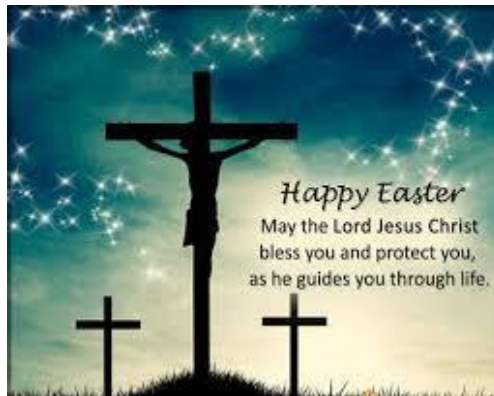




SIBYLS LOGO - ROBYN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018

Newsletter 91 – Easter 2020



In this time of global crisis, it may be that reality is revealing itself to us—through great suffering—universal patterns that are always true. Fr Richard Rohr

Dear Sibyls

The whole world is enduring the ordeal of the pandemic and the joy of Easter might seem elusive. Yet joy and hope there are, unfailingly, which we must keep alive in these testing times and try to share with others. From the suffering and death of Jesus came the joy of the Resurrection and maybe from the shared affliction of the virus will come greater unity and recognition of our dependence on one another in the one family of God throughout the world. I hope and pray you and your loved ones will be spared the worst effects of the virus. If all else fails, try praying to Saint Corona (yes there really is one, feast day 14 May: a Christian martyr, she suffered a gruesome death).

Isolation is miserable and unnatural for most of us but thanks to the internet there are many ways of keeping in touch without physically meeting. If any Sibyl wishes to join a WhatsApp group, please send me your mobile phone number. Open Table (<http://opentable.lgbt/>) are seeking to explore ways in which LGBT Christians can stay connected. And there is a Sibyls' *Listening Service* which could be of particular help to some people at the moment. You can call any of the following:

- Jenny-Anne Bishop jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk Telephone: 01745 033 7144 & 07500-741955
- Yvonne Wood Yvonne-wood@outlook.com Telephone 01279 833499 or 07595087207
- Or me – contact details below.

Of course books are a vital resource and I am delighted that part 3 of the “Sibyls Trilogy” *Trans Affirming Churches - How to Celebrate Gender-Variant People and Their Loved Ones* is now available: congratulations and thanks to Tina Beardsley and Chris Dowd.

And this newsletter may help to pass a few hours, especially if you investigate the links where there is a wealth of interesting material. I must emphasise once more that there is a wide range of views expressed both in articles in the newsletter and in these links, with some of which some Sibyls might be uncomfortable or even offended. They reflect the reality of how trans people are currently perceived, both in society, the churches and in our own community, even in the Sibyls, which remains diverse and inclusive of all forms of variant gender identity and attitudes to it. Let us remember that the Sibyls exists to support trans people of all kinds and there is no test of trans orthodoxy or opinion for membership. All Sibyls are equally welcome. And if you disagree with something, why not write a response? The article below from our esteemed founder, Jay Walmsley, is a timely reminder of how the Sibyls came into being and the spirit that inspired us in our beginnings. We are all on this extraordinary and rather marvellous trans journey together so let us love one another and allow ourselves to be freshly united and renewed by the joy of Easter once more.

Pauline
pauline.fleck@btinternet.com
M 07581553357

Holy God,
who created us for and from love,
in this time of social distancing
hold us close in your arms.
Comfort those who are afraid,
enliven those who are bored,
give courage to those who are distressed,
and warm those who feel the cold touch of loneliness.
Breathe in, with and through us
as we walk through uncertainty into a new future
knowing that you are with us now and await us there.
In the name of Christ the Beloved we pray.

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THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group for Gender Variant People

c/o 10, Ffordd Las, Rhyl, LL18 2DY

www.sibyls.co.uk E-mail: enquiries@sibyls.co.uk

The Sibyls is a UK-based confidential Christian spirituality group for transgender people, their partners and their supporters. It offers companionship along the journey, and information/advocacy to churches.

Sibyls seek to fulfil the two great commandments of Jesus: To love God and love one another. To achieve this we provide opportunities to meet in safe and friendly establishments. We promote the freedom to talk, to learn, to pray and to seek God's will.

If you are having difficulties reconciling your faith with being transgendered or are concerned about acceptance in your church then maybe Sibyls is what you have been looking for. It could be that you just need to talk with fellow Christians who understand what it is to be transgendered, or simply wish to be yourself as you worship in fellowship and in a safe environment.

If you are looking for an accepting church, it may be useful to visit our website, where there is a resource for this. Go to the Resources page on <http://www.gndr.org.uk/sibyls5/indexmain.htm> Click on the "Pastoral" and then on the "Churches" tab. This is being updated, but has useful links. Especially supportive are the MCC Churches. We like to know of churches which welcome transgender people. Also if you would like more information to give to your church please do contact us.

We welcome new members, young and old. There is no membership fee or annual subscription, and no commitment, except confidentiality. Your details are held in total confidence and will not be given to any other members without your permission.

Sibyls' Website - www.sibyls.co.uk

Dates and information on future events are posted on the website. A full range of resources is also available. Click on the "Resources" tab on the right of the top banner on the website to access these.

Please note that the members' section of the website is no longer password protected although the older newsletters have been archived and still protected.

Facebook Groups

Two Facebook Groups are available to enable Sibyls and other trans Christians to communicate and express and exchange views and news. They are the Sibyls Members Group and TranschristianUK. Do join up if you are not already members.

SIBYLS LONDON EVENING MEETINGS 2020 -NB All meetings currently cancelled or postponed

2020 London Evening Meetings

9 April, 11 June, 13 August, 8 October, 10 December

6:00 p.m. at St Anne's Church, Dean Street, Soho.

THESE EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL TRANS PEOPLE,
TO THEIR FRIENDS, SPOUSES AND SUPPORTERS

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SIBYLS TO COME

Meet on the Second Thursday of every second month for a Service at St Anne's Church, followed by a meal together

Come in whatever role is convenient at the time

During the intercessions we normally pray for those we know and also on behalf of others who would like our prayers. If you would like your name, or the name of someone you know to be included on the prayer list, please email me. Include any details you think appropriate. You can email us privately at sibylslink@gmail.com. (If you would like your request for prayers to be made available to the whole group, the Sibyls members can of course email the Sibyls email group and/or Sibyls Members facebook group instead).

These meetings are very good; gentle lovely evenings with a service which is always thoughtful, peaceful and healing, followed by a good meal in congenial surroundings

Details: 6:00 service at St Anne's, 55 Dean Street, Soho W1D 6AF, 50 metres up on the left from Shaftesbury Avenue (it doesn't look like a church but it is), and from about 6.30 a gathering at a Soho restaurant.

You can just turn up on the evening: however it would also be helpful to get some idea of numbers in advance. If you do know you are coming, please email me at sibylslink@gmail.com. We normally decide on the restaurant to go to at the end of the service. If you are late please ring 07596 197 665.

