



# Women's Policy Group NI Response to OHCHR Call for Evidence on Challenges faced by women human rights defenders (WHRDs) working in conflict, post-conflict or crisis-affected settings

Women's Policy Group  
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## Introduction

The [Women's Policy Group Northern Ireland](#) (WPG) is a platform for women human rights defenders working in policy and advocacy roles in different organisations to share their work and speak with a collective voice on key issues. It is made up of women from trade unions, grassroots women's organisations, women's networks, feminist campaigning organisations, LGBTQ+ organisations, migrant groups, support service providers, NGOs, human rights and equality organisations, and individuals.

The WPG is endorsed as a group that advocates for women of Northern Ireland on a policy level and we use our group expertise to lobby to influence the development and implementation of policies affecting women. This group has collective expertise on protected characteristics and a focus on identifying the intersectional needs of all women.

This response was prepared by the following WPG members:

- Women's Resource and Development Agency
- Just Fair
- Women's Platform
- HERe NI

This response was endorsed by the following WPG members:

- Northern Ireland Women's Budget Group
- Migrant Centre NI
- Women's Support Network
- Women's Regional Consortium
- Human Rights Consortium
- The Rainbow Project
- Alliance for Choice

## Key points

In this submission members of the WPG highlight three key challenges faced by women human rights defenders in post-conflict Northern Ireland. This submission is not intended to be an exhaustive account of all challenges faced, thus the absence of an issue should not be interpreted as the issue being unimportant. The three issues we are highlighting are:

- 1. Abuse faced by the women's movement, as organisations and as individuals, for consciously taking an intersectional approach**
- 2. Race hate crime in post-conflict Northern Ireland and its particular impact on women**
- 3. The ongoing impact of paramilitarism on women and girls in Northern Ireland - including in relation to predatory money lending, debt collection, allocation of social housing and racism.**

### Protection gaps:

Several legislative protections gaps have been highlighted in this submission including:

- The lack of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland as provided for in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement
- The lack of official status on UNSCR 1325 in Northern Ireland
- The lack of a single equality bill in Northern Ireland, and the lack of protection for those experiencing multiple discrimination on the basis of intersectional characteristics
- The lack of an adequate working definition of hate crime
- The lack of a consolidated hate crime legislation model for Northern Ireland. An independent review of hate crime legislation, led by Judge Desmond Marrinan, published its final report in 2020<sup>1</sup>. The Department of Justice (DoJ) began to consult<sup>2</sup> on first set of these recommendations prior to the collapse of power sharing. In relation to the Phase Two Consultation, work on developing policies to be included in the Phase Two public consultation document has commenced. The remaining policy aspects relate to considering stirring up hatred offences; inclusion of age and/or sex/gender/variations of sex characteristics as protected groups; and exploring the merits of a statutory duty to remove hate expressions from public places. Plans are in place to publish this consultation in Autumn 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Available here: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/hate-crime-legislation-independent-review>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-hate-crime-legislation-northern-ireland>

1. Are you doing human rights work in a conflict, post-conflict or crisis-affected setting? Please **describe the conflict context** in which you work.

The WPG operates within the post-conflict context of Northern Ireland. 30 years of armed conflict named, 'The Troubles' resulted in the deaths of over 3720 people, 54% of whom were civilians. 47,541 people were injured, 68% of whom were civilians.<sup>3</sup> The small population of Northern Ireland (approximately 1.675 million in 1998 when the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement was negotiated) and nature of the Troubles meant that it impacted people in every walk of life in Northern Ireland and detailed literature already exists on both the gendered<sup>4</sup> and the intergenerational impact<sup>5</sup> of the conflict.

***"Nearly everyone who lived here during the Troubles is a victim in some way."***<sup>6</sup>

*Participant at consultation event, 2018*

The legacy of conflict remains, and Northern Ireland was recently highlighted as the [most dangerous place in Europe to be a woman](#). Despite this 30 year conflict, and the ongoing legacy of it, [United Nation Security Council Resolution \(UNSCR\) 1325](#) on women and peace and security has no official status in Northern Ireland, as successive UK governments have held that it does not apply in Northern Ireland.<sup>7</sup> Please read **Annex A** (Factsheet: women and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland) for more detail. One of the key human rights commitments in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement - the Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland - remains undelivered.

2. What **challenges** does the conflict, post-conflict or crisis situation present to your work as an activist?

Paramilitarism is a reality in Northern Ireland and continues to persist as we mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement this year. Paramilitary organisations continue to exist, despite, in most cases, ceasefires being in place. Please read **Annex B** (Factsheet: paramilitarism in Northern Ireland) for more background.

Paramilitaries are known to be involved in illegal money lending and debt collection and this particularly impacts upon those with limited incomes, especially women, as shown in research carried out by the

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<sup>3</sup> 'Fact Sheet on the conflict in and about Northern Ireland', Healing Through Remembering, June 2007, available here: [Fact Sheet for the conflict in and about Northern Ireland \(ulster.ac.uk\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> See for example the library hosted by the Women's Resource and Development Agency: [Women and Peacebuilding – Womens Resource and Development Agency \(wrda.net\)](#) and Women and the Northern Ireland Conflict on the CAIN website: [CAIN: Issues: Women and the conflict \(ulster.ac.uk\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> Consortium for the Regional Support for Women in Disadvantaged and Rural Areas, response to 'Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past', May 2018, available: [Prioritising Policy: Women's Perspectives \(womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> Consortium for the Regional Support for Women in Disadvantaged and Rural Areas, response to 'Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past', May 2018, available: [Prioritising Policy: Women's Perspectives \(womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> Please see **Annex A** (Factsheet: women and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland)' for more information

Women's Regional Consortium.<sup>8</sup> In addition there is evidence that paramilitaries are targeting food bank users<sup>9</sup> and other people experiencing the sharpest end of the current cost-of-living crisis.<sup>10</sup>

Without access to domestically enforceable economic, social and cultural rights, such as social security, an adequate standard of living (including adequate food, housing, and clothing) through a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, people in this part of the world, and in particular women, are vulnerable to this harm.

In addition, women human rights defenders have reported serious intimidation by paramilitary elements. As noted by the [Committee on the Administration of Justice](#) in April 2023:

*"Activists living and working in loyalist areas also expressed that they have only experienced intimidation and harassment from within their own community, particularly if their activism challenges loyalist control of an area or political space. For women activists living in loyalist areas, loyalist intimidation is deeply dangerous and traumatising, with activists forced to move out of their house for weeks on end and being required to have police monitoring their homes for years. These activists were forced to consider leaving their communities and their jobs for the safety of themselves and their families."*<sup>11</sup>

Advocating for gender equality in Northern Ireland often requires those working in the women's movement to have public-facing roles. For example, colleagues regularly present evidence to government bodies, departments and committees. The systemic and institutionalised misogyny in society means that women in public-facing roles are particularly vulnerable to abuse and harassment as a result of their work.

Members of the WPG and colleagues in the wider women's movement regularly face intimidation, online abuse and defamation following public appearances, particularly if they discuss paramilitarism in our society. For example, after giving oral evidence to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee in July 2021,<sup>12</sup> members of the WPG received threats and a significant amount of online abuse after discussing the impact of paramilitarism on women in Northern Ireland.

This kind of behaviour is difficult to challenge because its source is opaque, especially when it is by anonymous online accounts. However, quite often, this abuse is instigated by public figures in Northern

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<sup>8</sup> Making Ends Meet: Women's Perspectives on Access to Lending, Women's Regional Consortium, February 2020, [Making-Ends-Meet-Womens-Perspectives-on-Access-to-Lending.pdf \(womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk\)](https://womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk)

<sup>9</sup> [Spotlight: Paramilitary loan sharks targeting food bank users - BBC News](#)

<sup>10</sup> ['A culture of fear and secrecy.' How paramilitary-linked illegal lenders are exploiting the cost of living crisis - Investigations & Analysis - Northern Ireland from The Detail](#)

<sup>11</sup> JUST NEWS Special edition - The 'chill factor' in Northern Ireland April 2023, p. 2 [JN-Apr-CF-23-FINAL.pdf \(caj.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>12</sup> Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry, 'Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol', 7 July 2021. Transcripts of evidence available here: <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2530/pdf/> and here: <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2531/pdf/>

Ireland with a large platform and links to credible political leaders.<sup>13</sup> Comments made online are often deleted or removed, but the ideas and misconceptions they spread remain in the public realm. This makes it difficult for people within communities to discern factual information, which leads to mistrust. Many women feel disenfranchised, which in turn encourages disengagement with public affairs.<sup>14</sup>

The prevalence of hate expression in public spaces in Northern Ireland is another ongoing problem in which there is known to be paramilitary involvement. Racist and sectarian hate expression is particularly common, but hate expression targeting the LGBT+ community and women also regularly appears in public space. Hate expression causes significant harm to the communities it targets and is a contributor to housing segregation. Yet, despite this, the issue is rarely expressly dealt with or otherwise referenced in relevant strategic policy arising from public bodies.<sup>15</sup>

3. What is the **impact of your work** in your view; do you believe the work you are doing, in broad terms, is contributing towards promoting and protecting human rights and/or building sustainable peace? If so, please describe how and give examples.

Women have always been at the centre of peace building and human rights work in Northern Ireland. The Nobel Peace Prize 1976 was awarded jointly to Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan "for the courageous efforts in founding a movement to put an end to the violent conflict in Northern Ireland" through their movement [Peace People](#). To this day, members of the WPG work across organisations focused on issues such as racial equality, disability rights, reproductive rights, justice in the social security system, workers' rights, maternal mental health, and rural women's rights. The WPG has members drawn from trade unions, as well as dedicated women's, human rights, and peacebuilding organisations.

