

Transgender Trend

Transgender Trend was founded by Stephanie Davies-Arai in 2015, with the aim of creating an evidence-based information resource for parents, to provide a critical analysis of the current approach and ideology, and introduce a challenge to the prevailing media story on the issue of child transition. We are committed to open debate to ensure that UK legislation and healthcare and education policies are based on robust scientific evidence and we publish alternative resources for parents and schools. We are the only UK organisation to specifically challenge the new idea of 'innate gender identity' in children and we have established ourselves as the voice of authority and influence in this area. We have no political or religious affiliation.

Our aim is to challenge and expose the lack of science and evidence behind 'self ID' school policies and NHS care pathways. When we started, there was almost no questioning of medical intervention for children in the mainstream media. Now, issues such as puberty blockers and transgender schools guidance are subjects of wide media coverage and public debate, and the research and investigation we have called for is beginning to happen.

After founding Transgender Trend, Stephanie Davies-Arai became established very quickly as a regular commentator on issues and news about child transition throughout the UK and worldwide media, including TV appearances on Sky News and [BBC Newsnight](#) (with Susie Green of Mermaids) in 2016. She has since appeared on [ITV Good Morning Britain](#), Channel 4, BBC and ITV News programmes, and the BBC Spotlight documentary '[Transgender Teens](#)' in 2018. Radio interviews include the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme, Woman's Hour, FiveLive, [Radio London](#), local radio, and independent stations such as Talk Radio, [LBC](#) and [Spirit Radio Ireland](#). Stephanie has also been [interviewed](#) and [taken part in debates](#) globally.

Her comments have appeared regularly across all UK news media, including in the Saturday Times Magazine in 2016, in an article by Louise France '[Inside Britain's only transgender clinic for children](#)' which was the first serious investigation into the issue of child transition in UK mainstream media, and in the first piece to challenge the new orthodoxy in the Sunday Times magazine in 2017: [Be trans, be proud - but don't call yourself a "real woman"](#) by Jenni Murray. Stephanie has been commissioned to write articles for a range of media outlets, from [The Transgender Experiment on Kids](#) in the Wales Arts Review in 2015 to [Doubt Cast on Tavistock Gender Clinic's Puberty Blockers Trial](#) in the Morning Star in 2019. She was quoted extensively for a new Civitas report [The Corrosive Impact of Transgender Ideology](#) by Joanna Williams.

Stephanie and Susan Matthews contributed chapters to the best-selling book [Transgender Children and Young People: Born in Your Own Body](#) (2018) and Stephanie, Susan and another team member, known as @neverfallingforit on Twitter, contributed to [Inventing Transgender Children and Young People](#) (2019), both edited by Heather Brunskell-Evans and Michele Moore and published by Cambridge Scholars. Stephanie also contributed a chapter to [Transgender Children: A Discussion](#) (Civitas 2019) and her work has been referenced in academic papers.

In 2017 Transgender Trend [published a report](#) into coverage of the subject of 'transgender kids' in mainstream UK newspapers over the period April 1 2016 – March 31 2017. Our finding was that news reports overwhelmingly portrayed child transition as normal and positive, and medical transition as safe. Our research also uncovered the fact that the BBC alone covered the subject of 'transgender kids' in at least 35 online articles, 23 radio broadcasts and 7 TV shows in a twelve month period. After publication of our report, 2017 saw a significant increase in critical articles in the UK media, led by The Times, Sunday

Times and the Mail on Sunday, [which we reported in a 2017 Roundup](#) at the end of the year. We have worked in the background as consultants and advisers to journalists, editors and documentary film makers ever since.

Stephanie has spoken regularly at events across the UK, including the first feminist conference on gender politics in the UK, [Thinking Differently](#), organised by Julia Long in 2016, Woman's Place meetings in [Bristol](#), Oxford and Leeds, ReSisters events including [Haringey](#) and [Hackney](#), [Let A Woman Speak](#) in Plymouth and parliamentary debates [in the House of Commons](#) in 2017 and [the House of Lords](#) in 2019. Stephanie and Susan spoke at the Inventing Transgender Children [educational conference in London](#) in October 2019.

In February 2018 Transgender Trend published a school guide [Supporting gender diverse and trans-identified students in schools](#) which has been downloaded over 15,000 times. Nearly 2,000 printed copies have been sent to parents and schools. For the guide, Stephanie was [shortlisted for the John Maddox Prize 2018](#), a joint initiative of the charity Sense About Science and the science journal Nature, which "recognises the work of individuals who promote sound science and evidence on a matter of public interest, facing difficulty or hostility in doing so."

[Stonewall's response](#) to our school guide gave it wide publicity, and Stonewall has continued [to try to silence us ever since](#). The guide was featured in a [Guardian Education article](#) in 2018 and in a [TES review](#) of all transgender school guidance in 2019, in which it was voted the 'most consistent with EHRC Technical Guidance for Schools in England' and the only guide to be centred on safeguarding. We have since published three more guides for schools: [A Children's Rights Impact Assessment](#), [Safeguarding Concerns](#) and [Inclusive Relationships and Sex Education in Schools](#). We have also published two downloads: a [simple guide to Equality law and statutory schools guidance](#) for parents and [Stonewall schools guidance: a critical review](#), an analysis of all Stonewall schools guides since 2015.

In November 2019 we published [My Body is Me!](#) a rhyming picture book for Early Years/Primary aged children, written by award-winning children's poet and author Rachel Rooney and illustrated by Jessica Ahlberg, which quickly sold over 1,500 copies and was featured in [an article in the Sunday Times](#).

