



3rd June, 2020

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
President of the Board of Trade
Minister for Women and Equalities
King Charles Street,
London, SW1A 2AH
(sent via e-mail: truss@trade.gov.uk)

Dear Liz,

Firstly, may I thank you most warmly for your fine work on Trade and Industry, a subject of overwhelming importance as we move towards even wider and deeper cooperation in the world market. Your leadership of our US negotiations is of the highest value.

I write a for a second time on your other portfolio, Minister for Women and Equalities. I have received your reply to my letter of 1st May in which you kindly covered a number of the issues which I had raised.

Nonetheless my concern at the misinterpretation of equalities legislation by Stonewall, has been rightly heightened by a number of lesbian correspondents whose points are well set out in the letter of 3rd February from Aileen McColgan on behalf of LGB Alliance to Rebecca Hilsenrath which I attach. You will note the similar damaging actions against Lesbians as a group and as individuals to those I raised for women in general. It would seem, therefore, that Stonewall's single issue, promotion of transgenderism, has excluded women (the protected right) and thereby significantly harmed lesbians too. I find this doubtlessly unintended impact on a highly respected part of our society as deeply regrettable and one that surely needs your early attention.

..... /

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP

It seems clear that Stonewall single issue teaching, training and advice right across Government departments with no balancing advice is now causing deep unhappiness and employment fissures across our society.

Might it be now be the right time for you to investigate and report back on how this unique situation arose? If the EOC is too preoccupied or unwilling to do so maybe a separate examination should be put in hand. I attach my letter to Gavin Williamson on HSE where it seems that use of Stonewall teaching materials will mean more court cases and greater public unease.

I would be delighted to meet and discuss this issue.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

cc: Letter from LGB Alliance
Letter to the Rt. Hon Gavin Williamson