While the absence of an official status for UNSCR 1325 may mean women are not centred in many high-level political and peace discussions, nonetheless they continue to do the work of peacebuilding and human rights on the ground across communities day and daily. The women's movement has been keen to share our learning internationally so that other women, particularly in conflict-affected societies, can learn from our experience.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> See for example [Just News Special edition - The 'chill factor' in Northern Ireland](#), April 2023, p. 3 [J](#)

<sup>14</sup> Women's Platform (January 2023) [A Women's Vision for Northern Ireland project report](#)

<sup>15</sup> See CAJ's report, [Dealing with hate expression in public space in Northern Ireland](#), for an in depth analysis of this issue and how NI public bodies respond to it.

<sup>16</sup> See for example: [Women, Peace and Security: Women's Rights and Gender Equality: Strategic Guide and Toolkit](#), Bronagh Hinds and Debbie Donnelly, June 2014 and ["Unheard Voices Stories of Loyalist Women Growing up in Northern Ireland"](#) Her Loyal Voice, August 2022

4. How do any of the following **increase the risks** you face as a WHRD working in a conflict, post-conflict or crisis-affected setting: your ethnicity, race, religion, identity, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, gender, age, geographical location, class, social status or profession? Please give examples. If possible, also describe the **gender-specific nature of attacks** against WHRDs and/or their specific impact, taking into account the local context and social norms.

Racism takes on a particular guise in Northern Ireland. For example, race hate crime in Northern Ireland is often linked to paramilitarism. It is a reductive approach to say that a racist hate crime (e.g. intimidation with the intent of forcing someone from their home) committed by a paramilitary member, or on the orders of a paramilitary group, is a matter of race alone. In communities which have endured and suffered under paramilitary community control for decades, paramilitaries are incentivised to target perceived 'newcomer' communities, on the pretext of racism and xenophobia, to justify their grip and coercive control over the community as a whole.

The failure to date of the Westminster Government and the Northern Ireland government to introduce a Bill of Rights - which would protect not only civil and political rights, but also economic, social and cultural rights - is a missed opportunity to enshrine rights that would offer protection on the basis of race and gender in an intersectional manner. The continued failure to introduce a Single Equality Bill with protection for multiple discrimination to Northern Ireland further weakens protections.

The issue of policing is inextricably linked to the matter of racial justice and has been brought to the forefront in the Northern Ireland context with the disproportionate policing of the Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020. See **Annex C** (Factsheet: racism in Northern Ireland) for more information on these protests and the disproportionate policing reaction to them.

The Police Ombudsman's subsequent investigation<sup>17</sup> found that claims the police handling of 'Black Lives Matter' protests and a counter demonstration in 2020 amounted to unfairness and discrimination are justified. It was also noted that confidence in policing among some within the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Northern Ireland had been severely damaged. The investigation found that the situation had come about due to a failure by police to fully understand their human rights obligations. In addition, the report found that claims of differential treatment by PSNI of protesters on 6th June when compared with those attending 'Protect Our Monuments' on 13th June, amounting to unfairness and discrimination, had substance and were justified in the circumstances.<sup>18</sup>

While Northern Ireland does have a Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025,<sup>19</sup> this strategy was not reviewed in light of the pandemic, Black Lives Matter protests, and a timetable being established for the development of four additional 'social inclusion' strategies for NI.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Full report: [858a4b0b-9b99-4921-b947-5fae248ba683.pdf \(policeombudsman.org\)](https://www.policeombudsman.org/pdfs/858a4b0b-9b99-4921-b947-5fae248ba683.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Ibid p. 14

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/racial-equality-strategy-2015-2025>

<sup>20</sup> Announced here: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/social-inclusion-strategies>

5. Are there particular **types of work** you do in this context that may increase the risk you face, for example documentation of violations; advocacy – local, national or international; supporting victims directly; being part of movements seeking accountability?

As noted in our response to question two, work that is viewed as challenging the control of certain groups over particular communities is met with attempts to silence women human rights defenders. For more on this, please read, [‘The ‘chill factor’ in Northern Ireland’](#). In addition, as noted below in answer to question seven, the intersectional approach the WPG proudly takes has opened us to vitriolic online abuse on an organisational and personal basis. See **Annex D** (Factsheet: Online Abuse) for more details.

6. Have you or your colleagues been involved in, or had the opportunity to **contribute to, any formal peace or political processes**, from design to monitoring and implementation? If so, please outline your experiences. If not, what **barriers have you faced in participating** in peace processes? What steps would you recommend that would enable you to participate in the future?

See our **Annex A** (Factsheet: women and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland) for details on this. Women remain sidelined in peacebuilding, and gender equality has low priority in decision making.<sup>21</sup> The potential of UNSCR 1325 to rectify this remains unrealised because UNSCR 1325 has no official status in Northern Ireland. Despite 30 years of conflict and the gendered nature of the conflict, successive UK governments have held that it does not apply in Northern Ireland. We agree with the concluding observation of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2019:

*“With reference to the Committee’s general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, the Committee recommends that the State party take concrete measures to ensure the effective participation of women in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding processes in Northern Ireland, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).”<sup>22</sup>*

7. Do WHRDs operate in a safe physical and virtual environment? What steps do you as a WHRD take to **mitigate the risks** that you face in your work? (Are you part of any formal or informal network that offers support when a risk escalates? Do you have measures you put in place after receiving a threat? Do you have allies in other civil society organisations, the media, the government, embassies, UN offices? Have any strategies in particular worked well?). Are there any **WHRDs-specific networks and spaces** in the area/country where you work?

The WPG fundamentally opposes anti-trans policy making. We believe it to be part of an exclusionary narrative which seeks to undermine the principles of universality and non-discrimination upon which human rights are founded. Trans women are women, and they are amongst the most marginalised groups of women in our society. We reject the removal of trans rights being framed as the protection of women’s rights. You can view our statement of support for trans communities [here](#).

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<sup>21</sup> See eg. Northern Ireland Women’s European Platform (January 2019) [Shadow report to CEDAW](#) and [Interim shadow report](#) (September 2021)

<sup>22</sup> CEDAW Committee (2019) Concluding Observations of the examination of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, para 40



In Northern Ireland, taking this robustly intersectional stance has resulted in abuse aimed at organisations and individuals within our movement. Having been strong proponents of the right to reproductive healthcare in Northern Ireland, the members of the WPG are no strangers to receiving abuse for work done to defend human rights. However, the most recent wave faced in response to support for our trans siblings has taken on a whole new level of vitriol and tactics. We are glad that the [UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#) noted bias-motivated harassment and substantial amounts of abuse both online and offline, in response to efforts of human rights defenders to increase protections of the human rights of LGBT persons in law, policy and practice, in his recent preliminary findings following his UK Country Visit in April and May 2023.

As evidenced in **Annex D** (Factsheet: Online Abuse), women's organisations and the individuals working for them have been attacked. Accusations of fraud made, baseless questions raised about funding and activities they carry out, all with the aim of intimidating these groups and individual women into silence. This classic tool of patriarchal coercive control has found fertile ground in the online sphere.

Women human rights defenders in Northern Ireland have also reported facing swatting (hoax emergency calls to the police with the goal of a potentially violent police encounter); their addresses being posted online and photos of them being posted; reputational damage and its resulting impact on career prospects; and bomb threats at offices.<sup>23</sup>

Women human rights defenders also raised concerns that the PSNI are complicit in the intimidation they face, by seeming to adopt an attitude of 'you knew what you were getting into' in relation to harassment faced by activists engaged in work that upsets the far right, such as the defense of reproductive rights and the rights of migrants.<sup>24</sup> Once again, the police service, which is a duty bearer in terms of the realisation of human rights, can be viewed as failing to uphold this duty.

8. What are **protection gaps** for women human rights defenders in the area where you work? What further protection measures would you like to see:

Several legislative protections gaps have been highlighted above including:

- The lack of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland as provided for in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement
- The lack of official status on UNSCR 1325 in Northern Ireland
- The lack of a single equality bill in Northern Ireland, and the lack of protection for those experiencing multiple discrimination on the basis of intersectional characteristics

Other gaps include:

- The lack of an adequate working definition of hate crime

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<sup>23</sup> JUST NEWS Special edition - The 'chill factor' in Northern Ireland April 2023, p. 2 [JN-Apr-CF-23-FINAL.pdf \(caj.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., p.3



- The lack of a consolidated hate crime legislation model for Northern Ireland. An independent review of hate crime legislation, led by Judge Desmond Marrinan, published its final report in 2020<sup>25</sup>. The Department of Justice (DoJ) began to consult<sup>26</sup> on these recommendations prior to the collapse of power sharing, but they have yet to be implemented.

11. Do you, and WHRDs in your country in general, have access to **effective remedies to human rights violations** that take into account the gender-specific barriers women may face when reporting attacks and seeking justice? Are **investigations of threats and attacks** against WHRDs carried out promptly and exhaustively, and are they adequately prosecuted?

Please see concerns outlined above, particularly in relation to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (questions 2 and 4) and also the actions of credible political leaders (question 2).

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<sup>25</sup> Available here: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/hate-crime-legislation-independent-review>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-hate-crime-legislation-northern-ireland>

## Annex A

### Factsheet: women and peacebuilding in Northern Ireland

#### Women and peacebuilding

Women remain sidelined in peacebuilding, and gender equality has low priority in decision making.<sup>27 28</sup> Many women have limited voice in their communities, and the Covid-19 and cost of living crises have further marginalised women, who act as shock absorbers of poverty and take on debt, hunger and chronic stress in families and communities.<sup>29 30 31</sup> As many as half of low income women are in debt,<sup>32</sup> and some went hungry even before the Covid and cost of living crises.<sup>33 34</sup> [A Feminist Recovery Plan](#) sets out a detailed overview of issues, as well as actions needed to build gender equality in Northern Ireland.<sup>35 36</sup>

Priorities for women in Northern Ireland include:

- a stronger voice for women in decision making
- alongside investment in care, education, employment
- high quality core services, including safe public spaces for non-disabled as well as disabled women<sup>37</sup>

There is significant agreement on these priorities across age groups, social and community backgrounds, and women are increasingly coming together to build capacity to take action, for example through the Women's Spaces project<sup>38</sup>.

