



SIBYLS LOGO - ROBYN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018



"In a world where trans people are demeaned, excluded, exoticized, invalidated, legislated against, and killed—the courage it takes for trans people to live fully into who they are is worthy of respect and honor. I dare say it is a holy act." *Angela Yarber*

Newsletter 98

Dear Sibyls

It is a privilege and joy to be wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas – Boris and omicron permitting – and a blessed new year. You don't need me to tell you what a challenging year it's been both in the pestilence-blighted wider world and for trans people in particular. However, it did get better as we got our jobs and life started returning to something more normal. A welcome sign of this was some of us being able to meet up in person in September at Purley Chase where we enjoyed a splendid weekend together. Now the joy of Christmas is threatened by the new omicron peril and who knows what, lurking further down the alphabet, awaits us next year. Omega has an ominous ring to it! But it would be wrong to give way to

pessimism at this most holy and joyful time when the days are at their darkest but we await with renewed hope the coming of the light, the light that darkness cannot overcome. I hope that our monthly zoomed services have given a little comfort and inspiration and we intend to continue with them throughout 2022, with in person services at St Anne's resuming in February. I personally have also been greatly encouraged by the growing numbers of inspiring trans role models and others with the courage to come out publicly as their authentic selves, people like Chrissie Chevasutt who bared her soul in her unsparingly and almost shockingly honest *Heaven Come Down* and talked about it on television supported by our own Jenny-Anne OBE. And while the stories and articles to which I have provided links inevitably include some of a distressing and disappointing nature, there are others which are far more positive and affirming. So, at Christmas, take heart, be true to yourselves and be reminded where the true hope of all of us lies.

Pauline M 07581553357

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THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group for Gender Variant People

Sibyls is a nationwide group for Christian transgender, non-binary and intersex people, partners and allies. Sibyls offer companionship along your journey, and supports advocacy work with churches and faith groups on behalf of trans people. Sibyls seek to fulfil the two great commandments of Jesus: to love God, and to love each other as ourselves, which we hope to do by -

Living faithfully - accepting yourself as you worship, and in day-to-day life

Spiritual upholding – encountering the freedom to pray and to seek God's will

Fellowship - sharing with Christians who understand what it is to be transgender

Listening – respectfully and confidentially to each other

Sibyls' website

Visit our website www.sibyls.co.uk to find more information on joining the Sibyls confidential mailing list; planned events, supportive churches and inclusive faith groups; resources, such as books and sign-posted web links.

Facebook Groups

There are two Facebook groups which enable Sibyls and other trans Christians to communicate and exchange views and news. They are:

- Sibyls Members' Group – send a request via Facebook to join this confidential group
- TranschristianUK – an open group, do join up if you are not already a member.

Contact Sibyls committee

By post - c/o 10, Ffordd Las, Rhyl, LL18 2DY

By email - enquiries@sibyls.co.uk

Sibyls' Listening Service

We know that sometimes it is necessary to talk to someone who understands the basics of being transgender and Christian. If a listening conversation could be of particular help, you can call any of the following:

Jenny-Anne Bishop

jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk Telephone: 01745 337144 or 07500 74195

Yvonne Wood

Yvonne-wood@outlook.com Telephone 01279 833499 or 07595 087207

Pauline Fleck

pauline.fleck@btinternet.com Telephone 07581 553357

Meetings for personal conversation and sharing

It is possible that some of you would appreciate the opportunity for more personal conversation on Zoom, rather than the regular large sessions. We can help arrange meet-ups for just three Sibyls - this would enable easier direct conversation and sharing (with some ground rules). If you would like this please email yvonne-wood@outlook.com and we will see what is possible.

2022 Services and Events

We are currently planning the following events:

Sibyls Zoom Services and Fellowship Meetings will take place **ONLINE** at 19:00 on Tuesday 25 January, Friday 25 February, Friday 25 March, Monday 25 April, Wednesday 25 May, Thursday **23** June, Monday 25 July, Thursday 25 August, Monday **26** September, Tuesday 25 October, Friday 25 November, Wednesday **21** December.

