

**Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.**

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CSW Communications Procedure
Human Rights Section
UN Women

30 July 2025

By email: cp-csw@unwomen.org.**Re: Infringements of Women's Human Rights within Australia**

Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. is a not for profit community legal service based in Sydney and operated entirely by volunteers working to advance the sex-based human rights of women and girls.

Firstly, we wish to provide a brief update on our previous communications to CSW in 2021 (copies attached), to which we did not receive any response from CSW or from the Australian Government. One of these communications was on behalf of our Women's Court Support Service in the Australian Family Court and the other complaint was in relation to the persecution of our own service as human rights defenders. Not only have we witnessed no improvement in the treatment of women and children's human rights within the family law system, but our Women's Court Support Service has now also had its tenancy terminated by the Family Court. This appears to have been to make way for a funded support service for men. Despite being overwhelmingly responsible for family violence, men now have more support than their victims within the Sydney Family Court. Meanwhile every step possible has been taken to eradicate our service.

Despite these setbacks, our service has continued to advocate strongly for women's sex-based rights, including representing the Lesbian Action Group in challenging a decision by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to refuse them an exemption to hold lesbian events exclusively for females. The disappointing decision by the Administrative Review Tribunal to uphold the decision of the AHRC is now on appeal to the Federal Court. Most recently Lesbian Action Group have been granted leave to intervene in the upcoming appeal before the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia of *Giggle v Tickle* which is set to be heard in the first week of August 2025. This is another case, in which our service was instrumental in the early stages, and which involves defending the right of women to have safe spaces (including online spaces) where women can meet in the absence of individuals who are biologically male – regardless of how they 'identify'.

Like the canary in the coalmine, lesbian women have been sounding the alarm for decades about the aggressive and predatory incursions of males claiming to be women into female only spaces. I attach a list of quotes from lesbian women, as supplied to us by LGB Alliance Australia, describing the harassment they have experienced in this regard.

However, aside from the obvious threat of sexual violence to women in these circumstances, by erasing the legal definition of woman the trans movement has effectively undermined women's sex-based rights more generally, leaving us without legal recognition and protection. This has resulted in the 'sex-blind' application of discrimination, domestic violence and family laws which has facilitated their use as weapons against women, rather than providing much needed recourse against the pervasive threat of male violence.

For example, in a world where the words 'woman' and 'mother' are being systematically erased from legislation for fear of offending the trans community, there is no recognition of the unique biological attachment between mother and infant and the vital safeguarding role played by women in relation to children. This has left the way open for the widespread removal of vulnerable infants from their mothers in various contexts, whether through inappropriate application of family laws and the Hague Convention on Child Abduction or through the growing embrace of surrogacy arrangements. This has unsurprisingly coincided with an epidemic in reports of child sexual abuse.

The failure for society to acknowledge actual sex-based differences between men and women, including the much greater propensity within the male population for violence and sexually predatory behaviour, has undermined rather than advanced efforts to achieve greater equality for women. It is not only women's sports, scholarships and other opportunities that have been impacted, but also their safety and the safety of their children. The increasing reports of child abuse occurring within childcare centres also reflects a failure to acknowledge the greater risk and need for supervision specifically created by having male workers involved in these services. Unfortunately, rather than acknowledge this specific risk the entire sector is being penalised which will result in increased costs, which will no doubt be borne largely by mothers. In so many ways it is women who continue to be punished for male violence.

We look forward to this complaint receiving detailed consideration by CSW and the Australian Government.

Yours faithfully



Anna Kerr
Principal Solicitor

Quotes from lesbian women about harassment experienced in mixed spaces, particularly from trans identified males

"lesbian woman, 26-year-old Chloe, said she felt so pressured she ended up having penetrative sex with a trans woman at university after repeatedly explaining she was not interested."

"I was told that homosexuality doesn't exist and I owed it to my trans sisters to unlearn my 'genital confusion' so I can enjoy letting them penetrate me"

"We know a minority, but still a sizeable minority of trans women, do pressure lesbians to go out with them and have sex with them and it's a very disturbing phenomenon."

"What we are seeing is a regression where once again young lesbians are being told 'How do you know you don't like dick if you haven't tried it?'"

"They tried to do the right thing and they gave them a chance, and realised that they are a lesbian and they didn't want to be with someone with a male body, and the concept of transphobia and bigotry is used as an emotional weapon, that you can't leave because otherwise you're a transphobe,"

One (lesbian) compared going on dates with trans women to so-called conversion therapy - the controversial practice of trying to change someone's sexual orientation.