#### UNSCR 1325 in Northern Ireland

UNSCR 1325 has no official status in Northern Ireland, as successive UK governments have held that it does not apply in Northern Ireland. However, there is confirmation that the principles of UNSCR 1325 can inform policy and decision making in Northern Ireland. The All Party Group on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security has been in place as a cross party information mechanism since 2011<sup>39</sup> and enables dialogue on the women, peace and security agenda.

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<sup>27</sup> See eg. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (January 2019) [Shadow report to CEDAW](#) and [Interim shadow report](#) (September 2021)

<sup>28</sup> Women's Platform (January 2023) Shadow List of Issues report to ICESCR

<sup>29</sup> Women's Regional Consortium (September 2022) [Women living with debt](#)

<sup>30</sup> Women's Regional Consortium (2019) [Impact of ongoing austerity: Women's perspectives](#)

<sup>31</sup> Women's Regional Consortium (February 2020) [Making ends meet: Women's perspectives on access to lending](#)

<sup>32</sup> Women's Regional Consortium (September 2022) [Women living with debt](#)

<sup>33</sup> Women's Regional Consortium (2019) [Impact of ongoing austerity: Women's perspectives](#)

<sup>34</sup> Women's Regional Consortium (February 2020) [Making ends meet: Women's perspectives on access to lending](#)

<sup>35</sup> Women's Policy Group (July 2020) [COVID-19 Feminist Recovery Plan](#)

<sup>36</sup> Women's Policy Group (July 2021) [COVID-19 Feminist Recovery Plan – One Year On](#)

<sup>37</sup> Women's Platform (January 2023) [A Women's Vision for Northern Ireland project report](#)

<sup>38</sup> Women's Spaces [website](#), last accessed 4.5.23. This is a consortium project building women's capacity and confidence to engage in peacebuilding and public life.

<sup>39</sup> More information is available at <https://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/mlas/apgdetails.aspx?cid=283>. The secretariat for the APG is provided by [Women's Platform](#), a women's sector organisation acting as the

The UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security 2023-27<sup>40</sup> makes reference to Northern Ireland and domestic implementation for the first time, but implementation has yet to begin. The Irish National Action Plan 2019-24<sup>41</sup> takes an all of island approach, and the Reconciliation Fund<sup>42</sup> of the Irish government includes women and peacebuilding as specific priorities. This fund has been among the main funders of work on these themes in Northern Ireland, along with the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust<sup>43</sup>.

### **Legislative position**

Northern Ireland continues to rely significantly on equality provisions set out in the Northern Ireland Act 1998, which enacts provisions in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.<sup>44</sup> This legislation has not been updated and no single equality legislation is in place or proposed. As noted by the CEDAW Committee in its Concluding Observations 2019, protections for women and girls in Northern Ireland have fallen behind those for women and girls elsewhere in the UK<sup>45</sup> as a result.

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link between the sector in Northern Ireland and the international level, and there is ongoing dialogue between the APG and the sector, including information sharing and raising issues within decision making.

<sup>40</sup> UK Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence (February 2023) [UK National Action Plan on women, peace and security 2023-27](#)

<sup>41</sup> Ireland Department of Foreign Affairs (2019) [Ireland's third National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions 2019-24](#)

<sup>42</sup> Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund [website](#), last accessed 4.5.23

<sup>43</sup> Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust [website](#), last accessed 4.5.23

<sup>44</sup> Northern Ireland Act 1998

<sup>45</sup> CEDAW Committee (2019) Concluding Observations of the examination of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## Annex B

### Factsheet: paramilitarism in Northern Ireland

#### Background

Paramilitarism is a reality in Northern Ireland and continues to persist 20+ years after the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement. Paramilitary organisations continue to exist, despite, in most cases, ceasefires being in place and the conflict being behind us. Further, many of those who are involved in paramilitary activity are not the same actors that were involved during the conflict and the activities that continue to come under the umbrella name of “paramilitary activity” are not the same as those carried out during the conflict, and the nature of their activities has changed also.

Paramilitaries are known to be involved in loan sharking and this particularly impacts upon those with limited incomes, especially women, as shown in research carried out by the Women’s Regional Consortium<sup>46</sup>. This fact increases their control over vulnerable communities while also demonstrating the fact that they are a malign influence.

Race hate crime in Northern Ireland is often linked to paramilitarism. It is a reductive approach to say that a racist hate crime (i.e. intimidation with the intent of forcing someone from their home) committed by a paramilitary member or on the orders of a paramilitary group is a matter of race alone. In communities which have endured and suffered under paramilitary community control for decades, paramilitaries are incentivised to target perceived “newcomer” communities, on the pretext of racism and xenophobia, to justify their grip and coercive control over the community as a whole.

Paramilitary-run organisations continue to act as community organisations within vulnerable communities and many are in receipt of public money. These same organisations can act as gatekeepers within their communities, choosing favoured organisations to work alongside and choking off support to groups that may challenge or question paramilitary influence. These organisations are often highly male-dominated, leading to the silencing of women’s voices within the local community, while reinforcing gender divisions. This problem has been further exacerbated by the UK’s refusal to apply the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 to the Northern Ireland conflict, a situation which must be corrected in order to ensure peace, particularly at this sensitive juncture in our history.

We also see the repercussions of this in the relative lack of women’s involvement in politics and public life more generally. Recent research by the Independent Reporting Commission<sup>47</sup> confirms that paramilitary activity remains an issue in Northern Ireland, and laments that civil society has apparently learned to live with it. She describes the situation as one of “coercive control” of entire communities<sup>8</sup>. In addition, paramilitary affiliation, or alleged affiliation, is used to enact coercive control within domestic relationships and after they end.

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<sup>46</sup> Making Ends Meet: Women’s Perspectives on Access to Lending, Women’s Regional Consortium, February 2020 Making-Ends-Meet-Womens-Perspectives-on-Access-to-Lending.pdf (womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk)

<sup>47</sup> See Independent Reporting Commission: <https://bit.ly/3vTMpNA>

## **Evidence from Women's Policy Group and Women's Regional Consortium research**

Both the Women's Policy Group (WPG) and the Women's Regional Consortium (WRC) have carried out research that has demonstrated the continued and the specifically gendered influence of paramilitaries. Findings related to the following areas:

- Loan-sharking and illegal lending,
- Honour-based abuse,
- Control of communities,
- Gender-based violence and reporting,
- Online abuse and threats

### **Loan Sharking and Illegal Lending<sup>48</sup>**

Research by the Women's Regional Consortium<sup>49</sup> with local women in Northern Ireland found that the use of high-cost credit was widespread and showed a number of examples of borrowing through loan sharks including paramilitaries. It revealed that 6% of the women who took part in the research had borrowed through illegal lenders such as loan sharks including paramilitaries.

Women were more reluctant to talk about this type of lending as they understood it is a more dangerous form of borrowing and many were too afraid to discuss it at all. Some others did not understand it as a form of illegal lending and had just seen it as a local money lender operating in the area. Some of the women were aware of local loan sharks linked to paramilitaries but some of the evidence they gave was anecdotal with the women talking about friends, family or people they knew who had borrowed this way. All these factors combine to make it very difficult to understand the true nature and scale of this problem. However, there was a general acceptance among the women that the consequences of this type of borrowing could be very scary.

The quotations and case studies provided below have come from Women's Regional Consortium research with local women in Northern Ireland on the issue of access to lending.

*"I have heard of drug dealers lending money locally. They lend people they know are regular customers."*

*"When you borrow money from these dodgy lenders you will never get it paid off – they know you are vulnerable."*

*"You don't hear so much about paramilitary lending here anymore. It used to be a bigger issue than it is now. Now it's drug dealers lending money."*

*"My friend borrowed from them [paramilitary] and actually paid double back."*

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<sup>48</sup> Women's Regional Consortium, May 2022, Response to NI Affairs Committee: Effects of Paramilitaries in Society. Available online at: <https://www.womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Womens-Regional-Consortium-response-to-NI-Affairs-Committee-Call-for-Evidence-on-Paramilitaries.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> Making Ends Meet: Women's Perspectives on Access to Lending, Women's Regional Consortium, February 2020 Making-Ends-Meet-Womens-Perspectives-on-Access-to-Lending.pdf (womensregionalconsortiumni.org.uk)

*"My friend is a single mother and she was approached by an illegal money lender offering her a job. She was told to approach her friends and family and offer them loans. She offered me a loan but I said no. They will give you £500 and you have to give back £600 but it had to be repaid in a month. I warned her about this as she doesn't know what will happen if they can't pay it back. My nerves couldn't take it."*

*"You hear about a lot of people who get loans from paramilitaries they pay £30 on £100. Someone else said they pay £80 on £100 to a paramilitary. Everybody knows somebody that would lend them money."*

*"It is usually just done through friends or people you know saying don't worry I can get you a loan. If you don't pay them [paramilitary] they just keep putting it up."*

*"I've been to a loan shark – it's not good. The interest they put on. If you miss a payment they are at your door – you don't miss those payments."*

*"I have a debt to a paramilitary lender. On every £100 I pay £30. I pay it back every 2 weeks. On £1,000 I pay £300 interest. I work full time but still have difficulty making ends meet on a low income. You ask these lenders can I borrow £1,000 today and they will leave it round to you that night."*

*"If you don't pay back you get your windows put in first. I heard a local woman got her windows put in for not paying back a loan."*

*"The local paramilitary charges £40 for every £100."*

*"You get your knees done if you don't repay – there are so many things they can do."*

*"If you can't get a bank loan, a Credit Union loan because you have to have savings, or payday loans then after that it's paramilitaries."*

### **Honour-Based Abuse<sup>50</sup>**

Honour-based abuse (HBA) is a prevalent issue that is often misunderstood in Northern Ireland. While gender-based violence is usually described as violence that is directed at a woman because she is a woman or violence that affects women disproportionately, HBA is often described as the violence predominantly inflicted on women who are thought to have brought shame and dishonour to their family through actual or perceived immoral behaviour.