In Person services and gatherings on Thursdays 18:30 at St Anne's Church Soho London: 10 February, 14 April, 9 June, 11 August, 13 October, 8 December 2022. These services and gatherings are **NOT ONLINE**

The Sibyls weekend will once again be at Purley Chase but at the later date of 4-6 November – make a note in your diaries.

Invitation from Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE

The Metropolitan URC LGBTIQ+ Congregation is active during lockdown:

< <https://metropolitanchurch.org.uk/> >

We continue to run a weekly LGBTIQ+ Sunday service at 4.30pm (London Time) but now by Zoom with some online involvement for everyone.

To Join the weekly Zoom Service; please check for the Zoom link on our **Facebook** page: < <https://www.facebook.com/MetropolitanChurch> > ,

our **Twitter feed** on a Sunday Morning : < https://twitter.com/Metro_Church >

or use <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88502951623> Meeting ID: 885 0295 1623

We also provide a **URC Daily Devotional** here:

< <https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=8958e2851d933a7a389a9f51c&id=99fe4caf1c> >

Announcement from the Unique North Wales and TransForum Manchester Transgender social and support Groups:

We running our **Trans & Non-Binary (TNBI) Support groups** every Thursday Evening and Saturday Afternoon by Zoom rather than once a month as follows:

During these testing times, physical distancing does not have to mean total social isolation.

Unique (< www.uniquetg.org.uk >) and **TransForum** (< www.transforum.co.uk >) are working with our associated trans support groups in North Wales, Manchester, Crewe and Cardiff to provide on-line meetings using Zoom.

Please join us to socialise and to raise any **TNBI** issues you might have. As we are on Zoom you are most welcome to join us from all over the UK (and beyond)

Unique hosts a meeting every Thursday evening from 8.00 pm till approx.11 pm (London Time), and each Saturday afternoon from 3.30 pm to approx. 7.00 pm (London Time).

If you would like to join the Unique Zoom meeting just click on the link below to be admitted (you may be asked to download the Zoom app onto your computer or phone if you do not already have it):

<<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77583683876?pwd=TW9sc2ZRZ0Y2ZEdOazJjenhNWGs4Zz09>>

If you log in from your own Zoom Account:

Meeting ID: 775 8368 3876 Password: 130237

If you have any difficulty please contact Jenny-Anne at ≤

jennyannebuk@btinternet.com > or 07500-741955

Zoom meetings over the Christmas Period

Unique will be running a Zoom online Social meeting EVERY day over the Christmas and New Year period for everyone from or associated with the Trans / Gender Diverse population from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm from Friday 24th December until and including Monday 3rd of January using the usual Unique Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77583683876?pwd=TW9sc2ZRZ0Y2ZEdOazJjenhNWGs4Zz09>

or use

Meeting ID: 775 8368 3876 Password: 130237

Chair's message from *Yvonne*

Peace and goodwill to all, that is what we reflect on at Christmas, albeit briefly. At a personal, private level, we hope for peaceful respite from health worries, family anxieties, and for some of us, acceptance worries.

Whatever our practical issues with being trans, we each have a source of peace in our own truth, and in our faith. It is harder to bring a peaceful healing influence to the world around us with the divisive effect of social media - I am concerned that serious harm now outweighs innocent fun and useful learning. Social media is short on goodwill within difficult conversations.

We all know that sex and gender is one source of division within society, with very little goodwill shown on social media, and people too fearful to speak out in real-life gatherings. It is hard for many of us with trans experience to acknowledge some of the concerns of gender-critical people. And it is hard for us to bear some Christian antagonism, when we know our own deepening of faith through our experiences. I believe many of us recognise the exhaustion and futility of antagonism, and need to step away from it. At the same time I feel it is time to reframe the discussion and engage positively. Listeners of the BBC PM programme will have heard Evan Davies hoping to do this.

