



Open letter to the Medway community

Since 1911, when the first International Women's Day gathering occurred, the day has been marked in a variety of ways. Rainbows over Medway has worked on numerous projects with many partners to help in the fight for gender equality and stopping violence against women and girls. This year's campaign theme is Accelerate Action.

It has been brought to our attention by many in the Medway community, that there is a literary festival planned around International Women's Day during March 2025. Whilst this is something that we would normally celebrate and support, the director of this festival also coordinates the largest anti Transgender network in Kent and has on numerous occasions posted anti Transgender messages on social media.

We believe, as do the team at International Women's Day, that we should call out and challenge discrimination wherever we find it. Therefore, we call upon the organisers of this festival to publicly commit to the following:

- That Trans women are not only welcome, but valued at their events
- That no Transphobia in any form will be platformed at these events
- That Trans women are women

We hope that the community can be assured that this is indeed the case and we look forward to a welcoming, inclusive, diverse and empowering festival for all women.

#AccelerateAction #WeAreMedway

We the undersigned have chosen to accelerate action and to call out and challenge discrimination in all its forms

Shea Coffey, Rainbows over Medway

Sarah Coffey, Rainbows over Medway

Candy Penfold, resident of Medway

Onyx Rist, resident of Medway

Aimee Riddell, Spotlites Youth Theatre

Kieron Riddell, Spotlites Youth Theatre

Andrew Day, University of Greenwich



Kirri Grogan, resident of Medway
Michelle Trumper, resident of Medway
Olivia Tweedale, Loco Cabaret
David Stokes, resident of Medway
Angela Stokes, resident of Medway
Destiny, resident of Medway
Rick Pataky, resident of Medway
Catherine Howie, resident of Medway
John Hale-Brown, resident of Medway
Ashley Hale-Brown, resident of Medway
Alison James, resident of Medway
Elizabeth Coffey, from outside of Medway
Lynne Regan, resident of Medway
Sharon Jackson, resident of Medway
Karen Newby, resident of Medway
Declan Henry, resident of Medway
Jim Bullen, resident of Medway
Willow Hutt, from outside of Medway
Hannah Greer, from outside of Medway
Gill Cain, resident of Medway
Diane Robinson, resident of Medway
Ollie Parsons, from outside of Medway
Jessica Hudson, from outside of Medway
Robert Flood, resident of Medway
Jessica Skiggs, resident of Medway
Jolie Cooper, resident of Medway
Hilary Cooke, Medway Pride CIC
Meloney Geoghegan, resident of Medway
Neil Charlick, Gillingham Street Angels
Tracy Charlick, Gillingham Street Angels
Tonnie Keith, resident of Medway
Joanne Martin, resident of Medway
Jack Roach, resident of Medway
Allie Otter, from outside of Medway
Lisa Morgan, from outside of Medway
Holly Callaghan, from outside of Medway
Tyler Chitty, Herne Bay Pride
Kate Hunt, Herne Bay LGBTQ+ Society
Emma Stoddard, resident of Medway



Michael Hemchaoui, resident of Medway

Nancy Trumper, resident of Medway

Scott Macey, from outside of Medway

Stuart Symons, from outside of Medway

Denis Pepping, from outside of Medway

Kellie Milano, resident of Medway

Minna Janhonen, from outside of Medway

Becky Lamyman, from outside of Medway

Ally Staddon, from outside of Medway

Annmarie Frenchum, resident of Medway

Bethany Goodwill, resident of Medway

Ellen King, resident of Medway

Philip Kane, writer

Susie Green, Anne Health

Jane Lancley, from outside of Medway

Vicky Kelly, resident of Medway

Cerian Dantzie, from outside of Medway

Ruth Westbury, from outside of Medway

Rachel Walters, resident of Medway

Pip Hornsby, resident of Medway

Nik Duncan, from outside of Medway

Amber Peswani, from outside of Medway

Susan Parkes, resident of Medway