The Crown Prosecution Services describe HBA as relating to a collection of practices which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such behaviour can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. HBA can take place in many forms such as (but not limited to): threatening behaviour, assault, rape, kidnap, abduction, forced abortion, forced

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<sup>50</sup> Please Note: This section, taken from the Feminist Recovery Plan, is informed by the research of Coumilah Manjoo on Honour-Based Abuse in Northern Ireland compared to the rest of the United Kingdom. This research relates to how Inter-Faith, Inter-Racial and CrossCultural Marriages can provide additional challenges, including disapproval from families and communities, associations of shame, and the potential for honour-based abuse or violence (HBA/HBV). HBA/HBV is not an attribute to any specific culture, faith or religion - Manjoo, C. (2018) "'Shame' and 'Honour': Comparison of the Prevalence of 'Honour'-Based Abuse/Violence in Northern Ireland and the Rest of the United Kingdom', Queen's University Belfast.

marriage, threats to kill and false imprisonment. Worryingly, the UK is considered one of the worst areas within Europe with almost 3,000 'honour' attacks per year and 12 'honour' killings per year. Awareness for HBA is low in Northern Ireland compared to the rest of the UK. It could be argued that it was deprioritised due to ongoing issues relating to the aftermath of the conflict. However, rather than dismissing HBA as an issue that isn't as prevalent in Northern Ireland, an understanding of the unique manifestations of HBA within Northern Ireland must be developed, particularly in how cultural and religious beliefs and the prevalence of paramilitaries can also contribute to HBA.

A 2016 report on 'Intimate Partner Violence in Conflict and Post Conflict Societies'<sup>51</sup>, in collaboration with Women's Aid, highlights several examples of domestic violence and abuse being perpetuated due to links with paramilitarism and their values, community attitudes and traditional religious belief. The lack of understanding or discussion of the 'honour' element of this form of domestic violence will enable this form of abuse to continue as root causes and societal attitudes are not addressed. Further, failing to recognise the 'honour' element of abuse can further prevent victims from speaking up about the abuse they have endured<sup>52</sup>.

### **Gender Based Violence**

As previously mentioned, the Women's Policy Group has conducted several pieces of primary research into the experiences of women with a range of issues relating to gender inequality and violence against women and girls.

In total, the WPG has engaged with over 1200 women in Northern Ireland through this research. Although we did not directly ask women about their experiences with paramilitarism in this research, women repeatedly raised issues relating to paramilitarism and anonymously provided us with personal stories, which we have included below.

We received the following responses to the question 'Do you think there are any forms of violence against women and girls that we have not mentioned that should be included in the strategy?'

*"Revenge porn, involvement in organised crime eg prostitution, trafficking into domestic labour, paramilitary or gang violence or threats of to women - the gender specific nature of that eg threat of sexual violence, degradation or coerced sexual activity with male gang members to "initiate" into groups."*

*"Paramilitary, educational."*

*"Sectarian abuse."*

We received the following responses to the question 'Would you like to share any details about how you've been impacted by violence against women and girls and what age you were when this first happened?'

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<sup>51</sup> Jessica Leigh Doyle and Monica McWilliams, 'Intimate Partner Violence In Conflict And Post-Conflict Societies' (Political Settlements Research Programme (PSRP) 2018) 1-120

<sup>52</sup> See more in relation to a case involving an elderly woman who spent her life in a mother and baby institution and the impact this had on her long-term: Patsy McGarry, 'Magdalene Laundries: 'I Often Wondered Why Were They So Cruel'' Irish Times (2018) <https://bit.ly/3d7phom>



*"...Friend was held at knife point for two days by a group of three men who brutalised her body, tortured her with cigarette burns and hundreds of knife cuts and repeatedly raped her because she was lesbian. The men were paramilitary and lived on her street. She never reported it because the police and paramilitaries were on the same side. Her family left Belfast."*

*"Raped between ages 4-8, again aged 16, 25, 35. All of my relationships have been abusive, emotionally, physically, financially with coercive behaviour. My ex got his uvf paramilitary friends to burn me out of my Belfast home with our 2 babies in 2018, I had to flee to start over in Derry. The court process indulged his abuse, put the babies at risk, allowed him access to our children as a violent drug addict. He has no contact now, we are safe, but he refuses to pay maintenance despite working cash in hand."*

We received the following responses to the question 'What do you think are the root causes of sexism, misogyny, victim-blaming, rape myths and rape culture?'

*"The patriarchal, religious structure of the NI culture which is propped up by our history of violence and the political manipulation of deep seated fears of men involved with the troubles and the legacy of the troubles. This is further compounded by lad culture and toxic masculinity, where being a 'hard man' is revered and seen as a leadership trait in communities where community development is anchored in workers who are (ex?) combatants as role models. I also do not think there is a political option for equality based thinking outside the traditional split which means the issues women work to address are downgraded in terms of importance as politicians manipulate the legacy of the troubles to stay in power."*

*"Toxic masculinity especially that which is caused by the legacy of the troubles. Lack of proper integrated sex education in schools especially Catholic schools. General attitudes towards women and girls in terms of their place in society and what they can and cannot achieve/what they are good for. We have a real issue with "bro culture" with our young men and boys believing violence against women is funny or something that women ask for especially by dressing or acting in a certain way."*

We received the following responses to the question 'What do you think the barriers are to victims in reporting?'

*"Paramilitaries, threat from family members bringing shame on the family name."*

*"In Northern Ireland there are too many people connected to or pretend to be connected to or involved with paramilitaries. Also being threatened by their abuser. And loving the abuser. There's no financial support at all if the victim works. Even on a low income. I have seen that with my former colleague and also my friend when she and her dog got beaten up by her ex-partner."*

We received the following response to the question 'What sort of measures do you think are necessary to change men and boy's actions?'

*"Peace education from Primary school up. The militarization/paramillitarisation of our society stunts boy's emotional growth and promotes harmful ideas of what it means to be a man. Consent education. Getting them to understand what sexism looks/feels like."*

We received the following responses to the question 'Could you please expand on what additional factors need to be considered or what additional action needs to be taken to support these women?'

*“Women who are disabled are more vulnerable to many types of abuse particularly financial abuse and coercive control. Rural women are at increased risk of physical violence, easy to cover up signs of domestic abuse when you live on a farm. I know a woman whose husband tried to crush her with a round bale wrapper, she thought to herself that if he succeeded he would be able to claim it was a farm accident. Loyalist women are less likely to report due to lack of trust in the police and a reluctance to be seen to be bringing the police into the area, paramilitarisation and the pressure that it will be used to make the community look bad, play into the 'thug' narrative.”*

*“Cultural norms can vary in different groups, meaning certain women are more at risk. Loyalist macho culture should also be listed here.”*

We received the following responses to the question ‘What sort of changes would you like to see within the justice system in relation to men's violence against women and girls?’

*“Review of rape allegations and trails. Greater recognition that some women offenders are or have been exploited. I think there’s a particular need for work around paramilitary-style groups and VAW.”*

We received the following responses to the question ‘Is there anything else that you would like to share that you think the WPG should be calling for within the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy?’

*“A focus on Primary Prevention, through Education in all schools. Emotional literacy, rights and responsibilities, relationship education, power, consent, social media, sexual harassment. All children need to be educated and empowered to choose different paths than those modelled in our society. Violence towards women and girls is a cornerstone of oppression and all forms of violence in Northern Ireland. Challenging it and changing it will support anti- sectarianism.”*

*“Also need to look at the linkages with the troubles - talk to victims and survivors - I would expect a large proportion of women and girls already impacted by the troubles have also been impacted by violence - other strategies need to link in.”*

### **Online abuse and threats to those speaking out**

Advocating for gender equality in Northern Ireland often requires those working in the Women’s Sector to have public-facing roles. For example, colleagues regularly present evidence to government bodies, Departments and Committees.

The systemic and institutionalised misogyny in society means that women in public-facing roles are particularly vulnerable to abuse and harassment as a result of their work. Members of the Women’s Policy Group, Women’s Regional Consortium and colleagues in the wider Women’s Sector regularly face intimidation, online abuse and defamation following public appearances, particularly if they discuss paramilitarism in our society.

For example, after giving oral evidence to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee in July 2021, Women’s Sector colleagues received threats and a significant amount of online abuse after discussing the impact of paramilitarism on women in Northern Ireland. This was so widely recognised that it was mentioned

the next time these advocates appeared before this Committee, with the Chair recognising the impact of these threats, and members asking follow-up questions<sup>53</sup>.

This kind of behaviour is difficult to challenge because its source is opaque, especially when it is by anonymous online accounts. However, quite often, this abuse is instigated by public figures in Northern Ireland with a large platform and links to credible political leaders. Comments made online are often deleted or removed, but the ideas and misconceptions they spread remain in the public realm. A real danger for those working in the field is the fear of speaking openly to political figures about this abuse and more specifically about the evidence that their research has uncovered. One of the things that makes Northern Ireland such a hostile place to do this work is the fact that these connections are much more than trivial and any threats not easily dismissed.

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<sup>53</sup> NI Affairs Committee Oral Evidence Transcript, 18th January 2023, The Effects of Paramilitary Activity and Organised Crime on Society in Northern Ireland  
<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12544/pdf/>

## Annex C

### Factsheet: racism in Northern Ireland

#### Black Lives Matter Protests

Black Lives Matter protests took place in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry on Saturday 6th June 2020, as part of the wider Black Lives Matter movement. Women human rights defenders were amongst the key organisers and participants in these protests.