All above from <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-57853385>

"One night we went out to a queer club night, and the group included a male friend who used they/them pronouns. We were in the club when a stereotypically gay song came on, and I made a joke that 'I have to dance to this because I'm a lesbian'. This friend said to me 'so am I' and I thought they were joking - I only knew they used they/them pronouns, I'd never heard them call themselves a lesbian before, but they joined me on the dancefloor. I realised that they were trying to insinuate some kind of similarity between us, some kind of lesbian camaraderie. They were dancing really close to me and tried to put their arm around my waist. This friend had a beard and had not even remotely transitioned to female. I remember thinking 'I don't want a man to touch me' and was disgusted at my own reaction - I felt like someone would be able to sense my transphobia." <https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home>

"Last spring for weeks a young man who was taking hormones to grow breasts (I know this because they were wearing only a white bra made out of T-Shirt material and you could see everything. It was obscene and in 45 years I have NEVER seen a woman dressed like that-- they were essentially topless) dressed as a woman, wearing a very short miniskirt flashed me his penis on multiple occasions" <https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/3>

"I was at a "lesbian" swingers' club a couple of months back. It was originally advertised in its Facebook group as an event for "people with vulvas", but the trans activists and their comrades jumped on it and the group ended up changing their entry qualifications. So on the actual night there were a whole bunch of 50+ year-old men masturbating over girls getting it on with each other. A group of men ended up having a gangbang in an open room for all to see. (I don't think any of us wanted to see that). One bloke just wore a terrible cheap blonde wig and a white string vest dress thing, and literally stood masturbating over two women 69ing upstairs. He wasn't even pretending. Apparently we lesbians are no longer allowed to just enjoy women and be alone with women. Men and their penises must always be included." <https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/20>

"I was cotton ceiling-ed by a trans-identified male on Facebook by DM. He was wanting to come up and hang out with me. I wasn't interested, I said 'No, I am same-sex attracted', and that I'm

only interested in being friends. The next thing I'm being called a genital fetishist and a transphobe! I have never had this happen before, so I contacted an admin of the lesbian group he was on, and complained."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/23>

"About 15 years ago, before the current trans politics became so powerful, I came out as a lesbian and attended several organised social gatherings and support groups. Already there were trans-identified males turning up and taking part as "lesbians" and no one said anything, I think because women are so socialised to be nice. The males' behaviour was mostly ok, but just having them there made me uncomfortable and changed the vibe, it just wasn't a lesbian group any more. One male was severely mentally ill and treated the group as his personal therapy session which was exhausting and off putting for women who came there just wanting to meet each other. I'm sure things are much much worse now. I have a lesbian friend who was tricked into a date with a male and felt too scared / embarrassed to leave. It's a green light for creeps."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/32>

"It was advertised as a women's dance. Being a Chillout (2019) event we thought it reasonable to expect mostly, if not all, lesbians at the dance. There were 4 individuals present who were clearly males trying to present themselves as women. It just spoils the entire vibe. To top it off, of course they used the women's toilet. We live in country Victoria and there is so little social stuff for lesbians. When we queried the presence of these trans-identified males (TIMs) at a women's/lesbian dance we were told: "if they say they are women then they have to be allowed to attend". The same thing happened at the Red Velvet Ball, TIMs came, only a few but it is just wrong. It has the same selfish tone as blokes who would sleaze on to lesbians in gay pubs. Their very presence is invasive and off-putting. It is all about them getting validation by intruding into lesbian spaces. It made us so angry and sad. Why can't we just have one dance a year that is just for lesbians? You know, adult human females who are same-sex attracted. There is no respect."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/40>

"There's a club in my home town that only has gender-neutral toilets. One night in there when I'd gone to see a gig, a man cornered me in one of the rows of cubicles, put his face right up close to mine, and said 'I'm gonna rape you so hard'. He then laughed and walked off. A couple of weeks later a woman was raped in these toilets in the same club, leading to the club being closed down for a while."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/49>

"There is one remaining lesbian bar in London, called 'She' bar. The decor is about as imaginative as the name, with it resembling something of the inside a shipping container. But it's all we have, so it's where everyone goes. It's underground, down a flight of stairs leading from a busy Soho street. Little signage outside means most people would likely walk by without knowing of its existence. The point, I suspect, is probably to be nondescript and discrete, so that lesbians catch knowledge of it by word of mouth, but general passersby wouldn't bother descending the steps.

Lesbian spaces are often guarded like that. This is partly because some men like to leer at us (women generally, but especially women kissing) and also what exactly would be the point in having a very mixed lesbian bar? Chat-up attempts would have a significantly higher fail rate(!) and the whole point of lesbian bars is to make lesbian connections possible, whether platonic or romantic.