Over the years, Transgender Trend has written many letters and responded to a number of government and NHS consultations. In 2016 we submitted a response to the [NHS GIDS service specification consultation](#) and some of our recommendations have now been incorporated into the updated NHS gender dysphoria web pages, [as we reported here](#). In 2017 we attended the NHS consultation meeting in London and ran a campaign to get people to respond to the [adult services consultation](#). The published [consultation response analysis](#) indicated that our responses had influenced the results.

In 2016 we [wrote to every organisation](#) involved in the review of the Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy with our views on why adding 'gender identity' would be potentially harmful for children and adolescents, particularly gay and lesbian young people. Our letter was read out at the review meeting but, [as we reported in this post](#), the decision was made by a small minority of activists. We wrote again to the organisations involved and only received a curt response from UKCP.

We [responded to the Trans Inquiry in 2015](#) and first wrote about transgender legislation in January 2016 [here](#). In 2016 we covered the result of the Inquiry [here](#), the government response and the event we attended in the House of Commons [here](#) and we [urged people to write to their MPs](#) ahead of the parliamentary debate in December of that year. In 2017 [we wrote about the impact on children](#) of the proposed Bill to change the protected characteristic to 'gender identity'. Also in 2017 we covered the

announcement of the public consultation [here](#) and urged people to respond when it finally happened in 2018 [here](#). Our submission to the consultation can be seen [here](#).

In 2016 we wrote submissions to the [CPS Hate Crime Consultation](#), the [Appg Hate Crime Inquiry](#) and the [Women & Equalities Committee Inquiry into SDG5](#). In 2018 we submitted a response to the [first government RSE consultation](#), wrote about the [subsequent consultation](#) on the draft guidance and [submitted a response](#). We also sent submissions to the consultation on [Enforcing the Equality Act](#) and the consultation on the [Draft Curriculum for Wales](#).

In 2018 we submitted a response to [Scotland's review of the GRA](#) and in 2019 we wrote about the [Scottish GRA](#) consultation, published a [simple guide](#) to responding and published [our full submission here](#). In 2020 we submitted evidence to the [Women & Equalities Select Committee Inquiry into Body Image](#).

We have submitted [government briefings](#) on a range of [issues](#), and parliamentary briefings including presentations by Stephanie and Shelley in the House of Commons on the [teaching of 'gender identity' in the new RSE curriculum](#) in February 2020.

We are stakeholders in the EHRC transgender school guidance consultation group to which we [submitted evidence](#) in 2017 and we have continued to outline our [ongoing concerns](#) about school policies and flaws in the consultation process in communications with the EHRC ever since. The EHRC guidance, initially due in March 2018, has still not been published. We have been involved in consultations with the Government Equalities Office as stakeholders in the GRA consultation, and we have met and consulted with various organisations, including the Fawcett Society, Sport England, Ipsos and Nuffield Council of Bioethics as well as government ministers and advisers.

We have attracted the highest quality contributors to write for us, including an Oxford University professor, a former BBC journalist, a family lawyer, teachers, academics and former Tavistock clinicians, and our published posts have facilitated wider public awareness and debate. For example, Michael Biggs's research into the Tavistock early intervention trial, published first by Transgender Trend, led to [a report by Newsnight](#) and has subsequently been reported worldwide.

We have attended numerous conferences and seminars, including Tavistock symposiums and education conferences where we have contributed comments from the audience. We attended the first detransition conference in Manchester in 2019. We have attended three Westminster Social and Education Policy Forum conferences. Our comments and written submissions to all conferences were published in the transcripts and can be viewed here: [Next Steps for Transgender Equality](#), [Relationships and Sex Education](#), and [Child Protection and Safeguarding](#).

We have worked to establish a personal relationship with key figures at the Tavistock Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) and in 2018, Director Polly Carmichael recommended Transgender Trend as a resource in response to a worried parent at the [ACAMH Emanuel Miller Memorial Lecture](#).

In 2019 our website visits increased by 74% to 317,515, we had visitors from 190 countries and 34 governments and our articles were translated into 20 languages. Our site is regularly linked in press articles from all over the world and is visited regularly in the UK by government departments, the NHS, universities, schools and school districts, local government, law firms, healthcare associations, child charities and the media etc.

We kickstarted the debate in the UK about child transition. We have facilitated wide discussion through our writing, speaking and resources. We have been at the forefront of change in this area, within government, education and healthcare. We have provided support to countless parents along the way. We recognised that it would take local parents to be effective in challenging their school authority on its transgender guidance so we set up and managed a Facebook page for parents to get together, beginning with a group of parents from Birmingham. Out of this the successful parent campaign group Safe Schools Alliance was formed. Now there are also two parent support organisations, Our Duty and Bayswater Support Group.

In June 2019 The Royal College of General Practitioners published a new Position Statement acknowledging that “Urgent investment in research on the impacts of treatments for children and young people is needed.” In January this year the NHS announced an independent review of the service specification for child and adolescent Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS). We are registered stakeholders in the NHS GIDS commissioning group and the recently announced inquiry into evidence for medical interventions for young people. We wrote to Dr Hilary Cass who is leading this inquiry, with our analysis of the 2016 NHS Service Specification for child and adolescent GIDS, and we were invited to contribute.

We became a limited company in June 2019 and we depend on individual donations to keep going. We receive no corporate or government funding. Despite this we have become the established alternative voice to highly-funded organisations such as Stonewall, Mermaids and Gendered Intelligence. These organisations are signposted by the Department for Education, the NEU, the BBC and every organisation that lists support resources, whereas we are not. We are constantly vilified, defamed as ‘anti trans’ and even accused of wanting to kill children. We see this as testimony to the wide influence our work has had, and the threat we pose to transgender lobby groups. Through dissemination of facts, science-based evidence and clear analysis we have built a solid reputation as a trustworthy source of information for parents, teachers, medics and politicians alike.

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