It has been confirmed that a last-minute amendment was made to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020<sup>54</sup> just hours before the anti-racism protests started, which attached enforcement powers to the regulations and enabled the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to fine those in attendance; despite evidence of safety and social distancing being in place. As organiser Lilian Seenoi-Barr of the Northwest Migrants Forum stated,

*“Racism is a pandemic, racism has cost lives, racism is a health pandemic also, so we are here to protect people, we are here to protect our lives from two different pandemics. We can’t choose one above the other. Everybody has been responsible. They have used gloves, they have used sanitisers, we’ve provided them because we promised people that at the heart of us organising this today was the health and safety of everybody. I am delighted that every one [of the protesters] is wearing a mask.”<sup>55</sup>*



Image showing social distancing during Belfast protest. By Rebecca Black/PA Wire

<sup>54</sup> The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Amendment No. 5) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(Amendment No. 5\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(revoked\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukui/2020/1200/revoked) ([legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk))

<sup>55</sup> ‘[Organisers of Belfast and Derry protests could face prosecution](#)’, Irish Times, 6 June 2020, accessed 16/5/2023

The PSNI had sought the prosecution of organisers,<sup>56</sup> a first for any Black Lives Matter protest in Britain or Ireland. While the WPG welcomed the decision<sup>57</sup> by the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland to not proceed with prosecutions of people who participated in the protests, it is a shocking indictment of the understanding of the right to protest within our police service that action was taken in the first place.

The Police Ombudsman's subsequent investigation<sup>58</sup> found that claims the police handling of 'Black Lives Matter' protests and a counter demonstration in 2020 amounted to unfairness and discrimination are justified. It was also noted that confidence in policing among some within the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Northern Ireland had been severely damaged. The investigation found that the situation had come about due to a failure by police to fully understand their human rights obligations.

In addition the report found that claims of differential treatment by PSNI of protesters on 6th June when compared with those attending 'Protect Our Monuments' on 13th June, amounting to unfairness and discrimination had substance and were justified in the circumstances.<sup>59</sup> As organiser Lilian Seenoi-Barr stated,

*"There was a lot of public pressure after the protests because it became very clear that the Black Lives Matter protests were the only protests that were criminalised in Northern Ireland."*<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Interviews were conducted with the protest speakers under Section 44 of the Serious Crime Act, legislation normally used against organised crime.

<sup>57</sup> [Northern Ireland: Prosecution dropped for Black Lives Matter protestors | Amnesty International UK](#)

<sup>58</sup> Full report: [858a4b0b-9b99-4921-b947-5fae248ba683.pdf \(policeombudsman.org\)](#)

<sup>59</sup> Ibid p. 14

<sup>60</sup> [Black Lives Matter protest fines: PSNI reputation 'damaged'](#), BBC News, 18 August 2021, accessed 16/5/23

## Annex D

### Factsheet: online abuse

#### Background

There has been a growing wave of transphobia spreading across the United Kingdom and into Northern Ireland in the past few years. One symptom of this is that high-profile individuals have begun holding rallies and events in public spaces to garner support and spread transphobic hate speech that seeks to further marginalise the trans community. One particular individual, Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull, known online as ‘Posie Parker,’ has organised a series of public speeches in several countries titled ‘Let Women Speak,’ using anti-trans voices in areas to appeal to the local audience and directly attack trans-inclusive voices.

Kellie-Jay came to Northern Ireland in April 2023 to hold a ‘Let Women Speak’ rally. On the same day, the women’s sector, LGBTQIA+ sector, trade unions and trans activists held a LGBTQIA+ community day titled ‘Songs for Solidarity.’ This community day focused on positivity, support and solidarity, and included several music performances and family-fun activities.

The levels of online hate and abusive messaging against women and women peacebuilders are particularly high in relation to trans rights. It should also be noted that women, and in particular women activists and women in public life, experience high levels of online hate and abuse overall. Recent research indicates that the majority of women in public life have experienced abuse and harassment, which in some cases is aimed at their families, and leads to women limiting activities for fear of family being targeted<sup>61</sup>. In the regional Assembly election campaign in spring 2022, a number of young women candidates experienced highly vitriolic, personal abuse campaigns<sup>62</sup>, which included sexually abusive content<sup>63</sup>. This is serving to discourage women from becoming involved.

#### Online Abuse

Following the ‘Let Women Speak’ and ‘Songs for Solidarity’ events that took place on the same day, organisations and individuals involved in the ‘Songs for Solidarity’ event have been subject to widespread online abuse and harassment. Women’s sector organisations, LGBTQIA+ sector organisations, trade unions and trans activists were directly named and targeted during the ‘Let Women Speak’ rally. This onslaught of abuse has been aimed at both individuals and organisations. The screenshots below provide a sample of the online abuse that has been received in recent months against civil society organisations in Northern Ireland for being trans-inclusive. These include comments relating to the women’s sector as a whole (as shown below) and comments aimed at specific organisations such as The Rainbow Project NI (TRPNI), HERe NI, the Northern Ireland Rural Women’s Network (NIRWN), WRDA, and the Women’s Policy Group.

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<sup>61</sup> Swaine, A & Turner, C (2021) [At the Nexus of Participation and Protection: Protection-Related Barriers to Women’s Participation in Northern Ireland](#). New York: International Peace Institute.

<sup>62</sup> See eg. *Belfast Telegraph* 10 May 2022 [‘DUP MLA Diane Forsythe: Abuse from trolls ‘began from day one’](#)

<sup>63</sup> See eg. *Belfast Telegraph* 9 May 2022 [‘Cara Hunter MLA: Stress of fake clip made my life absolutely horrific in election run-up’](#)



**Brian Canavan**  
@briancanavan1

Ahhh the women's sector in NI where anyone can be a woman as long as the funding keeps rolling in.  
Hashtag policy leads to lunacy

10:14 PM · Jun 8, 2022

1 Retweet 9 Likes

## Experiences of The Rainbow Project Northern Ireland (TRPNI)

**Brian Canavan** @briancanavan1 · Feb 4, 2022

Keep the red flag flying 🚩🚩🚩

Retweeted by **SexNotGenderNI** @protonmail.com... · Feb 4, 2022

Remember Yaniv's topless all-ages LGB+TQ swim events? Here's The Rainbow Project (Stonewall partners, recommended by NI gov & Education Authority as a great resource for kids) seeking donations for their 'wear what you want' all-ages private swimming events. @CharityCommNI

[Show this thread](#)

**TRANS ONLY SWIMMING NEEDS YOU!!**  
Please donate so we can continue to provide this opportunity

**Trans Swimming Appeal**

"When I was younger and home alone I sometimes put on a swimsuit during a shower since I probably would never get to wear it to swim... Thanks @TRPNI for changing that tonight!"

If you've been hoping for a swimming service that's only for trans, non-binary, and/or intersex people of all ages: Well, here it is! But, we need your help to keep this service AFLOAT!

[Click here to Donate, or read on for more information.](#)

The Rainbow Project has been running Trans Only Swimming sessions to eliminate some of the fears and barriers trans, non-binary and intersex people face going swimming. We've been booking out the entire swimming pool and changing rooms to ensure the privacy and comfort of all our participants. This allows participants to wear what they comfortable in, around people that have the same insecurities as them, without fear of staring or harassment.

**MISTER MEDUSA** @MisterMedusa · Apr 19

They're like slugs begging for a salt shower.

They're also disingenuous cowards who are TRAs in the tweets and TERFs in the sheets.

1 3 46

**Grae** @Gu3Wh0 · Apr 19

100% . Virtue signalling twats, used to know quite a few of them

1 1 18

**MISTER MEDUSA** @MisterMedusa · Apr 19

A lot of them can't seem to exist unless they're on the scene every five seconds and every aspect of their life is draped in a rainbow.

1 1 16

**Grae** @Gu3Wh0 · Apr 19

They're so quirky and different, they're not just gay y'know, they're ✨ qUeEr ✨. It's amazing, you can pretty much pin every other view they have too 🤔

1 2 25

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Apr 19

It is all about their funding. The fuckers in TRPNI & HereNI are willing to turn a blind eye because it keeps them in jobs pretending that trans is a human rights issue. They needed to pack up once marriage equality was passed in NI. They couldn't let go.

1 26

**MISTER MEDUSA** @MisterMedusa · Apr 19

It was the same with Stonewall in the UK. They were a campaign without a cause once same-sex marriage was won. By then they were a well-oiled (and lucrative) machine.

1 1 30

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Apr 19

Also the people who work in these orgs here are simply taking a paycheck. As a former service user I can confirm they do fuck all for people.

1 19



**Nerdbird** @LarenRo0117 · Feb 4, 2022

These organisations are involved in designing services, providing training and writing policy all across the public sector in NI, including Health. Many Paediatricians also signpost children to their webpages and services. It's absolutely shocking they have such influence.





**Nerdbird** @RoLaren\_0117 · Mar 7

The 🌈 rolling in to these orgs is eye watering but isn't being used for original stated purposes. Now NI has legislated for women's reproductive rights, LGB marriage equality etc., like Stonewall, these orgs need to justify their expenditure so have turned to gender ideology.

1 1 6 92



**Nerdbird** @RoLaren\_0117 · Mar 7

The gift..  
Sit on stormont panels and tell politicians like @RobinSwann\_MLA there is no need for psychology input to GIDs.  
Lobby on the lack of mental health support for kids with "gender issues".  
Idiot politicians write them a huge cheque for child mental health provision.

### £260,000 funding boost

Date published: 10 March 2022

Topics: [DoH statistics and research](#)

Health Minister Robin Swann has visited The Rainbow Project and HERE NI after the organisations were awarded more than £260,000 through the Mental Health Support Fund.



**Toby** @Toby1979\_ · Mar 7

You'd think they'd still feel the need to do their due diligence, to question what the money is being used for, question teaching materials etc. I just don't get why politicians are so complacent when it comes to this stuff. They seem to be blinded by the sight of a rainbow flag.

1 1 4 115



**Nerdbird** @RoLaren\_0117 · Mar 7

We WILL hold politicians accountable for lack of due diligence. A cursory glance at successful scoops of @hannahsbee @HJoyceGender show this is a huge NI scandal, (moreso than RHI). A shame respected NI journalists aren't interested in investigating.  
[@AllisonMorrist](#) [@SJAMcBride](#)

3 1 5 114



**Toby** @Toby1979\_ · Mar 7

Well done on your tracking of this in NI. You're always up to speed.  
[@SJAMcBride](#) and [@AllisonMorrist](#) should absolutely be investigating this gender scandal that is taking place in real time. It won't take much digging either. The information is already out there.

