



28th April, 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,

Congratulations on your clear and firm statement as Minister for Women and Equalities to the House of Commons last week.

This issue affects us all.

I write as a former member of relevant parliamentary committees in Brussels, Strasbourg and Westminster; a past Director of Save the Children, Ambassador for WHO; present chair of two INGOs working with abused girls and women on trafficking and rape, chair of the House of Lords Ad Hoc Committee on PSVI; and immediate past member of the joint parliamentary committee on Human Rights.

My concern is that Government Guidelines on Sex and Gender throughout the system misrepresent relevant Acts to claim obligations and rights which are not true in law.

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I see that the wording of the Equality Act 2010 has been distorted which results in departmental and institutional Guidelines which differ significantly from the Act; and have been wrongly laid down as correct. This has resulted in major alterations to long held and scientifically accepted standards and practices across a wide range of official bodies, including but not limited to the following institutions:

- EHRC: Services Code
- GEO: Providing Services for transgender customers
- Ministry of Justice: The Care and Management of Individuals who are Transgender
- DHSC: NHS Guidelines on delivering single-sex accommodation to transgender patients
- DfE: Relationship Education Guidelines (Primary Schools)
- CPS: Guidance to Schools re LGBT+ Hate Crimes

I attach a full listing of inaccurate institutional statements which have resulted in extraordinary results for the professionals required to implement the Guidelines and for the population, especially girls and women whose traditional rights to privacy, dignity, personal identity and honour have been distorted and bent outside all recognition of normal behaviour patterns. I work on a daily basis with minority faiths for example, where divisions are widening instead of shrinking because of this.

I am absolutely delighted that you have taken on the Portfolio of Women and Equalities and hope that the issues I identify can be swiftly and vigorously addressed. I look forward to your reply.

Yours ever,



Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

Enc: Government Institutional Guidelines on Sex and Gender Matters