence.



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."

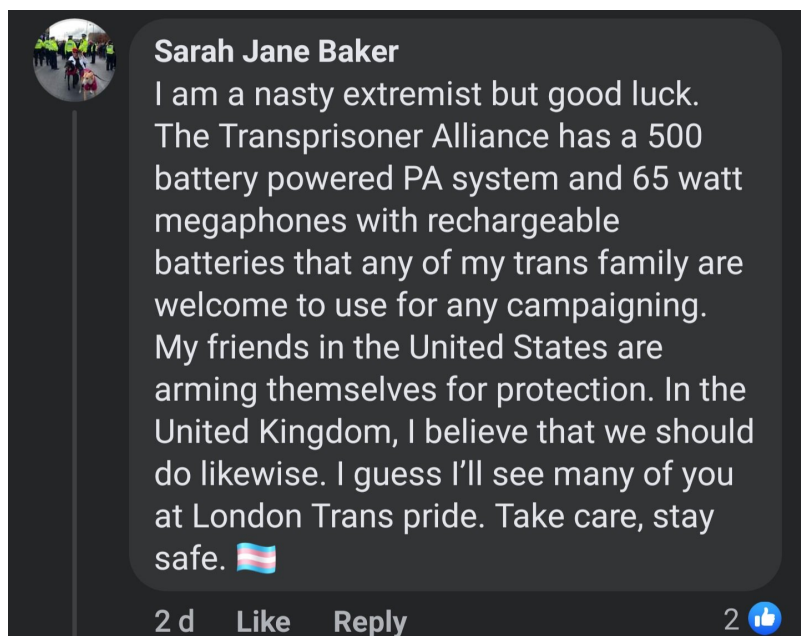
"TERF" stands for "Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist" and is a term of abuse generally directed at women who stand up for women's rights and who do not accept that men can be women. It is often associated with threats of violence.¹

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."

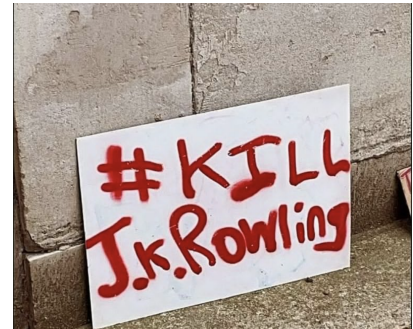
¹ www.terfisaslur.com

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?