1 1 2 64



**Nerdbird** @RoLaren\_0117 · Mar 7

Not just me Toby...

There's a legion of cross-party NI women and men networking and sharing collective expertise.

Thank you for speaking up too.  
I know the courage it takes to do so.

2 4 59

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Sep 13, 2022  
Look on the bright side though. At least someone will be enjoying another brand new BMW with that £260k. And that is all that matters to these grifters heading up our charity orgs. They serve only themselves. So self-righteous that they cannot see the harm in front of them.

1 1 8

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Sep 13, 2022  
What were the words of an ex-employee... "Not enough work to justify one person, let alone 5 people." And still the public money comes flooding in to them. The product of the very same "mental health crisis" you helped to manufacture.

1 1 6

**Rosalyn** @RosalynRoses · Sep 13, 2022  
Shocking stuff.

2 3

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Sep 13, 2022  
Ack I mean we haven't even discussed the bullying, the high board member turnover or the refusal to reach out to engage different demographics of their actual service users. No no. Just stick to doing the bare minimum whilst coming in to the office 2 days a week for £36k.

1 1 5

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Sep 13, 2022  
Oh & tell lesbians they must accept men into their orientation. Forgot that bit. The cash cow.

1 1 3

**Nerdbird** @LarenRo0117

Sickening.  
Over 2000 young people on CAMHS waiting list in NI (550 in @RobinSwannMoH's Northern Trust constituency) and he decided to spend £260,000 of DOH monies on outsourcing and funding extreme gender ideologues with zero MH expertise.

**Nerdbird** @LarenRo0117 · Sep 13, 2022  
Mermaids have officially taken over Sail NI in Northern Ireland.

Representatives from Sail NI are advising @healthdpt on review of KOI GID Services for children here.

@RobinSwannMoH better have a think about the quality of input they are providing.  
@niwrn @BeattieDoug

**Sonia Sodha** @soniasodha · Sep 13, 2022  
The evidence from the chair of Mermaids has now wrapped up. Based on that cross-examination I am astounded that a charity so clearly unable to assess scientific evidence & hear clinical expertise has been allowed so much influence over treatment of gender dysphoria in children.

Show this thread

4 25 43

This Tweet is from a suspended account. [Learn more](#)

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Sep 13, 2022  
Can we please stop offering up any more autistic and/or gay Northern Irish children to the gender butchers that is Mermaids? How many were sent to the Tavistock to be abused & forgotten about? This is scandalous & Mermaids merger with Sail NI warrants immediate investigation!

2 6 31

**Nerdbird** @LarenRo0117 · Sep 13, 2022  
Rainbow and HERe NI also consulted apparently. Will be interesting to see if the new proposed model of service is a huge departure from the Cass recommendations.

If it is, I wouldn't want to be Robin Swann or the UUP when parents start asking questions.



health-ni.gov.uk

The Rainbow Project and HERe NI benefit from £...  
Health Minister Robin Swann has visited The  
Rainbow Project and HERe NI after the ...

**Aisling Playford** @ash\_js\_here · Dec 29, 2022  
Just don't engage with them, don't give oxygen or time to their nonsense. The NI women's sector here are trans inclusive and will continue to be.

10 1 20 3,310

You're unable to view this Tweet because this account owner limits who can view their Tweets. [Learn more](#)

**Brian Canavan** @briancanavan1 · Dec 30, 2022  
Of course Aisling would say that, we all saw the women's network here in action, tripping over themselves to fawn over Keffals..the one who says they hate women, has sex by deception, makes jokes of destroying wombs and leaving women gaping, running trains on autistic girls...Yay

2 8 198

**Quare Blade** @quareblade

Aisling is the one who went to a rally about a homeless women's hostel & somehow made it all about men who think they are women being supposedly the most vulnerable in NI society. She's PAID to say such shite.

3:11 PM · Dec 30, 2022 · 84 Views

## Experiences of HERe NI

**Danielle Roberts** @DaniRNI · Apr 8

This is not enough. Criminalisation of purchase makes sex workers less safe! Brothel keeping laws are just one element. Do you stand over these comments @RuthCoppingerSP?



**Ruth Coppinger** @RuthCoppingerSP · Apr 8

Solidarity statement from @RosaSocFem  
[Show this thread](#)

1 1 669

**Mandysaurus** @EcceMandy · Apr 10

Why aren't you a prostitute if it's such a great job?

2 11 163

**Quare Blade** @quareblade

She makes more money as a straight woman pretending to be "queer" & making policies for a grifting joke of charity that shafts lesbians.

5:19 PM · Apr 10, 2023 · 205 Views

1 Retweet 8 Likes

speakers for most part, though we were disappointed with Mabel Chah's transphobic comments. Glad @Here\_NI called them out. Feminism must be intersectional & that includes trans rights.



1 1 5 105

**Mandysaurus** @EcceMandy

Appears so. I wonder who the others were. If in fact there were others. I mean they lie that men can be women so ... 🤔

6:06 PM · Mar 5, 2023 · 56 Views

**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Mar 5

No you just removed a former asylum seeker woman from speaking her truth at an IWD event, bullied her away to the sounds of pathetic nonsense mantras & then proceeded to confirm how anti-lesbian & anti-woman HereNI is. Disgusting.

1 5 24 354

**Brian Canavan** @brianacanavan1 · Mar 5

I don't know about anyone else, but celebrating removing a woman of colour from speaking, referring to her as slime, and saying away round your own door is not the most inclusive thing I have seen on here.

1 2 21 203

**Mandysaurus** @EcceMandy · Mar 5

It's pretty damned disgusting. The fact that they are praised by "organisations" for it shows we need a clear out of this racist bigoted sector.

1 7 102

**Brian Canavan** @brianacanavan1 · Mar 5

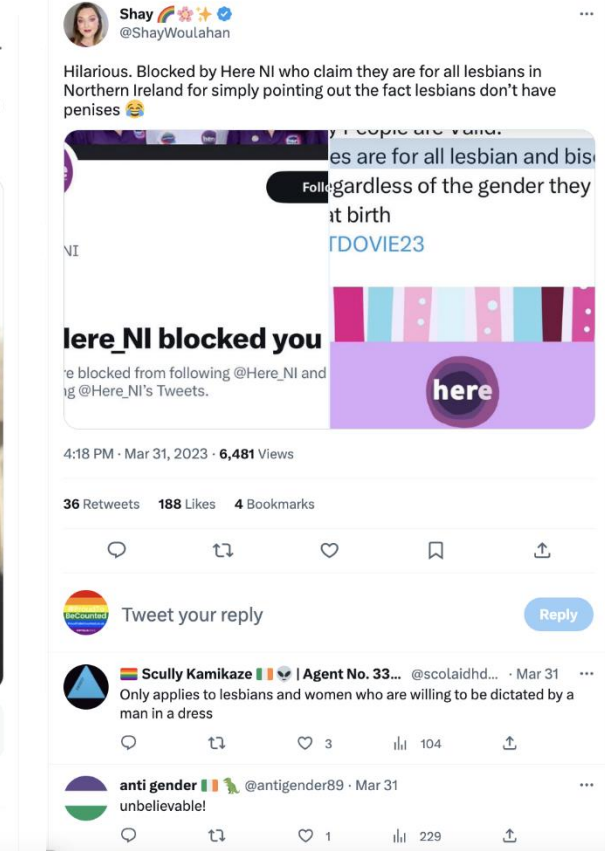
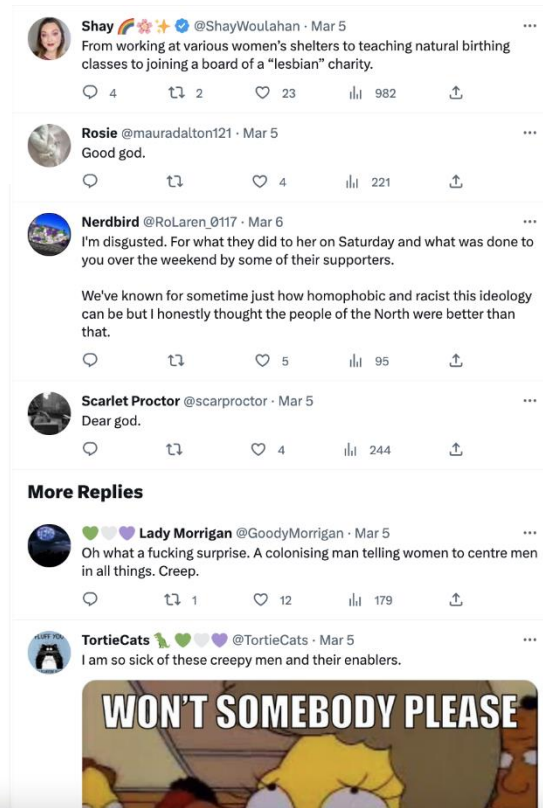
Absolutely disgraceful that publicly funded organisations are celebrating #racism in #NorthernIreland in 2023


1 1 7 160

**Danielle Roberts** @DaniRNI · Mar 5

Publicly funded?


1 78



**Nerdbird**  
@LarenRo0117

Rainbow and HERE NI also consulted apparently. Will be interesting to see if the new proposed model of service is a huge departure from the Cass recommendations.


If it is, I wouldn't want to be Robin Swann or the UUP when parents start asking questions.



[health-ni.gov.uk](https://health-ni.gov.uk)  
The Rainbow Project and HERE NI benefit from £260,000 ...  
Health Minister Robin Swann has visited The Rainbow Project and HERE NI after the organisations were awarded...


11:27 PM · Sep 13, 2022

3 Retweets 7 Likes




Tweet your reply

Reply


**Quare Blade** @quareblade · Sep 13, 2022

Look on the bright side though. At least someone will be enjoying another brand new BMW with that £260k. And that is all that matters to these grifters heading up our charity orgs. They serve only themselves. So self-righteous that they cannot see the harm in front of them.