You will be welcome
Susan Gilchrist

Metropolitan Congregation, Manchester and North West

Here are the details of our weekly Metropolitan congregation LGBT+ Sunday afternoon service to which all Sibyls members are warmly invited and welcomed.

We are a Christ-centred congregation which serves, celebrates and affirms the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities of Manchester and North West England. All are welcome. Our main service is on Sunday afternoons at 4.30pm. It is celebrative yet thoughtful and aims to appeal to folk from a range of different church backgrounds as well as to those for whom spirituality is new. We offer a place to explore Christian spirituality and help people live the Christian faith in ways which make sense in our contemporary society.

We are a friendly church and after worship - which usually lasts around one hour - everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and a chat. We usually have around 6-8 trans people attending and often go for a meal together after the service.



Where we are based

We are a congregation of Wilbraham Saint Ninian's United Reformed Church, near to the centre of Chorlton in South Manchester. Our address is corner of Wilbraham Road/Egerton Rd South, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0XJ (use M21 0UB for SatNavs).

Jenny-Anne Bishop

Forthcoming Events – virus permitting

European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups – annual conference September(?) 2020, Budapest, Hungary <https://www.euroforumlgbtchristians.eu/conferences/2020-budapest/282-budapest-2020-european-forum-annual-conference-registration-form>

Modern Church Living in Love and Faith conference – 13 – 15 July, High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts <https://modernchurch.org.uk/161-events/mcevents/annual-conference>

Quest annual conference, Manchester, 17-19 July Born this Way: Bookings are not limited to Quest members. <https://questlgbti.uk/quest-conference-2020/>

Green Belt – 28 – 31 August 2020 <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>

Sibyls' Residential weekend – 27 – 29 September, 2020, Purley Chase, Warwickshire – further details in the June newsletter.

A message from our Chair (Yvonne Wood):

Best wishes to all of you during this uncertain time. Many of us are taking care due to our age or medical conditions. I think also of those of us that are caring for someone else; those of us kept remote from loved ones, that are keeping in touch with church friends unable to meet, those working from home or in essential services. I am particularly mindful of those who have long-awaited treatment delayed. If you have been waiting for gender reassignment or other treatment, this will be a huge disappointment.

I hope we can uphold each other – through personal friendships made within Sibyls, and through our Facebook group. Have a look at our website and if you wish make use of the listening some Sibyls can offer, through phone calls and email.

It feels things are thrown at us to challenge us, but faith keeps us stronger and helps us look to what we can offer others.

Another challenge has been the public debate about transgender. Over the last few years, trans came out of the shadows, and we made good progress towards understanding and acceptance. Myths and taboos have been balanced by truth and respect. There has been an ability to share personal stories, and the Sibyls books *This is My Body*, *Transfaith* and now *Trans Affirming Churches* have been part of that quest for normalisation.

We all recognise that this has made transgender a social issue – in terms of young people coming out; the possibility of mistaken feelings; pressure on families; the influence of social media; demand for gender health services, for hormone therapy; easing the process of gender recognition. Campaigners, press and social media chats express strong views about trans and its social implications, leading to slogans and a two-sided argument. I hear myself being talked about, I know there is a legitimate debate, but do not recognise myself in the polemic; rather I feel insecure and dismayed.

I do not accept there are two sides and that one side must win; I believe there is truth in all that we hear and there is sense and proportion to be found. As well as intellectual analysis, I hope we draw on intuition, empathy and humility. And that we are led in the stillness of prayer.

I hear campaigners talking about women, and I recognise the women I know and see around me. I am ever more aware of the sexism and abuse that women face every day. We all are, or should be, feminists; we should all work against abuse and its causes. Potential abuse of gender recognition law is a part of this concern, not to be dismissed, but kept in proportion.

The only 'side' I can see is the masculine establishment, the culture of privilege, laddishness, self-protection, contempt for equality. The way this sad row is going, only they will win.

As Sibyls, we each know ourselves in our hearts, we have all had to deal with the mystery of gender-body contradiction, which we have worked on with families, counselors, in prayer. We have different personal circumstances. Yet for each of us, transition means approaching resolution, completeness, maturity, self-contentment, gratitude and increased capacity for love. We each become more complete as a person.

Sibyls is for everyone with faith, living with our gender truth. We don't care what words you use about yourself; essentially we all say "I am me", "this is how I am doing", "bless me" "share my struggle, share my joy".

Fifty years ago in 1970, the inaugural meeting of the women's liberation movement was held, celebrated in the new film *Misbehaviour*. I noticed placards saying 'Women's Liberation is People's Liberation' and 'Women are People too' I believe that we should be saying trans women and trans men are people – we all have human gifts and friendships to offer.

Trans Affirming Churches

How to Celebrate Gender-Variant People and Their Loved Ones

Christina Beardsley and Chris Dowd. Foreword by Dr Susannah Cornwall

Following *This Is My Body* and *Transfaith* the third volume in the trilogy is now out. This inclusive and welcoming guide shows churches how to create an accepting atmosphere for the trans community. It offers practical guidance about how to respond to trans people's pastoral needs through church and chaplaincy, and weaves contemporary first-hand accounts and inclusive examples of scripture throughout. [Learn More](#)

Mar 2020, Paperback / softback, 8.43in x 5.43in / 214mm x 138mm, 176pp, £19.99

ISBN: 9781785925320

Sibyls' Liturgies

Did you know that there are liturgies available on the Sibyls' website for a variety of types of service? Go to <http://sibyls.gndr.org.uk/indexmain.htm>, click on the "Pastoral Tab" and then on "Liturgies" tab and follow the links.

Debbie on behalf of the Sibyls is also compiling a wider collection of trans liturgies so if you have any suggestions for this please let Pauline know

THE SIBYLS – SOME EARLY MOMENTS

Jay Walmsley

Your editor has been rash enough to ask me to do some thoughts on the early days of Sibyls. There are a couple of points which I think deserve thinking about, even after this length of time.

The Offices

When planning the first weekend I had to think long and hard about what was going to happen. With two dozen people, most of whom had been thrown out of their churches and were hungry for spiritual experience, it had to provide for this need. Having good experience of times spent in convents I decided on a monastic based programme with communion services and morning and evening offices. The communion services, and we held one on each day, were essential as so many of the participants had been denied, some for a very long time. These services were hugely important, much needed and very emotional.

However important as the communion services were, I want to concentrate on the offices. At first these were largely based on Celebrating Common Prayer but as time went by and we grew in experience it was found good for a willing volunteer to run their own service. This worked and was exciting. All sorts of ideas were put into these services. They might be liturgical or perhaps a reflection on some aspect of spirituality or experience; the office might be contentious or it might be soothing. Whatever it was it was thoughtful and beneficial and came from the heart.

