

Ms Helen Horton
Chair, Amnesty International UK Section

Date | 14 July 2026
Contact | 
Direct Dial |

Mr Sandy Ruthven
Chair, Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust

Ms Kerry Moscogiuri
Chief Executive, Amnesty International UK

By email only

Dear Ms Horton, Mr Ruthven and Ms Moscogiuri

BEIRA'S PLACE
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK PUBLICATION DATED 8 JULY 2026

We act for Beira's Place, a sexual violence support service for women across Edinburgh and the Lothians. Our client has supported hundreds of women who have experienced sexual violence in the course of their life.

As a human rights organisation, Amnesty International UK ("**Amnesty/You**") will be well aware that there is an epidemic of violence against women and girls. You will also be aware that the vast majority of violence against women and girls is perpetrated by men and that for women, recovery from sexual trauma is best achieved in a women only setting.

The Equality Act 2010 recognises that it is a basic right for women to have access to single sex spaces to recover from sexual violence. Beira's Place supports all women, regardless of their gender identity. For the avoidance of doubt, and as clarified by the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers*, whether someone is a woman is determined by their biological sex.

Amnesty Report

On 8 July Amnesty published a report entitled "*A growing threat; the anti-rights movement in the UK*" ("**the Report**").

Page 20 of the Report erroneously and maliciously categorises our client as an "*anti-rights organisation*" said to be targeting the rights of women and LGBT+ people in the UK. The Report accuses our client of having the aim of restricting "*human rights by undermining human rights protections in law and practice*". Furthermore the Report claims at page 4 that organisations including our client "*seek to weaken existing human rights protections and prevent further progress*."

To suggest that our client, which supports some of the most vulnerable women in society, is "anti-rights", is "targeting the rights of women or LGBT+ people" or is seeking to "weaken existing human rights protections" is grossly offensive and entirely without foundation. The sole aim of Beira's Place is to support women who have been the victims of sexual violence.



Beira's Place has been instrumental in improving the human rights of women, by providing the option of a genuinely women only service for those who seek to recover from the trauma they have suffered, more often than not at the hands of men.

Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Act 2021

In wrongly and maliciously categorising our client as "anti-rights" the Report is defamatory of Beira's Place and also constitutes a "Malicious Publication" in terms of the Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Act 2021.

To accuse our client of "targeting the rights of women or LGBT+ people" is entirely false and deeply damaging to the reputation of Beira's Place and those who use it. Having access to a single sex support service is a basic right which any woman who has experience sexual violence should be entitled to. It is therefore beyond comprehension that a supposed human rights organisation would genuinely consider that the work done by Beira's Place could be classed as "anti-rights" or "targeting the rights of women". We must therefore conclude that Amnesty is well aware that there is no basis for these very serious and damaging allegations and accordingly the Report is *per se* a malicious attempt to damage our client's reputation and also the reputations of the many other human rights organisations, LGB organisations, child safeguarding organisations and women's rights organisations which the Report labels "Gender Critical" and "anti-rights" on pages 19 and 20. Each of these organisations understands that sex is immutable and important in many areas of life, not least the availability of single sex spaces to recover from sexual trauma.

The damage which the Report has caused to Beira's Place, the staff who work there and the women who seek support is extremely serious. Since publication of the Report on 8 July Beira's Place has received threatening and abusive correspondence and a 600% spike in website visits from outside the remit of the service. It cannot be a coincidence that this spike has coincided with the publication of the Report. It has been necessary for our client to undertake extra administrative and digital measures and provide staffing support to mitigate for this disruption to their service.

There is also a grave risk that publication of the Report, which contains such egregious falsehoods will cause some women who would otherwise have sought help from Beira's Place to self exclude. The Report has wrongly labelled all associated with Beira's Place, including those accessing support as anti-rights bigots who are seeking to weaken human rights. This is a shocking way to describe those who are seeking help to overcome the trauma of sexual violence. There is no basis for these allegations, and our client, with the support of its founder J.K. Rowling, will not sit back and allow the reputation of Beira's Place or those who access its support to be tarnished in this way.

Remedies

We note that the Report has been withdrawn temporarily, while you conduct an internal review. It remains unclear whether you have any intention of re-publishing the Report, in its current form or amended.

We have advised our client on the legal remedies available and in order to avoid litigation we require the following :-

1. an undertaking from Amnesty that the Report and its accompanying methodology will be permanently withdrawn, together with a separate undertaking that the defamatory allegations directed at Beira's Place within the Report will not be repeated;
2. a public letter of apology posted on the front page of the Amnesty website, in terms to be agreed with us. The letter should be primarily addressed to Beira's Place, its staff and service users, but should also apologise to those listed as "anti-rights" and "Gender Critical" on pages 19 and 20 of the Report, who have been wrongly defamed by Amnesty for simply upholding the protected belief that sex is real, immutable and important in many areas of life. The apology must be signed by each of those to whom



this letter is addressed and must recognise that categorising any of those groups as “anti-rights” is without foundation and deeply damaging to their respective reputations; and

3. an undertaking that Amnesty will commission an external investigation into how an official report published in Amnesty’s name could contain such egregious falsehoods.

In the event that Amnesty is not willing to agree to the foregoing we will instruct counsel to commence preparation for court action. To this end, please ensure that no material of potential relevance to this matter is destroyed, deleted or disposed of. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing this includes any drafts of the Report.

Separate to this, as founder of Beira’s Place, J.K. Rowling will be making a complaint to the Charity Commission or other appropriate regulator and is supportive of any of those organisations listed as Gender Critical and anti-rights on pages 19 and 20 of the Report should they wish to take their own legal action.

Yours faithfully