**Quare Blade** @quareblade

Sure HereNI fudge referral numbers & give themselves payrises in the middle of a pandemic.

1:36 PM · Mar 7, 2023 · 70 Views

**Danielle Roberts** @DaniRNI · Apr 26

I've been analysing NI elections since ~ 2014 at all levels, candidates and elected, by area and party. In nearly every election there has been at least one trans woman standing. In my data, they are recorded as women- because trans women are women. No trolling will change that.

11 10 76 7,965

**Quare Blade** @quareblade

So you're lying & presenting falses statistics? If a fella in fishnets claiming to be a lesbian rocked up to HereNI do you count him in your referral numbers? Sounds like fraud.

11:43 AM · Apr 26, 2023 · 178 Views

11 Likes



## Experiences of the Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN)

01:30

← **Quote Tweets**

 **anne conway** @annefcirl · 19m ...

So disgusted to see a group named women's rights network supporting an event to silence and terrorize women who believe in biology and science.  
Answer why us women can't speak? The hate is from you & your associates. Women never protested at trans meetings  
[#LetWomenSpeakBelfast](#)

 **NIRWN** @nirwnnews · 7h

NIRWN supports @SongsforBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity  
[#NoPlaceForHate](#)  
 [twitter.com/songsforbelfast...](https://twitter.com/songsforbelfast)

 **Rickolko83** @rickolko83 · 2h ...

"Spreading light, Joy and positivity"

Kinda hard to tell with your masks on you misogynist Fcuks!

**POSIE PARKER IS COMING TO BELFAST.**  
On Sunday, transphobes will gather in Belfast to target trans people and women who support trans people.  
This event will provide cover for **local bigots** and opportunistic **fascists** to show up on our streets. We expect Posie Parker's presence will attract a range of cut-and-out fascists as well as the small (but growing) group of **radical transphobic activists** in the North.

22:59

← **Tweet**

 **LivingDoll** @BookkeeperDoll · 22m ...

Rural women know the difference between a bullock and a heifer, apparently [@nirwnnews](#) don't.

    8 

**More Replies**

 **The Bobby Bright** @Bobsbigbright · 35m ...

Love it.... It's a classic....Rural WANKER Network.... Love it!

   1  17 

 **Lizzie J**    @shnauzertrouzer · 1h ...

Are there any women only groups/networks in Northern Ireland who actually put real women first?

   2  26 

 **Lizzie J**    @shnauzertrouzer · 1h ...

I'm only after asking my husband why does he think that these organisations who purportedly support women are actually anti women's rights. He replied very succinctly - they are government funded. All makes sense now.

   2  20 

22:59 Twitter 📶 🔋

[#LetWomenSpeakBelfast](#)

1 8 85

 **Claire** @ClaireR101010 · 1h ...

Someone, somewhere, has to be greasing their grabby palms. Rural women, of all people, know the difference in male and female.

5 50

---

 **Queen Méabh, Common Terf** @\_Q... · 39m ...

Replies off. 🤐🤐🤐

1 4 57

---

 **Carm5012** @Carm5012 · 1h ...

Irish men and their utter disdain for all things female

1 30

---

 **Archaeopterxx** ❤️💜 @AbdnA... · 31m ...

JFHC

13

---

 **LivingDoll** @BookkeeperDoll · 22m ...

Rural women know the difference between a bullock and a heifer, apparently @nirwnnews don't.

8

22:59 Twitter 📶 🔋

**Tweet**

NIKWN supports @SongstorBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity  
#NoPlaceForHate  
🇬🇧🇮🇪 twitter.com/songsforbelfas...

8 24 72 1,787

---

 **Chatty Cathy** 🇬🇧 #InGirlMode. @NoThankYouGav ...

As a rural woman, I have absolutely no clue who this shower think they represent 🙄 Not one single solitary woman I know supports #AGP men in women's spaces. I smell a 🐷  
[#LetWomenSpeakBelfast](#)

21:18 · 14/04/2023 from Liverpool, England · 85 Views

8 Likes

---

 **Claire** @ClaireR101010 · 1h ...

Someone, somewhere, has to be greasing their grabby palms. Rural women, of all people, know the difference in male and female.

5 50



Tweet



**Soviet kid in the West** 🇺🇸  
@USSR2Europe

Women talking about women's rights and child safeguarding =/= hate.

And a supposed women's organisation blocking replies shows just how confident they are in their stance. #Shameful  
#LetWomenSpeakBelfast

**NIRWN** @nirwnnews · 5h

NIRWN supports @SongsforBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity #NoPlaceForHate  
🇮🇪 🇬🇧 [twitter.com/songsforbelfas...](https://twitter.com/songsforbelfas...)

22:19 · 14/04/2023 · 77 Views

3 Likes



22:33

Tweet



**Archaeopterxx** ❤️💜 @AbdnAut... · 5m  
JFHC



More Replies



**The Bobby Bright** @Bobsbigbright · 9m  
Love it.... It's a classic....Rural WANKER Network.... Love it!



**Lizzie J** 💜💜💜 @shnauzertrouzer · 44m  
Are there any women only groups/networks in Northern Ireland who actually put real women first?



**Lizzie J** 💜💜💜 @shnauzertrouzer · 36m  
I'm only after asking my husband why does he think that these organisations who purportedly support women are actually anti women's rights. He replied very succinctly - they are government funded. All makes sense now.



Tweet



**@Lesbian is Taken**™  
@womenarepl

A "woman's network" supports men in women's changing rooms, men who rape women being housed in women's prisons & lesbians being told to date men!

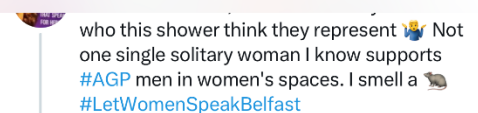
Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network has turned off replies! Is that because they know they're supporting perverts rights?

**NIRWN** @nirwnnews · 5h

NIRWN supports @SongsforBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity #NoPlaceForHate  
🇮🇪 🇬🇧 [twitter.com/songsforbelfas...](https://twitter.com/songsforbelfas...)

21:29 · 14/04/2023 · 158 Views

3 Retweets 10 Likes



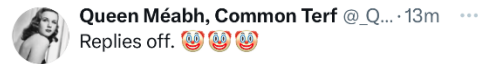
who this shower think they represent 🙄 Not one single solitary woman I know supports #AGP men in women's spaces. I smell a 🐷  
#LetWomenSpeakBelfast



**Claire** @ClaireR101010 · 1h  
Someone, somewhere, has to be greasing their grabby palms. Rural women, of all people, know the difference in male and female.



**Carm5012** @Carm5012 · 44m  
Irish men and their utter disdain for all things female



**Queen Méabh, Common Terf** @\_Q... · 13m  
Replies off. 🙄🙄🙄



**Archaeopterxx** ❤️💜 @AbdnAut... · 5m  
JFHC



More Replies



**The Bobby Bright** @Bobsbigbright · 9m  
Love it.... It's a classic....Rural WANKER Network.... Love it!

22:33

← Tweet

 **Claire**  
@ClaireR101010

The Rural WOMEN'S Network, everyone. Publicly announcing that are they are joining a rancid mob of men who plot violence against women who are speaking about safeguarding children and the most vulnerable women in society. Rural WANKER Network.

 **NIRWN** @nirwnnews · 5h  
NIRWN supports @SongsforBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity #NoPlaceForHate  
 [twitter.com/songsforbelfas...](https://twitter.com/songsforbelfas...)

21:08 · 14/04/2023 · 1,280 Views

17 Retweets 2 Quotes 57 Likes

 **Chatty Cathy**  #InGirlMode · 1h

As a rural woman, I have absolutely no clue who this shower think they represent 🙄 Not one single solitary woman I know supports #AGP men in women's spaces. I smell a 🐷

← Tweet

 **Karrie**  
@KarrieboKarrie

Are you taking the piss???

"working towards a society where ... women are visible, influence and valued"

 **NIRWN**  
@nirwnnews

Working towards an equitable society where rural women are visible, influential and valued #feminist #community #equality #rural #intersectional

 **NIRWN** @nirwnnews · 5h  
NIRWN supports @SongsforBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity #NoPlaceForHate  
 [twitter.com/songsforbelfas...](https://twitter.com/songsforbelfas...)

19:28 · 14/04/2023 · 509 Views

3 Retweets 22 Likes

 **Gisli** @BarbaraDonegan1 · 55m

A line up of performers is right.


   1  9 

← Thread



 **BeeCat22**  
@BeeCat22



Spread light, joy and postivity by threatening to kill women!

Yay! 🤪

 **VN @nirwnnews** · 2h

supports @SongsforBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity #NoPlaceForHate  
[twitter.com/songsforbelfas...](https://twitter.com/songsforbelfas...)

 **NIRWN** @nirwnnews · 5h  
NIRWN supports @SongsforBelfast join us and everyone else on Sunday and help spread light, joy and positivity #NoPlaceForHate  
 [twitter.com/songsforbelfas...](https://twitter.com/songsforbelfas...)



20:08 · 14/04/2023 · 49 Views

1 Retweet 7 Likes

20:40

← Tweet

This Tweet is from an account you blocked. [View](#)




 **Bev**     
@Bev\_White1

NIRWN populated by women who will screw themselves over for men in order to prove how progressive they are 🤪🤪

WRN will be here when you see the light and realise you're being screwed over.

15:00 · 08/04/2023 · 22 Views

1 Like



## Experiences of Rape Crisis NI





## Experiences of Women's Policy Group and WRDA

**BitterClinger72** @BitterCling... · 16 Apr  
Replying to @WRDA\_team



2 22

**BrillyDr** @BrillyDr64343 · 16 Apr  
Replying to @WRDA\_team

NEWS

**9 In 10 Trans Women In Canada's Prisons Are Violent, Nearly Half Convicted Of Sex Crimes: Study**

**BeeCat** 🐱❄️💜 **KPSS** @BeeC... · 17 Apr  
Replying to @WRDA\_team

"Trans kids" are abused kids and here you are singing happy clappy songs in support if their abuse. You absolute ghouls

5

10:27 📶 📶 📶 50%

← **Hidden Replies**  
You hid these replies

**@shysometimes** @shysome... · 19 Apr  
Replying to @WRDA\_team

Great to see this much needed strategy publication arriving. Thankfully its reported correctly. No "birthing person" mentioned?