In my view Sibyls existed to support its members and to help them find their way to a satisfactory solution of their transgender issues and to find a way to God that worked for them. I think that religion is there (or should be) to help you find yourself and your God and then to truly be. Sibyls weren't there to tell you what you must do or what you must believe. That was never the function of the group. Whatever your solution to your transgender situation and whatever you chose to believe had to be your choice and whatever worked for you was fine by us. It had to be your solution but we were happy to be with you in the journey and to give help as best we could. Some found their way easily, others struggled.

The offices were a great help in this respect. Ideas (and doubts) were put forward, new ways of worship probed. To name but one whenever the late and much missed Michelle le Morvan talked, people listened; she was inspiring. A valuable aspect of the offices was that there was almost always a debate afterwards and people with total good manners and consideration, in safety and security, could raise points and

others would respond, could ask and someone would respond. There was so much to learn from this exchange of minds and thinking, all given without reservation and freely available for each to take as they found good.

Experience taught that the Saturday evening office was best kept simple. People were tired after a long day and a simple Compline service was sufficient and comforting. A Friday evening office worked well providing there was nothing else planned for that evening. However the Saturday and Sunday morning services provided plenty of food for thought and people came to them fresh. So valuable were they that they became a fixed part of the programme.

The Entertainment

From the very first weekend, at St Katharine's in October 1997, the entertainment has been a feature of Sibyls weekends. Being the first weekend I had to devise a programme. When you have twenty odd people for a full weekend you have to think of what to do with them that they will find helpful and will enjoy. We had people who were hurting and people who needed help. The services and some inspiration and some comfort were pretty obvious but what to do with the Saturday evening. A good dinner was a sound start but afterwards?

The idea of the entertainment came, like so many good things, from Malcolm Johnson. He said that I should make everyone do a turn. He had experience of doing this in various situations and reckoned it would work. The rules were that everyone had to do something, no exceptions permitted, and they could do whatever they liked. Read a poem, read a favourite passage from the bible or other literature, sing, play a musical instrument, dance, tell a story, tell a comic story, do conjuring tricks, whatever. Just do something. Totally understandably the resistance was huge. People, especially Brits, just don't stand up and put themselves in the spotlight. But I was adamant. At the very least it's not that difficult to find a bible verse and just read it.

After a good dinner we all trooped into the old library at St Katharine's, a lovely cosy room with plenty of space and good seating and somewhere to put that glass of wine. I acted as MC and reluctantly or otherwise people came forward and we were off. It was a huge success. Most were nervous but all contributed and the acts ranged from hesitant to simply brilliant and most were simply brilliant. It was a great evening which everyone enjoyed and immediately became a feature of Sibyls'

weekends thereafter. Very soon the compulsory element was removed as there were so many volunteers.

The important thing was that not only did the Sibyls have a lovely evening (with many more to follow) with lots of laughter and fun, always good for the spirit, but people who were struggling with their identity and with their presentation, who were having a hard time, who didn't know where they were going or how, found the resources to stand up before an admittedly friendly audience and perform. Not only to perform but as themselves, as truly themselves, something they had never been able to do before and probably had never even dreamt of doing. It worked wonders: you could see people gaining in confidence and self-knowledge. It was just a joy to see it happening.

These two aspects of Sibyls from the early days both made a difference. At first experiments, both the entertainment and the offices quickly grew to be valued and gave individual Sibyls a lot of fun and much to ponder.

Bringing Trans People Together

Debbie Hayton

As Covid-19 spread across every continent, the world changed in ways that we could not have anticipated as recently as Christmas. “Self-isolation” and “social distancing” have entered the lexicon and taken root in my mind to such an extent that video clips of people breaking the metre rule seem to belong to another age, like old silent movies. These are – to use an overworked expression – unprecedented times.

But trans people have been living in unprecedented times that go back further than Christmas. While previously we were largely ignored by politicians and the media – apart from occasional salacious and often unwelcome feature articles – trans issues have been high in the news agenda for the past three years. That has not always been a blessing.

My ears pricked up when the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee [reported](#) on transgender equality early in 2016. The focus on changes to the law, I felt, was misplaced. Maybe I thought we still needed to secure our existing rights? Maybe I had been frustrated by seemingly endless waiting lists for NHS gender services? Maybe I saw the potential for conflict if legal protections focussed not on actions but identity? But I worried that it would not end well.

There is much talk about transgender identities and how to protect them, but identity is subjective. A trans person is trans because they say they are trans. What other definition is possible? Certainly, nobody else can get inside our head to check our thinking. But laws based on self-declaration – relying on a deeply held sense of identity – are at the mercy of thoughts that can neither be proved nor falsified. I would argue that anyone can self-identify as trans, but I also understand the concerns of women who sense the safeguarding hazard if anyone can then self-identify as a woman.

The tragedy for me is not so much the furore that has erupted in politics – though that has not helped trans people who want a quiet life – but the rights and campaigns that have been overlooked, and the relationships that have become strained.

The law is effective when the focus is on actions: our right to do things, and protection from bad things being done to us. While it is [illegal to be trans in 14 countries](#), in the UK we have the freedom to express ourselves in our preferred gender. No longer, for example, can an employee be dismissed when they transition. The Equality Act [protects us](#) against harassment and discrimination, while the criminal law cites transphobia as an [aggravating factor in hate crime](#). Those rights must not be taken for granted. Meanwhile those waiting times for specialist healthcare are [longer than ever](#). Trans people who need medical support need appointments rather than promises, and the campaign for better resourcing of gender services is needed more than ever.

While trans people will never agree on everything – we are human after all – divisions over subjective issues are harder to manage. Arguments prefaced by “I think” or “I feel” leave people vulnerable when their claims are challenged. Grace and compassion between political opponents are therefore crucial, but too often in short supply – particularly on social media platforms where much of the debate takes place. Without body language, or even tone of voice, intent and nuance can be lost. But there is always a human being at the far end of the fibre optic, facing unknown pressures, concerns, hurts and fears. Maybe we should ask more often? Certainly, we must not forget the humanity that unites us all.

While the government has consigned us to barracks – and as Easter approaches – let’s consider what brings us together in spirit if not in body: as trans people, as Christians and as human beings. These might be unprecedented times, but they will not last for ever.

***I Am That I Will Be: for the transgender Christa who is coming to birth
(after Marcella Althaus Reid).***

I will *not* be silent, nor hidden forever.
For I am a transgender woman and I will come to birth.
Though *my* birthing is painful, messy and rocks the cradle,
it offers tidings of great joy, and a more just, diverse and beautiful world.
It overturns powers and principalities, lifting up the lowly,
ransoming my people from darkness, silence and death.

