

Sex Matters has a team of experts on the protection of women's sport: Fiona McAnena, Dr Emma Hilton, Dr Jon Pike, Mara Yamauchi and Cathy Devine

Fiona McAnena, Director of Campaigns

Fiona joined Sex Matters in March 2024 after five years working as part of Fair Play For Women, leading their successful sport campaign.

She has met with more than sixty national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport across the UK to discuss the issue of transgender inclusion in sport and its impact on fairness for women and girls. In January 2024, for Fair Play For Women, she published the first ever report on the impact of trans inclusion in sport in the UK. The report shows a widespread problem, affecting many women and girls all over the country, at all levels, from juniors to masters and at all levels of competition and participation.

She has also met with senior politicians across the political spectrum.

She has extensive media experience across radio and television, and has written on the issue, for example:

- *Spiked* (December 2023): '[The trans colonisation of women's sports](#)'
- *The Telegraph* (February 2023): '[Transgender inclusion in sport not "fair" when all champions will be young adult males](#)'
- *The Critic* (April 2022): '[The flawed science of trans inclusion in women's sport](#)'

Topics: Extent and impact of trans inclusion in women's sport. Status of policies across UK and international sport. Legal and policy issues. Personal testimonies. NGB positions.

Dr Emma Hilton, trustee

Emma is a developmental biologist at the University of Manchester. She is widely regarded as a leading voice on the science of sex differences in sport.

Her paper, '[Transgender Women in the Female Category of Sport: Perspectives on Testosterone Suppression and Performance Advantage](#)', co-written with Tommy Lundberg, is the most cited on this topic across academic publications and is in the top one per cent of all papers of all time, outperforming Covid and climate-change papers. Her work is cited in multiple international and national sports policies, and she is consulted by international sports federations and as an expert witness in the UK and USA.

She is a co-author of the 2024 paper signed by 26 academics responding to the IOC's *The International Olympic Committee framework on fairness, inclusion and nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations does not protect fairness for female athletes*.

Topics: The science of sex differences. Male vs female in sport. Testosterone suppression and its effects. Disorders of Sex Development (DSDs).

[Dr Jon Pike, advisory group member](#)

Jon is a philosopher at the Open University with a specialism in the ethics of sport, and former Chair of the British Philosophy of Sport Association. He participated in World Rugby's ground-breaking 2020 conference on transgender inclusion policy. He has published extensively on the philosophical and ethical issues around inclusion in sport, and on the inclusion of males with a transgender identity in the female category.

His published peer-reviewed articles include:

- *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* (February 2023): '[Why "Meaningful Competition" is not fair competition](#)'
- *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* (December 2020): '[Safety, fairness, and inclusion: transgender athletes and the essence of Rugby](#)'

He is a co-author of the 2024 paper signed by 26 academics responding to the IOC's *The International Olympic Committee framework on fairness, inclusion and nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations does not protect fairness for female athletes*.

He has worked with the World Anti-Doping Agency, UK Anti-Doping and the International Olympic Committee.

Topics: The meaning and application of key concepts in sport such as safety, fairness and inclusion. Novel concepts like "meaningful competition". Elite vs grassroots rules.

[Mara Yamauchi, advisory group member](#)

Mara is a former elite marathon runner and a two-time Olympian, coming sixth in the Beijing Olympic marathon in 2008. She won the Osaka marathon in 2008 and was runner-up in London in 2009. Between 2006 and 2022, she was the second-fastest British female marathon runner ever (2:23:12). Her book *Marathon Wisdom* was published in 2022.

She has spoken extensively in the media and at conferences on this issue. Her analysis of distance running events' entry policies and results shows the unfairness of self-identification policies and non-binary categories, and their disproportionate impact on female competitors, as shown in these newspaper articles:

- *The Telegraph* (April 2024): '[What is the point of non-binary marathon class if you can still flip-flop gender?](#)'
- *Sex Matters* (2023): '[The non-binary category in marathons](#)'
- *The Guardian* (June 2022): '[Ministers need to enforce fairness for females in sport – now](#)'

She has extensive contacts with female runners who have lost out to males in the Female category.

Topics: Extent and impact of trans inclusion in athletics and road running. Advocacy for fairness for women and girls below elite level. Impact of gender self-ID in parkrun. Race entry and eligibility policies.

Cathy Devine, advisory group member

Cathy is an independent researcher and former university lecturer in sport and physical activity policy, coaching ethics and sport and exercise nutrition. Her specialism is justice, equality and human rights in sport policy.

Her research among international and Olympic sportswomen, both in the UK and in Canada, gives her a unique perspective on the female athlete's voice on the issue of transgender inclusion in female sports categories, a voice which is usually silenced.

She is a co-author of the 2024 paper signed by 26 academics responding to the IOC's *The International Olympic Committee framework on fairness, inclusion and nondiscrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations does not protect fairness for female athletes*.

Her published work includes the chapter on sport in [Sex and Gender, a Contemporary Reader](#) (edited by Alice Sullivan and Selina Todd, Routledge, 2023).

Topics: Human rights in sport. Sex and gender. Female athletes' perspectives on sex and gender in sport.

For more information and to arrange interviews or quotes, contact: press@sex-matters.org