Into that social context, the last time I was at She bar there was a very tall, large man in hyper feminine clothing (mini skirt, stiletto heels, bright lipstick) stood at the bar. Not simply getting a drink at the bar, but hanging around in front of it, staying in everybody's field of vision, purposefully making a show of himself. He would titter about on his heels and sort of look around, swaying back and forth, then stroke the sides of his torso down to his hips, suck the end of his straw, twirl a strand of hair on his big blonde wig, before cat walking up and down a

bit more. His presence meant the bar wasn't very busy. Lots of lesbians sat at their tables with empty drink glasses because this man was putting everyone off going up to order.

Maybe it would've been different if he was sat on a stool, or chatting to bar staff, but he just seemed to be loitering and looking to be noticed or for 'something' to happen.

In the end, out of frustration, and as an experiment to discover what would happen, I said I would buy everyone at my table a round of drinks. The bar is short, there's not much space, so I ended standing very much in the vicinity of this colossal man as he had placed himself smack bang in the centre of the bar. "Hello lovely..." he said to me, to which I briefly laughed, having expected something cliché like that. "Alright mate", I said back, grinning at him. But he didn't like my response (because it is assertive, pointedly friendly, and often how people who are equals address one another i.e how men speak to each other) and so he turned away, wandering off.

The rest of the night everyone sat at their tables chatting whilst this glammed-up bloke switched between hovering around the bar and sort of vaguely dancing in the middle the floor. No one else could dance because we all felt too uncomfortable by his presence. In a way, had he not been asserting himself physically in this manner it wouldn't have been such an issue. She bar isn't 'women only', it even has male staff members (to the consternation of some), but it was this guy's manner and attempt to dominate the space that made all the women present hold ourselves back from readily ordering drinks, or milling about between tables mixing, or dancing.

The entire point of lesbian bars is to create a relaxed atmosphere for meeting one another. The fact of a man's presence, and how he wielded his presence, meant we all felt like we had to breathe in, be guarded, and worry about what he was trying to engineer. This defies the purpose of a lesbian space entirely. It took just one man dominating the space to make dozens of lesbians feel uncomfortable. He didn't care, he was enjoying himself, and probably felt hard done by that he wasn't 'included' by any of us socially (or sexually) that night.

Male entitlement like this risks robbing lesbians of the few spaces on the planet we have left. Make women feel uncomfortable, or at risk somewhere, and they simply won't visit that place again. That's before we even consider things like male sexual harassment, presumably the next step in the encroachment on our sexualities and advancement on lesbian existence."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/49>

"I went to a lesbian night club in Soho with my date (a woman). It felt really good to be able to be ourselves and not feel self conscious about expressing our sexuality and affection for one another. Occasionally, my date and I would kiss but I noticed that every time we kissed a transwoman was staring at us. "She" wasn't talking to or interacting with anyone. "She" was just sitting alone in the middle of floor while we (women) were dancing and making out. I stopped kissing because I could see the transwoman was getting off watching us and it felt voyeuristic. Most of all "her" gaze resembled the seedy look men give women. I felt a combination of anger and other indescribable feelings including a sense of powerlessness. This was meant to be a safe space and it would have been if the creepy transwoman hadn't been there. We shouldn't be made to feel uncomfortable in our own spaces."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/51>

"We, the signers of this forum, testify to having experienced gender-based, punitive and sexual violence aimed at "correcting" our sexual orientation within spaces presenting themselves as LGBTQIAP+. It is not an urban legend. These are not isolated cases. Moreover, when following these attacks, we undertake to create other spaces to meet in complete safety and together to live our homosexuality serenely, we still suffer from bullying (physical attacks, cyber harassment ...)

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"It seems like it's taboo for lesbians to have any boundaries anymore. If we don't either identify as male or date males who want to be treated like women, we're TERFs and deserving of death."

<https://unspeakablelgbtq.weebly.com/the-stories/it-seems-like-its-taboo-for-lesbians-to-have-any-boundaries-anymore>

"I was told that homosexuality doesn't exist and I owe it to my trans sisters' to unlearn my "genital confusion" so I can enjoy letting them penetrate me"
One recalled being pressured to kiss and touch a transwoman against her will in a club, another the violating experience of having a "transwoman slapping her ass" in the women's toilet of a gay club.