My birth is from a well of deep shame and profound, tearful, struggle.
Like Mary of Nazareth's, it involves recreative will and imaginative response.
For I know only too well the cost and waiting for new creation;
time, spirit and dollars - a slow, *so* slow, process of transfiguration.
It has involved powerful life-giving hormonal change,
the growing of tender loving breasts, the delightful easing of skin,
the living purgatory of electrolysis, extracting puberty's ransom,
the taking of a beautiful new name, the uneven transformation of
relationships,
and the tearing and transfiguration of intimate flesh.
On so many levels, it is about being born again
– so Nicodemus, Lazarus, the bent over woman and the Ethiopian Eunuch,
come out!

For in the beginning there was an indecent kaleidoscopic God.
Beyond gender, and *in* all gender,
they were not immaculate in their creation, but fabulously messy.
So the universe was born of terrific explosions of power, as well as love.
It unfolds through such threshings, and perpetually increases in diversity.
Even the patriarchs knew to wrestle with God
as part of their own creation and continuing birthing.
Why should it be other for us? Why are we so obsessed with purity, origins
and order? *Pain-love* is our invitation to life. It is cross-shaped with a bent to
resurrection.
This is the indecent, messy God, the indecent Christ,
and the indecent God-story which has never been perfect, and may never be.

I am an indecent creation,

and also *intrinsically disordered*,
at least according to the Church of Rome,
the so-called Mother Church who casts off her offspring like me.
I am an abomination to many Protestants.
I am a puzzle to Anglicans:
to be expelled, concealed, or maybe permitted, often at arms-length.
I am mystification and a gender whisperer to a spiritually stunted Prime
Minister.
Yet I am transgender and I will still come to birth, daily as I must.

I do not, like some mystics say, want to be recalled to *my* original name.
It *so* hurt and confined.
I want my own, authentic, name, and new names for so many, and so much
else.
For I move to the beat of a God who calls us into the future,
not to an idealised paradise that never was.
Naming is thus part of becoming, not of an eternal recurrence.
I am transgender and I *will* come to birth.

Nor do I want to be recalled to a virginal state.
I seek to develop, flourish and mature.
For I too am a sexual being and, with my queer siblings, I *rejoice* in this.
Our bodies, and our pleasures, are Genesis good.
As an indecent sexual creation I am glorious just as I am, and will be.
For I am transgender and I *will* come to birth, with *all* that that involves.

I am not an immaculate conception. I am an *indecent* conception.
I was born out of desire and struggle,
through God-pleasing genitalia, blood, sweat and tears.
I do not want to exist in a perfectly clean, or neat cosmos.
My divine lover does not want that either.
I am transgender and I *will* come to birth.

Nor am I an addition to be made one day to Galatians 3.28.
I do not want unitive awareness, transcendence of difference,
without being named, *without* being born, *without* ever having individuated.
I am the shadow, the Other,
the embodiment of the twilight people who can help make our world whole.

For I am transgender and I *will* come to birth.

I am not *disordered*, but I pray to be *reordering*.

For Jesus too was trans (beyond) gender, and most certainly intrinsically *reordering*.

They hung around with, healed, encouraged, and learned from, other disordering people. Let us then rejoice in God's messy conception, and enter the terrors of the pain-love of new creation.

That is the true *one-ing*, the transcendent immanence, of kaleidoscopic divinity.

For I am transgender and I *will* come to birth.

Mother Mary, whisper words of wisdom. There will be an answer - Let it Be!



©Cory Thoman * illustrationsOf.com/94413

How many trans people does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one but they have to live for a year in the dark to be completely, absolutely sure it needs changing and have the confirming opinions of two electricians (at least one with a PhD).

Trans research:

My name is Nicky Burbach. I am a researcher at the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University. I have recently completed a PhD looking at approaches to uncertainty, including differences and disagreement, in the teachings of Pope Francis (the current Pope!)

I am also a woman who is transgender and a Catholic. I am excited to be living in a time when the Church is slowly learning to recognise the presence of many voices that it was previously unable to hear. My research is interested in working out how to listen to these voices, while remaining in contact with its rich tradition.

Catholic organisations provide many services to people who are very dependent upon them – for example, homeless and crisis shelters, refugee centres, food banks, and schools. Sadly, many trans people need to access these kinds of services. However, many trans people are alienated by and from the Catholic Church. Furthermore, many Catholics struggle to balance their commitments to providing services to trans people with their perceptions of the demands of their faith. This leads to conflicts at the practical level of providing and accessing those services. This is made worse by the fact that most Catholic engagement with trans issues (theological or otherwise) doesn't engage with the voices of trans people.

The *HIR* Project project hopes to contribute to an informed approach to conflict resolution between practitioners in Catholic organisations, and trans people who access the services they provide. It aims to do so by privileging the voices of the people involved in navigating potential conflicts, using their insights and experiences as the basis for theological reflection and practical recommendations in a process of *Hearing, Imagining, and Reconciling*.

I am looking to recruit adult trans people who have experience accessing services provided by Catholic organisations to take part in interviews about their experiences. I will also ask interviewees if they would be willing to take part in some focus group sessions, although there is no obligation to do so.

Interviews will last about an hour, and can take place in any location of your choosing. There is no remuneration for participation, but I will provide an executive summary of all findings at the end of the project, and you can request a copy of any publications produced.

If you are interested in participating, or would like to find out more, please contact me at

n.g.burbach@durham.ac.uk

Thank you!

Nicky Nicolete Burbach (*she/her*)

Integrated Care for Trans Adults – a major research project: do take part in the survey. (I have been interviewed for the project and found it an enjoyable experience.)

For more info on the project <http://business-school.open.ac.uk/research/projects/icta/description>

For the survey <http://www.thissurvey.com/ICTAWebsite>

A journalist seeking help with an article about partners of trans people

I'm a LGBTQ journalist writing a piece for Guardian Weekend, the Guardian's Saturday magazine speaking to significant others/partners and former partners of transgender persons. The piece will be about their experience as the SOs or partners of trans persons. The hope is the piece will give voice to that experience in

an honest and sensitive way. I would love to speak to anyone who is potentially interested and I wondered if it might be possible to reach out to SIBYLS members in case anyone is interested in speaking to me. I've written a number of LGBTQ stories for Weekend, all collected here: <https://www.theguardian.com/profile/colin-crummy>

I'm on Facebook – full name Colin Crummy – or through this email if anyone would like to be in touch or hear more. colincrummy@gmail.com

Trans faith:

Rev. Rachel Mann gives excellent R4 Lent Talk: “Trans Identity”:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000fvzz>

Jo Inkpin invites Christians to join in celebrating Transgender Day of Visibility (31 March):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peoJMR17dpY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1TXMBXwWNiDYs4XsZkC3ZyYbJUScDGciBOdFAuaELSYDNde6x85SB_oKU

A short video blessing from Jo:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NE2FSd0jQH8&fbclid=IwAR2dHFridt_Th9FamQ5_YxiJA3Wv_siR2TdHBUAkLSpWUEwFCIakcj5NFsk

