



Dear Ms Stewart,

We note that you attended and spoke at Edinburgh Pride on Saturday 22nd June. Following this, on Instagram you wrote that '...the SNP in government will continue to work hard to advance LGBTQI rights in Scotland'.

Scottish Lesbians also attended Edinburgh Pride on Saturday with the aim of raising lesbian visibility. We stood at the side of the parade with our banner, which consists of our logo (see above) and handed out our leaflets which, alongside our contact details, read:

'For exclusively same-sex attracted women. Campaigning for lesbian rights, wellbeing and community. We're always happy to hear from lesbians who would like to get in touch or be involved- contact us at scottishlesbians@gmail.com'.

You can see a photograph of the leaflet on our website here:
<https://scottishlesbians.org.uk/resources>

As the parade passed, a small group of young people stood in front of us with a trans flag to block our banner, and tried to prevent us from handing out our leaflets. One man tried to grab the leaflets from our hands. We were told to 'fuck off'. It was made very clear to us that we were not welcome at Pride. Despite this, we managed to hand out around 400 of our leaflets.

Following the event tweets appeared from a number of accounts variously describing our leaflets as 'looney shit', 'transphobic bullshit', 'misinformation', 'fiction', 'hateful crap', and 'propaganda'.

We were personally described as 'dangerous', 'bigots', 'fucking nuts', 'overtly anti-trans', 'insecure', 'extremely transphobic', and 'ugly cunts'. One commenter described Pride as 'a safe space for all LGBT people' but said our group should be banned from attending as we are 'dangerous to...trans'.

We have included below some screenshots of these social media messages:



In light of the comments you made at the commencement of the parade, we would be interested to hear your response to this abuse, and your comments on whether same-sex attracted women are welcome at Pride events in Scotland in 2024.

In addition, we have requested a meeting with you in your capacity as Equalities Minister (email sent 8th June) and would be grateful if, in light of Saturday's events, this could be expedited.

Best wishes,

Jenny and Lorraine

On behalf of Scottish Lesbians