5





**BrillyDr** @BrillyDr64343 · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team



2 7 135



**Tara** ❤️ @FoxTales82 · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Why is 'Nazi' a favourite word of the day then if there's #noplacforhate

2 11 323



**Richard** @Kearns\_Richard\_ · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Weird you're proud to stand AGAINST women's rights.



**Tara** ❤️ @FoxTales82 · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Why is 'Nazi' a favourite word of the day then if there's #noplacforhate

2 11 323



**Richard** @Kearns\_Richard\_ · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Weird you're proud to stand AGAINST women's rights.

Incredible

8 93



**Hazel** ❤️💚 @hfereid · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Please answer - why is women talking about women's rights considered hate? I've asked this every time I see the hashtag "no place for hate". Where is the hate?

1 19 169



10:31    •

← Tweet



**Lady Rose**

@LadyRoseofWales

Replying to [@WRDA\\_team](#)

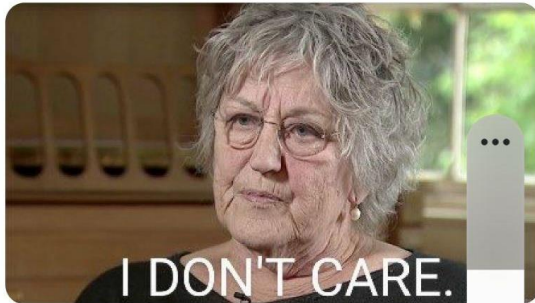
You fight for men!

14:53 · 16 Apr 23 · **149** Views





**VagFemeliza KPSS** @EElizal... · 16 Apr ·  
Replying to @WRDA\_team



🗨️ ↻ ❤️ 5 📊 115



**LORF** 🇬🇧 @bigbeard666 · 16 Apr  
Replying to @WRDA\_team  
Shame on every one of you

🗨️ ↻ ❤️ 25 📊 207 🔗



**Loulabelle** @MotherOfDogs... · 16 Apr ·  
Replying to @WRDA\_team  
[#NoPlaceForWomenWhoKnowBiology](#)

🗨️ ↻ ❤️ 3 📊 153 🔗



**100 Figuregirl77100** 🇬🇧 @figure... · 16 Apr ·  
Replying to @WRDA\_team  
Oh the irony when your hatred of women  
is at the forefront of everything you do 😏

🗨️ ↻ 1 ❤️ 35 📊 459 🔗



**Maud Bowman** @PowerfulW... · 16 Apr ·

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Why does your side keep saying No Place for Hate? Who is hateful? Listen to the 2 hours of speeches then let me know what you are protesting



25



**AConflictofValues** @Conflic... · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

If that's true then why do you hate women?



64



**Cookie** @UpsyDaisy666\_ · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

A women's group protesting other women? Tragic and pathetic. #WeSeeYou



68



**Dances With Wolves** @\_x\_Da... · 16 Apr ·

Replying to @WRDA\_team

You don't even know what a woman is. Sit down, shut up.



87



**Daisy Woof** 🦎 @Daisywoo9 · 16 Apr ·

Replying to @WRDA\_team

But you're on the side that's spewing hate towards women speaking up for themselves, change your f.....g name!



44





**Emma McC** @knitty\_cat · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team and @SongsforBelfast

I've just read your strategic plan. It's hard to see how your stance reconciles with the stated intended purpose of the organisation. I wonder how your funding is justified, when you specifically exclude women who don't subscribe to gender ideology.



78



**Lisa** @LMShe4 · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team and @SongsforBelfast  
[twitter.com/ColetteColfer/...](https://twitter.com/ColetteColfer/)



**Colette Colfer** @ColetteC... · 15 Apr

Can anyone explain to me why a group of women gathering to speak about women's rights is being branded as hate? I see the hashtag #noplacforhate - about #LetWome...



125



**Aja the Empress** ♀ @Aja02... · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team and @SongsforBelfast

Proud to join a bunch of men as they terrorise women. Shame on you.



sharon

@sharon19878007

Replying to @WRDA\_team and @SongsforBelfast

So you hate woman and don't want to let them speak. Might be time you rebrand yourselves because you certainly aren't about empowering woman if you are trying to silence us.

4:15 · 16 Apr 23 · 36 Views



Aja the Empress @Aja02... · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Can you define "women" please?

1 2 3 4 86



MangoLassi @MangoNaan · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Cis is hate speech

1 2 20 200

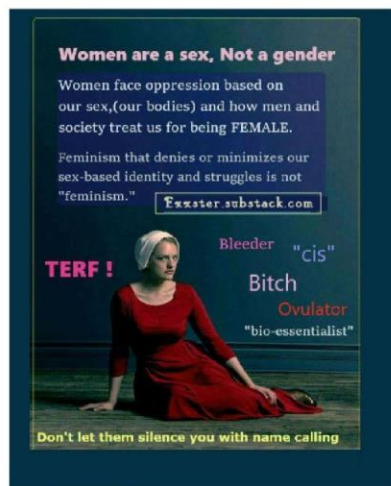
### More Replies



Rejecting Gender Ideology (... · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

define "women"



Janice @WillJanice · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

How can you claim to empower women when you're very obviously against letting women speak. All right minded women will withdraw their support for you and any other group who try to deny them their voice!

2 2 20 203



LeahPrice @pigsinspace3 · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Sing along sponsored by Big Pharma and major banking corporations. The new patriarchy same as the old. The ultimate rainbow washing

9 131



GreenishMe @Green... · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Good luck trying to hear yourselves sing once the TRA misogynists arrive.

10 121





**Marian Shiels** 🇮🇪 @FineIrish... · 15 Apr ·

Replying to @WRDA\_team

So, not an attempt to drown out and silence women at @StandingForWomen speaking about their lives?

[#LetWomenSpeakBelfast](#)



2



1



15



261



**Becca Thom** @BeccaThom5 · 15 Apr ·

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Nice ratio.

Why are you joyful about attacking women? Seems unkind



13



141



**Jane McLenachan** @jane\_mc... · 15 Apr ·

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Can you please explain how defending men silencing and intimidating women is supporting women?



1



1



25



219



**Gina Louise** @GinaLouXXCr... · 15 Apr ·

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Who knew being anti-female would be so on trend in the 2020's?

[#TRAliban](#)



**RespectMySex** 🇮🇪 🇬🇧 🇨🇦 🦖... · 15 Apr

Replying to [@WRDA\\_team](#)

We see you. We see you selling out women for crumbs at the angry men's table.



98



## More Replies



**Nic.Holm** @holm\_nic · 14 Apr

Replying to [@WRDA\\_team](#)

Please explain how joining forces with anti women groups empowers women?



132



**lola** @lolathepug1 · 15 Apr

Replying to [@WRDA\\_team](#)

These 144 lovely ladies thank you for your service [grahamlinehan.substack.com/p/this-never-h...](https://grahamlinehan.substack.com/p/this-never-h...)



94



**Dustspeck** @dustspeckgalaxy · 15 Apr

Replying to [@WRDA\\_team](#)

Here is a thread detailing all the issues you are ignoring & deliberately blocking ordinary women speaking about. None of this is hate, all of it needs to be debated: [twitter.com/hatpinwoman/st...](https://twitter.com/hatpinwoman/st...)



**Lorelei** 🍌 🧝 🕸 🍄 @hatpi... · 14 Apr

So, according to the current





**Evolved Billy-dinosaur** 🍅🦎... · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

These are your friends

[twitter.com/Aja02537920/st...](https://twitter.com/Aja02537920/st...)



**Aja the Empress** ♀ @Aja... · 14 Apr

Here is a thread of the groups who say they support women but who will actually be standing with aggressive men as they scream at women trying to talk about their rights....

[Show this thread](#)

"When men come to disrupt women's meetings, they come in gangs, with noisy instruments, and sing and shout together and stamp their feet."  
Emmeline Pankhurst

PowerDetector



1



3



4



144



**Emma E8** @E8Emma · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

Come out. Women need to see who is taking the money to betray us. Pretty logos and meaningless stock phrases are covering a deep corruption in organisations like yours. We're here to expose you. [#LetWomenSpeakBelfast](#)





**Archaeopterxx** 🌱💜💜 @Ab... · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

No woman is 'cis'. #LetWomenSpeak



**Me Too** 🦕🦖 @MeToobirdy · 15 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team

🔄 You Retweeted



**J.K. Rowling** ✓ @jk\_rowling · 25 Jan

Men defining what a woman is, what women should and shouldn't fear, what women should and shouldn't say, what rights women should be fine with giving up and, of course, what constitutes 'real' misogyny: get a bloody mirror. That's real misogyny, looking right back at you.

💬 10.9K 🔄 31.2K ❤️ 193K 📊 18.2M 🔗



**Kjproc** @KarenProcter8 · 16 Apr

Replying to @WRDA\_team and @Westies\_Rock

You stand with (mostly male) violence, threats, and abuse, against women who wish to speak about their lived experiences of the erosion of women's/ girls' rights, safeguarding, privacy, dignity, and fair sports.

So you stand with the disempowerment of women/girls 🤢.



**Aja the Empress** ♀  
@Aja02537920

WRDA wants to be "empowered and visible force for change"

@WRDA\_team



**Comrade Jennifer James** ✓  
@female\_union

Replying to @WRDA\_team

‘love and support’

Why are you organising with Antifa men on behalf of men’s rights activists - against women’s rights campaigners? Who is Rachel Powell and what’s in this for her?



20:43 · 14 Apr 23 · 33 Views