A lovely liturgy from Jo for a trans woman before GCS:
https://www.transspirit.org/blog/re-membering-a-trans-pre-surgery-ritual?fbclid=IwAR0cOcMyrtRNsDPYIHHLmO-k1UQzTr-hu9mRH_hPArBlq1p1YP3ITXUP7_4

Putting the trans in transfiguration (from Jo Inkpin's excellent transspirit website (www.transspirit.org)
<https://www.penandinkreflections.org/blog/putting-the-trans-in-transfiguration#>

Learning to live with scars: reflection from a trans man:
<https://www.queertheology.com/transgender-scars/>

What happens if you're transgender in the Church? (With State of Grace, USA):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=98NZCcEd39M&fbclid=IwAR3nGdN-4s1eXMe1WiGjWESudbdFxPsLWr1zZ_aZ1fUrZxLSVnLbKhyfEFQ&app=desktop

Christian Concern don't like Bishop Stephen Cottrell:
https://christianconcern.com/ccpressreleases/new-archbishop-of-york-endorses-primary-school-gender-transition/?fbclid=IwAR2HXa2qaMUpkyRmXK6XizhxxPuz9zF7U41ICdn__SaPJiO-XrLL8NP73g4

Bishop Szymon:

https://kafkadesk.org/2019/12/19/polish-priest-and-prominent-lgbt-activist-accused-of-offending-religious-feelings/?fbclid=IwAR2Ucs_xwUz9ZfKpvEGnl3g9j_BujRyaWulbHIQzSc0vnjVw5qO2KzXlaQc

French bishop advocates gender neutral language for baptismal certificates:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/01/06/in-lgbtq-welcome-bishop-introduces-gender-neutral-language-for-baptismal-certificates/>

Faithfully Me – Australian trans faith film:

https://www.blessedimp.org/blog/on-the-premiere-of-faithfully-me-our-australian-trans-faith-film?fbclid=IwAR1I9q9AuW8vWrx04zWZ2gr-71BCN2aBs_xlg2oGNPmImQxLx7ZJuEFmGs#

TERF Christian mother’s trans children (no, they don’t get on):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/06/lynn-meagher-called-out-children-trans-cult-proud-boys-posie-parker-christian-post/>

Pope Francis on evils of “gender theory” (sigh):

https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/12451/pope-francis-attacks-evil-of-gender-theory-?fbclid=IwAR1h1ML2ROd7a6fpm-DWh4_OSZAraKiv6UIYEg6FWAmHFOywavfwix66SUw

Enby Catholic addresses German Synod:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/02/08/at-german-synodal-assembly-non-binary-catholic-speaks-while-bishops-seek-change-on-lgbtq-teachings/>

Diocese of Oxford introduces LGBT chaplaincy service:

https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/lgbti-chaplaincy-service/?fbclid=IwAR2PzW91qfbrmkms_3JLP5U5MyBdh50gnhMmEuD44zIkU27dS9s14iCGk

Catholic diocese in US introduces aggressively transphobic policies for students and church workers:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/02/10/bishop-paprocki-threatens-transgender-church-workers-catholic-school-students-in-new-policy/>

US Bishop enacts cruel anti-trans policy in diocese:

<https://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/no-policy-650?akid=s234010..eM0eE5&fbclid=IwAR2LNpD07Sga1Varkl2vaMy01Ys46n82vAvD8tPSozRCnTdeVT8TH2DqB7U>

Sister Luisa Derouen comments:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/03/17/transgender-advocate-sr-luisa-derouen-criticizes-bishop-paprockis-new-gender-policy/>

Sister Ilio Delio says church will only survive if it opens its doors to LGBT people and others:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/02/23/sr-ilia-delio-church-only-survives-if-doors-opened-to-lgbtq-people-others-now-excluded/>

Very moving Tablet article by Claire Jenkins, an amazing Catholic trans woman:
<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/features/2/17357/transsexuality-loss-and-gain-amid-the-fragility-of-life>

Trans Christian replies to Franklin Graham:
https://blog.yorks.ac.uk/cris/2020/02/20/a-letter-to-franklin-graham-from-a-transgender-christian-in-the-uk/?fbclid=IwAR0F03YWEWvuD26HXY87Wq7MA8cmZe0mJ-_Nc8gJkSy_N2EWzYqeDD-OQAw

Norwich Quakers try to understand trans issues:
<https://www.norwichquakers.org.uk/post/norwich-meeting-s-experience-of-conflict-around-transgender-issues-january-2019-january-2020?fbclid=IwAR1qNFvQ1lqFfP6vJL-JZY7-t7cOpP6VQyBvS5xp7eHnSl6ocvVnGfOmZo>

...and a Quaker theologian reflects on trans identities:
<https://badshotleaandhale.org/2020/03/10/guest-post-thank-god-for-my-trans-friends/?fbclid=IwAR0aEg2hqI69Oog9lnD0LuiyUPuhDBpuK4odkIJ4aEr9xWVM-k9lRwPfCco>

What the Transfiguration means to one trans person:
<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/03/08/transfiguration-coming-out/>

Historians Helen King and Judith Maltby on LFF (they're not optimistic):
<https://viamedia.news/2020/02/06/living-in-love-faith-what-the-bishops-need-to-learn/?fbclid=IwAR0ZTLv6YAcflKajd42HWfS8iPBExAseruw112UesqNeXqRyou8BZvPi00U>

Story of a trans/queer Catholic priest:
<https://www.newwaysministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NWNC-test-Fall-2018-FINAL-1.pdf>

Trans resources from Queer Theology:
<https://www.queertheology.com/transgender/>

Trans politics/law:

Dawn Butler accuses Government of dodging questions on GRA reform:
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/23/dawn-butler-victoria-atkins-gender-recognition-act-dodging-questions-consultation/>

Scottish Govt's consultation on their proposals to amend GRA (apparently you don't have to live in Scotland to respond):
<https://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/act-trans-equality-scotland-gender-recognition-bill-consultation-guide>

Trans Scotland: Scottish Govt consults on proposed reform of GRA:
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/dec/17/transgender-reforms-will-not-diminish-womens-rights-scottish-government>

Will self-declaration harm women's rights? A lawyer argues not:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1468-2230.12507>

Catholic church in Scotland opposes reforms of GRA – but expresses “concern” for people suffering from gender dysphoria:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/18/catholic-church-trans-rights-scotland-gender-recognition-reform/>

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/18/catholic-church-opposes-gender-recognition-law-reforms-scotland-family-marriage/?fbclid=IwAR2mPd6Vf9A-_y2Jjhlop4pV1n_ZYEjN2wuk9HZ2DBGFA4xLp-mlS8RJnj0

...and so does Sibyl Debbie Hayton:

https://unherd.com/2020/01/scotlands-gender-recognition-act-is-a-hostage-to-fortune/?fbclid=IwAR3jIfK3LUPXQ_whX21ZL6DJ5LWa3yHyKmkW5l3ympua9YwMX_2EM4XZivc

