

Supporting trans rights and promoting trans inclusion following For Women Scotland

Date and type of General Meeting: Annual General Meeting, 18th June 2025

Status: Passed

Motion text:

The branch notes:

- 1. The UK Supreme Court ruling of 16th April 2025 in *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers*, which declares that sex refers to "biological sex", defined as "sex at birth", in the Equality Act 2010.
- 2. The "interim update" published by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission on 25th April 2025 providing guidance purporting to interpret the Supreme Court's decision that appears to constitute a significant overreach in its application.
- 3. The potential adverse consequences of the Supreme Court decision for trans and non-binary individuals, including the ruling's exclusion of trans men from female single-sex spaces, leaving them with the possibility of having no clear facilities/services provision.
- 4. The numerous important interpretations of the ruling at odds with the EHRC interim update, including from lawmakers involved in drafting the Equality Act 2010 and from prominent judges and a retired Supreme Court judge.
- 5. The <u>statement</u> issued by UCU on the ruling, which affirmed the national union's policy: "we proudly and actively support trans rights, and we will continue to campaign for fully inclusive practices across our union and workplaces".
- 6. Statements from UCU's <u>Women Members' Standing Committee</u> and <u>LGBT+ Members Standing Committee</u> that "unequivocally reject the ruling of the Supreme Court".
- 7. Guidance for UCU branches on the Supreme Court ruling issued on 13th May 2025.
- 8. LSE's *Policy on Trans Staff and Students*, under review as of 29th April.
- LSE's Transiting at work: guidance for staff & managers, under review as of 29th April.
- 10. An email to LSE staff from President Larry Kramer on 30th April 2025 affirming that "trans and non-binary students and staff are protected under this and other UK equality laws, and LSE remains wholly dedicated to upholding their rights."

The branch believes:

a. Trans women are women, trans men are men, nonbinary identities are valid, and trans people exist as they say they do, regardless of what any Court or legislature says.

- b. Most UK universities and post-16 institutions honour self-identification, allowing all staff and students to use gendered or "single-sex" spaces that are most appropriate for them and that align with their gender identity, and this practice has been positive.
- c. The *For Women Scotland* ruling and EHRC interim update are in contradiction to the basic human rights and dignity of trans, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, intersex, and other gender-diverse staff and students and could increase discrimination.
- d. LSE's existing policies on trans staff and students are inclusive, comprehensive, and would ideally be better enforced rather than amended or weakened.
- e. The voices of trans, non-binary, intersex, and other gender-diverse staff and students must be central in consultations on any revisions to policy and practice.

The branch resolves to:

- i. Instruct the Branch Committee and negotiators to fight for trans-inclusive policies and spaces at LSE, with a view to ensuring that any policy changes are made in the most trans-inclusive way possible, with minimum adverse consequences and disruptive effects for transgender, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, intersex, and other gender-diverse staff, students, and visitors at the School.
- ii. Mandate the Branch Committee to work with the LSE Student Union and LSE's LGBTQ+ staff network, Spectrum, to ensure a trans inclusive community at the School.
- iii. Call on LSE to engage with trans, non-binary, intersex, and other gender-diverse staff to ensure that their perspectives and experiences are meaningfully considered in all ongoing and future reviews of LSE policies.
- iv. Call on LSE not to comply in advance with proposed guidance and not to automatically implement EHRC guidance without prior consultation and agreement with UCU.
- v. Call on LSE to release a statement reassuring staff and students of their unwavering support for trans and non-binary members of the LSE community and the continued right to use facilities matching their identity.
- vi. Call on LSE to enforce the LSE bullying and harassment and dignity at work policies with particular regard to the protection and inclusion of trans staff and students.
- vii. Support local trans rights initiatives, protests and activities.

Amended: No

Total votes:

For: 53Against: 0Abstained: 0