"The man I went on a date with, unknowingly, was mutual friends with people I knew, he threatened to out me as a terf and my job if I refused to sleep with him. I was too young to argue and had been brainwashed by queer theory so he was a "woman" even if every fibre in my being was screaming throughout so I agreed to go home with him. He used physical force when I changed my mind upon seeing his penis and he raped me"

<http://www.gettheloutuk.com/attachments/LesbiansAtGroundZeroFindings.pdf>

"Some lesbians reported turning down transwomen on online dating sites and being subjected to threats of violence, threats of sexual violence and rape, threats of corrective rape, attempts immediately being contacted by underage girls looking for sex, hopes that another transwoman rapes them and demands to meet despite the women clearly having already said no.

One lesbian reported being invited to participate in incestuous relationship with her sister and an older transwoman after turning the transwoman down.

One woman was told that a "girl dick" was just a built in dildo.

One woman reported saying she frequently got comments like, "[T]his penis makes me more of a woman than you, with this penis I'm going to dominate all of you[.]

[W]e're going to rape you until you kneel before males[.]

[D]eath awaits you. I'm going to pour gasoline on you so that you burn faster fucking whores[.]

If a woman tells me she doesn't want to fuck with me, I rape her. I'm much more of a woman than you, [you] shit privileged[.]

[Y]ou envy trans because men prefer to fuck with us."

One woman said she was asked repeatedly about where she masturbated, including if she masturbated in university bathrooms, and was accused of being a prude after saying no and that she didn't know any women who did that.

One woman said she had to delete the Her app because the abuse from transwomen on the site towards lesbians like herself was horrible.

One woman was said, "There were several times when I expressed gender critical beliefs that a "transwoman" threatened to "out" me locally and shortly after this conversation I was receiving private messages from these kinds of males, some were pictures of their penis."

One lesbian was told they needed to see a psychiatrist to cure their internalized homophobia and "genital preference" after turning down transwomen on online dating sites and apps.

Four women also report being called TERFs if their orientation was known or they indicated a lack of attraction to male bodies.

Other women reported being told they were not actually women. Another was told she would be single forever despite being engaged at the time.

Several women said their experiences in dealing with transwomen and sexual harassment was the same as their experiences dealing with men and sexual harassment.

One lesbian said that she faced continual online persecution from a transwoman who said because she is a masculine lesbian, she should be a trans."

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>

p. 42

"One lesbian was told by a man that his dick would make her normal.

Some women said this abuse was because they rejected online male advances.

One woman said after she rejected advances from either a transwoman or transfeminine man, the person said, "Come one. You're a slut. I know you like it because you're a dirty and mean slut." This despite the fact that she never talked like that at all to the person.

A woman on PinkCupid (dating app) said that having her settings say she was a lesbian interested in other women meant that she received huge amounts of abuse from men in their 30s and 40s who sent her streams of angry messages after viewing her profile."

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>

p.46

"Transwoman, close to 30, not operated. After clarifying several times that I didn't want to have sex with her because I didn't have sex with people with a penis, he grabbed my head to put it on her genital organs, insulting me: "fucking transphobic whore."

Another woman described her incident of sexual pressure as, "A transfeminine man cornered me in a nightclub bathroom and told me he wanted to help me put in a tampon. He touched my boobs and tried to touch my genitals. I screamed really loud and he ran away. They are aggressors because they are men."

Another story of sexual pressure by a transwoman told by a respondent was, "In a bar, after an argument, a man who claimed to be a transwoman showed me his genitals and, grabbing my arm, forced me to touch it."

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>

p.48

"Has a transwoman ever sexually pressured you or forced you to have sexual contact (genital touching, oral sex, anal sex, or vaginal sex) against your will or without your consent?"

18.1% of women responded yes, having an average age of 34.

The average age of the women who said no was 33.4.

Bisexual women were much less likely than lesbian women to be sexually pressured, with a rate of 8.5% compared to 30.9%.

50.0% cis woman reported being sexually pressured.

40.0% of women in the United States reported being sexually pressured by transwomen compared to 17.7% in Spain, 16.7% in Mexico and 33.3% in Argentina. Women in rural areas were least likely to be sexually pressured by transwomen at 14.3%, while 17.2% of women in cities and 26.3% of women in the suburbs 48 reported being sexually pressured by transwomen.

0% of mixed-race women, Hispanic / Latina women and Gitana women reported being sexually pressured by transwomen, while 16.7% of Mediterranean white women, 20.7% of white women, 25.0% of women who declined to state their race or where their race was unknown, and 33.3% of black women reported having been sexually pressured by transwomen. 20.5% of

women who reported using dating sites were sexually pressured by transwomen compared to 13.9% who did not use dating sites.”

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>

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