Range of views in Scotland over reform of GRA:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-51445579>

Campaign launched against transphobia in Labour Party:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/11/labour-campaign-trans-rights-launch-transphobia-anti-trans-angela-rayner/>

Lisa Nandy heckled by transphobes at Labour LGBT hustings:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/21/lisa-nandy-trans-rights-heckled-labour-leadership-hustings-lgb-alliance/>

Sadiq Khan unequivocally supports us:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/17/mayor-london-sadiq-khan-transgender-rights-labour-party-twitter-muslim/>

...and here's a trans-friendly Tory wanting to campaign for us:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/27/tory-trans-campaign-orthodox-conservative-transphobic-gender-recognition-act-boris-johnson/>

High Court upholds right of police officer to issue transphobic tweets:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/14/harry-miller-police-officer-transphobic-tweets-lawful-high-court-trans-media-watch/>

House of Lords debate on toilet facilities develops into discussion of Equality Act and GRA:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-24/debates/D9459D1B-FADF-4765-AB3F-F55D4B322060/ChangingAndToiletFacilitiesInPublicBuildings>

Boris win “saved us from transgender Christmas carols”:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/12/17/boris-johnson-win-saved-us-from-transgender-christmas-carols-giles-coren-the-times/?fbclid=IwAR2lusjZ6YHTKPFb90fRepXyFvgWTrd5kN5bnt6IJnrJbrEtIJBH17rMRpQ>

“Gender-critical views not protected under the Act:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/12/19/maya-forstater-gender-critical-views-not-protected-equalities-act-judge-james-taylor/>

Hope for USA trans women of colour if Elisabeth Warren becomes president:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/12/20/elizabeth-warren-democratic-debate-election-names-killed-trans-people-white-house-rose-garden/>

Baroness Ruth Hunt calls for end to legal distinction between same sex and opposite sex marriage (and end to spousal veto in GRA):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/05/ruth-hunt-baroness-marriage-reforms-spousal-veto-house-of-lords/>

Interesting interview between Jess Philips and Juno Dawson, discussing GRA and related issues:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/17/jess-phillips-labour-leadership-transgender-rights-juno-dawson-pinknews-interview/>

Trans woman wins discrimination case against Debenhams (short BBC film):

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-northern-ireland-51132645/trans-people-aren-t-going-anywhere?fbclid=IwAR0ucNXIVklQ0hs_kVV7I0wH0rr3OC_CMYKXmoXbLft72urfkJmjt1HqgLY

Why it can be ok for universities to restrict freedom of speech by anti-trans speakers:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/28/freedom-of-speech-anti-transgender-academic-university-york-professor-paul-johnson/>

Reform of GRA – I hope you’re not holding your breath:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/21/trans-gender-recognition-act-reforms-uk-delay-i-coronavirus/>

Trans Health:

What can trans people do during the pandemic? Some ideas here:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/22/coronavirus-pandemic-isolation-lockdown-support-trans-non-binary-galop-outside-project/>

Advice on trans resilience from Stonewall:

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/covid-19-%E2%80%93-how-lgbt-inclusive-organisations-can-help?utm_source=TRANSforming+Futures&utm_campaign=7789eea4b0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_02_10_03_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2daf15ec09-7789eea4b0-212359189&mc_cid=7789eea4b0&mc_eid=43dfa38bdf

Healthcare for trans people on hold:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/23/coronavirus-trans-healthcare-gender-reaffirming-essential-surgery-cancelled-vice/>

In case you didn’t know, the corona virus epidemic is the fault of trans people, according to Cardinal Raymond Burke:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/03/25/two-church-leaders-blame-lgbtq-people-for-coronavirus-pandemic/>

No need for surgery, hormones or expensive, painful hair removal – just eat a meat-free burger!

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/12/29/burger-king-impossible-whopper-plant-trans/>

A day in the life of a Welsh trans health specialist:

http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/sessionals/working-life/working-life-working-in-trans-health/20039945.article?fbclid=IwAR15-9UYHctFrfui_D0A_5j2L32xBj5zIdqQpTNEinbS21_VSEieZ8bd160

Gender confirmation surgery yields lasting mental health benefits:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/sex-reassignment-surgery-yields-long-term-mental-health-benefits-study-n1079911?fbclid=IwAR0st-UcKRHEXvfWSmPObjdpuGLXPp6fuGYZj54IQPnprDq51PmREIqp9aY>

Two-spirit First Nations doctor treats trans patients:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/09/gay-two-spirit-doctor-james-makokis-trans-patients-canada-first-nations/>

Waiting times and self-medicating: BBC report:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51530274>

Nearly half of trans young people in USA fear to disclose their gender identity to healthcare providers:

https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2020/02/20/Half-of-transgender-youth-avoid-disclosing-gender-identity-to-healthcare-providers/5551582060080/?spt=slh&or=4

New adult gender identity service to be piloted in London in 2020:

https://nationallgbtpartnership.org/2020/02/28/new-adult-gender-dysphoria-health-service-to-be-piloted-in-london-in-2020/?fbclid=IwAR2c2v_IydA8Z8nL3KBUSXkXxyhAWy6z-vtbbyCF_UpqcW-X09bzZVdS_10

The pain of trans people who have periods:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/13/kenny-ethan-jones-periods-transgender-man-model-inclusive-healthcare-pink-parcel/>

Correct gender marker on passports, driving licences, birth certificates etc can improve mental health, study finds:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/17/trans-people-gender-id-mental-health-passports-birth-certificates-lancet-public/>

HRT shortages:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/29/government-acknowledges-nationwide-shortage-hormones-trans-women/>

Trans Children:

Is GIDS over-diagnosing and over-medicalizing trans children?

<https://news.sky.com/story/nhs-over-diagnosing-children-having-transgender-treatment-former-staff-warn-11875624>

Puberty blockers save lives – confirmed by new study:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/23/puberty-blockers-decrease-suicide-mental-health-problems-transgender-teenagers/>

Enby 8 year old tells it how it is:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/22/non-binary-second-grade-identity-acceptance-adults-gender-elementary-school-discrimination/>

Work of GIDS to be reviewed:

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/feb/02/gender-identity-treatments-for-young-expert-review?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_News_Feed&fbclid=IwAR3eVGM1a3Qa3BXTwTgkCjtOgSp4A2HPwwTVZb2KFyBEx4JUkbTQ28Ufvf0

Woman feels GIDS should have challenged more over transitioning:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51676020>

Parents speak out on behalf of trans children in face of legal challenge:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/02/puberty-blockers-families-speak-out-nhs-treatment-high-court-judicial-review-gids-tavistock/>

Take trans kids seriously:

https://metro.co.uk/2020/03/11/trans-adults-kids-12378002/?fbclid=IwAR1jaM_OLu95d0sBfRahSQBhLp0ljW2v4m6rKG35OwAcnSSuFNp qYE1WTg0

Zaya Wade: in defence of trans children:

