

I have reviewed information published by over fifteen providers of 'inclusive' sex education training in schools, both LGBT organisations and established providers who include 'LGBT inclusion' in their training.

I am concerned that through the legitimate aim of 'LGBT inclusion,' inaccurate and harmful information is being taught to young people. 'Inclusive language' which replaces sex with 'gender identity' redefines boys and girls as stereotypes of gender and removes the right to differentiate between the sexes or correctly name male and female people.

The PSHE Association, Brook and Sex Education Forum call for "medically and factually correct" sex education in their document 'Supplementary Advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance'.<sup>1</sup>

Gender identity teaching is in direct conflict with this advice. It does not teach children to accept people with different gender identities, it teaches them that some men are literally women if they identify as such; that some women are male and have penises.<sup>2</sup> To coerce girls into accepting this proposition or be seen as non-inclusive or bigoted, is grooming.

All young people should be taught safety, bodily integrity, respect, the importance of consent, the right to assert boundaries and the right to privacy, themes which can only be built on accurate language.

Girls are particularly at risk of sexual harassment, coercion, violence and exploitation. The corruption of words and meanings and the shrinkage of language inherent in the use of 'gender neutral' terms disempowers girls further by taking away the words they need to both recognise and name themselves as the female sex and to recognise their right to boundaries with the male sex.

The objective reality of biological sex is the foundation of teaching about sex. The idea that gender identity is the reality and biological sex is merely a social construction comes from queer theory. The gender identity and queer movement is linked to kink, BDSM, 'sex positive' feminism, porn and prostitution (euphemistically renamed 'sex work') and it is all about pushing and erasing boundaries.

This is reflected in the common themes of some recent 'inclusive' RSE material. This includes an emphasis on pleasure and 'sex positivity,' encouragement to accept and experiment with extreme sexual practices,<sup>3</sup> normalisation of anal sex,<sup>4</sup> encouragement of surgical body modification<sup>5</sup> and presentation of 'sex work' as a normal job choice.<sup>6</sup> Queer theory is the latest manifestation of the pressure on girls to accept anything and give up all boundaries, or be seen as a prude.

The easy accessibility of porn has turned extreme sexual practices into everyday viewing. The influence of pornography on boys and the coercion of girls to perform sex acts which are degrading, humiliating, or cause them pain and injury needs to be urgently addressed. Doctors are reporting increased referrals of girls with catastrophic internal injuries from anal sex.<sup>7</sup> A Sexual Health research study published in the BMJ, of 16 - 18 year-olds, concluded "Young people's narratives normalised coercive, painful and unsafe anal

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/resources/advice-guidance/sre-21st-century-supplementary-advice>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.brook.org.uk/your-life/what-is-gender>

<sup>3</sup> <http://sexpression.org.uk/blog/2015/2/16/scottish-conference-2015-highlights-reflections>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theproudtrust.org/training-and-education/education-resources/sexuality-agender/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://sexpression.squarespace.com/non-binary-gender/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bishuk.com/your-call/getting-paid-to-have-sex/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://nypost.com/2019/01/16/teen-suffers-life-changing-injury-trying-to-imitate-porn/>

heterosex." <sup>8</sup> One in three teenage girls has experienced some form of sexual violence from a partner.<sup>9</sup> The 'rough sex' defence is increasingly used by men who kill their partners.<sup>10</sup>

SRE teaching must be informed by feminist analysis if we want to reverse these trends and SRE training from outside agencies should be critically appraised on this basis. SRE material based on gender identity and queer theory caters to a male sexuality, increases the pressures and risks for girls and removes the possibility of any sex-based critique. The goal of 'inclusion' should not inadvertently result in the exclusion of girls.

Stephanie Davies-Arai

Transgender Trend

[www.transgendertrend.com](http://www.transgendertrend.com)

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/8/e004996>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/about/data-on-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://standpointmag.co.uk/issues/may-2019/a-fifty-shades-of-grey-area-over-violent-sex/>