

Andrew Haines, CEO Network Rail
Sir Peter Hendy, Chair

28th January 2024

Dear Andrew Haines and Sir Peter Hendy,

Network Rail rightly has a policy of no political advertising at its stations. This is strongly enforced. In 2020 you removed a poster celebrating the birthday of children's author JK Rowling that read "I ❤️ JK Rowling" on the grounds that it was too political. You have also refused advertisements from Amnesty International.

Yet this week you unveiled a highly political display at London Bridge Station including the polyamory flag, pansexual flag, gender-queer flag, transgender flag and several other flags.

The launch picture suggests that the concerns of female staff and passengers were not considered in planning this display.



The flags now on display at London Bridge belong to a political movement that is not simply about non-discrimination, but is about imposing the belief that gender identity replaces sex on everyone. It views

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

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those who disagree (those who hold “gender critical” views) as fair game for intimidation, harassment and discrimination. This display of political flags is intimidating to anyone who disagrees with this movement, whether staff or passengers.

The Chair of the LGBT+ network, Shane Andrew, responded to criticism by posting this message on Twitter.



The term “TERF” (trans-exclusionary radical feminist) is a misogynistic slur associated with threats of violence against women. Your manager claims that “Everyone matters” in the very same post in which he states that the women he calls “TERFS” are not worth responding to.

It is not the first time the Chair of the LGBT+ network has deployed this term (as well as b*tch, c*nt, sl*g and other misogynist insults) on Twitter/X. The tweet below shows Andrews responding to Joanna Cherry MP KC complaining about a shop assistant wearing a badge with a bleach spray bottle and the words “TERF repellent” on it. He congratulates the shop.



By permitting this clearly political display, National Rail sends the message that the LGBT+ Network is not subject to the same rules as others. This is likely to encourage them to feel they can act with impunity to harass and discriminate against those with “gender critical” views.

You should be aware of recent employment tribunals that have confirmed repeatedly that the Equality Act protects those with “gender critical” views from harassment and discrimination. (See Sonia Sodha in today’s *Observer*)¹.

It is also worth noting the range of people who have been insulted and disregarded by this display:

- **Women** who recognise that sex matters and want to protect single-sex services and sports (disparaged as “TERFs”
- **Gay men and lesbians**, who do not wish their sexual orientation to be used in this way.
- **Parents** who do *not* want to discuss what is meant by “polyamory” or “pansexuality” with their children in order to take a train.
- **People with so called “intersex” conditions** (disorders of sexual development) and the parents of children born with such conditions may well not appreciate being lumped together with this movement. People with these medical conditions are either male or female.
- **Parents of children experiencing gender-related mental-health issues**
- **Wives and partners** of men who have told them that they are now women (“trans widows”) and who may be experiencing domestic abuse.

All of these groups are also amongst your staff and customers.

Not only is this display highly political, adult oriented, and aligned to misogynist ideas; it appears to be displayed with the full backing of Network Rail. Please will you urgently review whether this display meets your non-political advertising criteria, and if it does not have it removed before staff in other stations replicate it.

Please also issue a statement reinforcing that Network Rail does not endorse harassment or discrimination based on any of the protected characteristics, including religion or belief.

Yours sincerely



Maya Forstater
Executive Director



Helen Joyce
Director of Advocacy

¹ www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/28/jo-phoenix-open-university-court-victory-gender-sex-based-womens-rights?