<https://medium.com/brian-the-man-behind-the-pen/nobody-is-doing-transgender-related-surgery-on-a-12-year-old-9c6cb60dc5ff>

Wisdom from trans elder:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/04/lgbt-education-trans-elder-confusing-children-inclusive-lessons-primary-school-lbc/>

Margaret Court says trans children should read the bible instead of transitioning (Martina disagrees):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/06/martina-navratilova-margaret-court-bizarre-transphobic-sermon-tennis-trans-children/>

Majority of trans people experience gender dysphoria by age of 7:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/17/trans-people-children-gender-dysphoria-seven-landmark-study-jama-university-california/>

Trans heroes

Trans army veteran is a model:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/20/30-year-army-veteran-transgender-model-andi-halliley/>

Trans woman dies soon after winning £4m on lottery – and leaves most of it to her estranged

children:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/24/transgender-lottery-winner-money-left-children-death-will-melissa-edel-hull/>

David Attenborough fought to put trans people on TV 45 years ago:

<https://inews.co.uk/news/david-attenborough-fought-to-put-transgender-people-on-tv-45-years-ago-secret-bbc-memo-reveals-540557?fbclid=IwAR3Kw5Qu4367j2OVmvlmVUXfmFLVxFlOBXfswOhnNaZJFEXcw520-0lrw-0>

1973 BBC Film about “transsexuals”:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06c83f4?fbclid=IwAR3hID-14dL1vYxR89vGJEVPLQTPfKVxDwtsugNb82D6QvaAE3vs-gX8UY>

Rebecca Root wants to play Dr Who (she’s already a companion):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/23/doctor-who-rebecca-root-first-transgender-companion-boy-meets-girl/?fbclid=IwAR3BJ1p7DPUDDPYOmHhy5rnjUzMTEcjzA6J4YSttT5NDY6J4qWXunsgoSVU>

First headteacher to transition in post:

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/what-it-was-be-uks-first-transgender-headteacher-transition-post-1889654>

Trans woman represents Pakistan government at UN:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/17/trans-woman-pakistan-united-nations-violence-women-convention-geneva-aisha-mughal/>

Interview with Jan Morris (now 93):

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/01/jan-morris-thinking-again-interview-youre-talking-to-someone-at-the-very-end-of-things>

Sandy Stone: remarkable trans history:

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/zmd5k5/sandy-stone-biography-transgender-history?fbclid=IwAR2bmC3mvDC-VtXCFLer93Mulrpb5YtVvk9z6OSi03g9lfUbeShI-Q4p6BCE

..and more trans legends:

https://www.vice.com/en_us/topic/trans-legends

Extraordinary story of longest serving trans prisoner now helping other trans inmates:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/12/trans-prisoner-gender-affirming-women-prison-sarah-jane-baker-transprisoner-alliance/>

Dragman: cross-dressing superhero:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/14/steven-appleby-wanted-to-be-joined-up-person-dragman>

New Marvel black Enby superhero (Snowflake) and a character called Safespace....):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/20/marvel-comics-snowflake-new-warriors-black-non-binary-safespace-backlash/>

Trans media

BBC Moral Maze discussion of trans rights (Rachel Mann one of the panellists):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000fgsp?fbclid=IwAR2CwrhOHnnWhqkbwxEax4fiWaE9dthXr3FW0wP1defsLT6j7UcHvyPUizU>

Morning Star prints transphobic cartoon – and apologises:

https://www.change.org/p/morning-star-stop-transphobia-in-the-morning-star?recruiter=false&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf_combo_share_initial&recruited_by_id=b52c90a0-565f-11ea-85ca-a1a587fc2279&utm_content=fht-20432983-en-gb%3Av12

Another trans person quits Guardian:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/03/the-guardian-another-trans-person-quits-transphobia-coverage-row/>

..letter supporting trans people to Guardian:

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/letter-to-the-guardian-protesting-the-pattern-of-abusive-articles-about-trans-people.html?fbclid=IwAR1KyL8v-ZE14L4f3i8uoLCjuAvA50YiSXSuMKh-0kMJFWWhLZdTM5p5fqtI>

.....another supporting letter rejecting view that there is any conflict between trans rights and women's rights:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/05/the-guardian-anti-trans-editorial-feminists-letter-suzanne-moore-transphobia/?fbclid=IwAR0XVTrHRf7uOk_MkMJy6SgXE7h9IJUfn15AuRg7sjS1b3BSjE-22kyPre0

....hundreds of Guardian staff protest against paper's stance on trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/07/hundreds-guardian-staff-letter-to-editor-pattern-transphobic-content/>

....and Guardian publishes pro-trans article by Zoe Williams:

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/10/feminist-solidarity-empowers-everyone-the-movement-must-be-trans-inclusive?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR1AG8ZOFdoCdwDtYNbREkdWkFEIdxhEgch25Xg9080yM_8_emc6WLurZfi

More media focusing on small minority who de-transition:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-51806011>

Trans woman on cover of Russian magazine:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/11/tatler-natasha-maximova-transgender-cover-star-russia-gay-propaganda-lgbt/>

Pink News reflects on the past decade for trans people – and is optimistic that things will get better in the 2020s:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/10/trans-rights-equality-uk-2010s-gender-recognition-act-stonewall-hate-crime/>

Trans Life

Trans professor experiences male privilege:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/06/male-privilege-female-top-surgery-workplace?fbclid=IwAR2I5nJeNCN-PcHwQKyT758IvS-iF23P5yXitniRSyGwJMikkaKfs2WRDI>

Watch me exist: a sad film by and about young trans people:

<https://mygeneration.com/?fbclid=IwAR2gXNMLWZfNavufsZC7NQEKNEm72vz7-iEm6MWTXaKVSM3YTFdXxwCS4M>

Study suggests gender might be more nature than nurture:

https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/trans-children-sense-their-gender-identities-young-ages-study-suggests-n1107266?fbclid=IwAR2iz_nR61nravC5g5i-dqz-1cYLzhOh6KnZNW_tIrDzjHcJYri81IUIPWY

Debbie Hayton in Spectator opposes use of “non-binary”:

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2019/12/trans-activists-are-making-life-harder-for-trans-people/?fbclid=IwAR1hNrnYRTsP1e8gQej-BjuzWE4xRwVhDiT8poheSOwD8spMNXrxunZabKU>

...Debbie and wife on Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIMR4jkIG_o&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR364uyFQG5Uk-TIGWet38urT9YYfk3EuOWR3LPBcrIKzTQ0Zc3DTXH624Q

Juliet Jacques explains how transphobic bigotry has become (for some) respectable:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/09/transphobia-uk-respectable-bigotry-radical-feminist-labour-trans-author-juliet-jacques/>

Trans people bust myths in short BBC film:

<https://www.facebook.com/bbc/videos/vb.1143803202301544/464891117780739/?type=2&heater>

Get off my turf: Lovely, moving little film about trans phobia made by trans actors and crew:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/08/get-off-my-turf-short-film-my-generation-fox-owl-fisher-transphobia/>

Being trans – it’s a Jewish conspiracy to take over the world (in case you didn’t know):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/02/17/rick-wiles-trunews-jana-ben-nun-trans-jewish-zionism-androgynous-anti-semitic/>

Bethany Black – transsexual comedian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2010/jul/28/bethany-black-transsexual-comedian?fbclid=IwAR0cfa4aSTH9380gatQB10Wij15tgvbjoF4YYMcVmriIvCoReWqoyvdPem0>

Trans hopes for 2020:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/05/trans-non-binary-people-share-hopes-dreams-2020-munroe-bergdorf-glamrou/>

Kathleen Stock claims she is persecuted:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/07/kathleen-stock-gender-critical-transgender-pride-flag-university-sussex-donald-trump/>

Trans horror stories in Pakistan:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-50486439>

India's first trans beauty queen:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-asia-india-51055101/india-s-first-trans-queen-show-yourself-loud-and-proud>

Half of cis Americans don't care about murders of black trans women:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/14/black-trans-women-epidemic-violence-black-futures-lab-alicia-garza/>

Not new but good article about voice training for trans women:

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/20/what-does-a-woman-sound-like-vocal-training-helps-trans-women-find-their-voices?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR0p3Y3ZJF3nof9Po0psYzVkwVAvG4RAzZBgHw_xNcvfAqrOEJAf5dBRHT0

Every Name Tells a Story (from Starbucks):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcSP1r9eCWw&feature=emb_logo&nohtml5=1&fbclid=IwAR2n5hCUDrWC15XHMBRWyI-NL8faoO6_EqijQzem1eHPC1pqMv0Pmv4dpm8

NY Times: trans masculine actors:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/04/t-magazine/trans-actors.html?fbclid=IwAR3bYeSLuoCiJuv5uZI2nQAhgFRPJq9mJHsY11BqEBLaWGdCbCsxKo8aQ9I>

Nigeria most dangerous country for LGBT tourists:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/11/18/most-dangerous-countries-lgbt-tourists-nigeria-norway-united-kingdom/>

...we are 4th safest but apparently Cornwall is pretty transphobic:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/12/17/burger-and-lobster-gender-neutral-cocktails-fragile-masculinity/>

Trans identical twins:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/31/transgender-identical-twins-fabian-angel-griffin-trans-day-visibility/>

Non-binary BBC presenter launches validation station for trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/25/the-validation-station-non-binary-bbc-presenter-trans-people-self-isolation-coronavirus-lockdown/>

Why the detransition debate may be a necessary evil:

<https://medium.com/@danapham.au/why-the-detransition-debate-is-a-necessary-evil-9d7ba7e53264>

Trans sport

Trans ice hockey:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-50660839>

Trans surgeon says trans athletes should be able to compete in Olympics:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/06/trans-olympics-surgeon-tokyo-2020-ioc-able-compete-dr-sherman-leis/>

First trans man to compete in Olympic trial (didn't finish but never mind):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/01/27/chris-mosier-trans-athlete-olympic-trials-history-race-walking-team-usa/>

Trans books

Oh dear. Is JK Rowling transphobic?

https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2019/12/mark-hamill-jameela-jamil-celebs-calling-j-k-rowling-anti-trans-tweet/?utm_source=LGBTQ+Nation+Subscribers&utm_campaign=dd9cfed3ae-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_12_20_05_37&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c4eab596bd-dd9cfed3ae-430631441

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/12/24/last-minute-christmas-gift-ideas-new-books-transgender-non-binary-authors/>

**Book Review: “Uncomfortable Labels – My Life as a Gay Autistic Trans Woman” by
Laura Kate Dale** *Pauline Fleck*

The large area of overlap between trans people and people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is well known. Of course it does not mean that every trans person is also affected by ASD but there is a higher than would be expected incidence of it. Most of us probably know someone who is both trans and has ASD – we might even be both ourselves. I had not paid too much attention to this fact until I started to come to know well a trans masculine person with ASD – and until I had read this extraordinary book. Laura Kate Dale is, as the title says, gay, trans and autistic. She also grew up as a devout Christian. Her book is about how she managed to survive so many challenging intersections and ultimately thrive in her fully realised self.

Some of her account will be familiar to most trans people, such as the struggles with feelings of shame and guilt and mental health issues including in her case attempted suicide and addiction. What may be less familiar is how all this interacted with her Asperger's syndrome, diagnosed at the age of 18 in the same year she came out as trans. Laura's troubles started early when as a baby she simply didn't sleep. Not the usual fractious sleeping of many infants but hardly any sleep at all. Her problems with sleep persisted well into adulthood. Difficulties with socialising, with sensory

overload, with inability to cope with the non-routine, together with teasing and abuse for effeminacy made school exceptionally unpleasant. However, when the craze for Pokemon swept the school, her ability to focus obsessively on it gained her friends – the first indication that her Asperger's could confer gifts as well as handicaps.

Being diagnosed with Asperger's meant that Laura faced even more than the usual difficulties in subsequently being diagnosed with gender dysphoria – she speaks of being infantilised by the health professionals on account of the ASD diagnosis. She then had the endless wait for treatment by the GIC during which she self-medicated her depression with various addictive chemicals. She would drink upwards of 10 cans of energy drinks each day as, remarkably, this calmed and relaxed her, providing her with a mental quiet she did not normally experience.

After Laura transitioned, her Asperger's brought a new set of problems. Learning to apply makeup is hard enough for most of us but Laura's touch-based oversensitivity and multiple coordination issues made it the bane of her existence meaning she suffered more than most of us from misgendering. Clothes were also a major challenge as she needed to find a balance between clothes that were feminine-coded in presentation but that didn't set off sensory issues. If you think you had problems choosing a wardrobe after you transitioned, try doing it if you also have ASD.

Just the trans part of Laura's story is distressing enough and she has horror stories of being attacked and abused and living with suicidal urges. However, the tone of the book is by no means entirely negative. She writes movingly about the things she loves about being trans and having ASD. Her Asperger's is a kind of super power – she can at times focus relentlessly on a task – four chapters of her book she says were written on a single train journey. She gets joy from “happy stimming” – a joy denied to the neurotypical. (Stimming is a kind of repeated rhythmic action which acts to drown out over stimulation from the environment or internally.) She is happy being alone. She believes that being trans has helped her to understand the place privilege has in our society and has learned to fight more for the breaking down of gendered expectations, for men as well as women. Transitioning has re-balanced her emotional spectrum so that she feels less anger and more sadness, more joy, more empathy and more love. She earns a living as a reviewer of video games.

I was very intrigued by this book and keen to learn more about ASD. I went on to read “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time” by Mark Haddon. For those who have not read it, I warmly recommend you do so. You will enjoy it and finish with a much better insight into the autistic mind.