Some of our friends work tirelessly in the church to improve understanding: we know about the high-profile Anglican LLF, but within non-conformist denominations there are also quite sharp differences. I have made efforts to speak to a few gender-critical people and have taken part in safe space discussions. I try to clarify, to put aside defensiveness, invite questions, don't claim to answer them, don't claim to speak for all. I am prepared to listen, and to create an environment where they listen too.

I'm afraid to say that some trans and non-binary voices in the media are not clear and I do not feel myself reflected in some campaigning for trans rights. At the same time, I feel stronger in my own self and try to draw on my resources of patience and empathy - things a feminine person might have.

I want some of us, who can face it, to join with others bravely to engage, to understand common fears and common interests, represent trans and non-binary people in simple accurate terms, and to hear the concerns of people often frightened to speak, to avoid crass slogans, and to demonstrate the affinity between self-realisation and spiritual growth. I heard someone say that when we don't understand

each other we can try to breathe together. All in prayer, and waiting to be led by the will of God.

Trans is beautiful

**Open our eyes
to the glorious gender diversity
of sacred creation.**

**Open our ears
to transgender stories
of pain and joy,
struggle and solidarity,
destruction and resurrection.**

**Open our hearts
to the power of life and love
which offers transformation to all.**

transspirit.org



Go home rejoicing.
Just as the shepherds did in the story of our birth,
Do you remember them?

The ones who were tending their flocks by night,
and the angels saying:
“Fear not. I bring you tidings of great joy.
You shall find the babe lying in a manger.”
And that was you. And you. And you.
And me too. All of us. In our swaddling clothes.
Dear little things that we were.
And still are.
And don't tell me
There were no shepherds. Or that there were no
flocks.
Because they all went years ago when they built
the city by-pass.
Or that it wasn't a manger. But a plastic box in a
run-down maternity ward. Without enough midwives.
Or there were no wise men,
Maybe just your dad, and him a bit pissed maybe,
being so nervous.
Think poetically.
Because what i tell you is true.
The whole truth and nothing but
Because, Beloved sisters and brothers and every
kind of sibling in Christ,
Because I am the truth.
And I am also the way and the life and a million
other things besides.
And the angels were there at your birth
And there was rejoicing and great gladness
And wise men did come with the most beautiful
gifts.
And the angels just so delightfully framing the
sky.
Because there are Angels. Angels everywhere.
Jo Clifford – thanks to QSpirit for use of this.



The Happy Dragon

Based on the story I read at Purley Chase

The baby dragon newly hatched
With human owners must be matched
It is the dragon who must choose
No right have owners to refuse
Enchanted by those dragon eyes
Which looked so soft and kind and wise
We knew he'd give us so much joy
And took him home, our dragon boy
At first it seemed he'd chosen well
As for his charms we gladly fell
And played with him his favourite games
When we got singed with friendly flames
He grew and flourished and was glad
He'd chosen us as mum and dad
Well he knew that for our part
We welcomed him with all our heart
The happy day at last then came
The day when he'd receive his name
For as is surely known to all
Unnamed dragons can only crawl
And dragons without use of wings
Are most unhappy of all things
All dragon names are on a list
But strangely his name had been missed
For each time that a name was said
He'd sorrowfully shake his head
And from his mouth as if in ire
Would come a little stream of fire
It broke our hearts to see our boy
Bereft of all that gave him joy
For dragons without any name
Must hang their heads in utmost shame
And flap their useless wings in vain
And nurse within the dark their pain
We told him he was still our son

But down his cheeks sad tears would run
“I cannot really be your son –
I’m not even a real dragon
I think I’m just a crocodile
Or another crawling reptile”
We said we’d love him just the same
Whether or not he had a name
It seemed that nothing we could say
Could help or take his pain away
We wondered what we might have missed
And tried to find a therapist
But most of them were too afraid
No matter how much they’d be paid
They said they had no great desire
To turn to ash in dragon fire
We told them that our son was tame
And able to control his flame
But still they kept on saying no
Until one said he’d have a go
He said his speciality
Was gender and sexuality
It seemed absurd but who could say?
Maybe our dragon son was gay?
Despite his lack of dragon lore
He struck up soon a good rapport
He told us that our son was sane
That madness did not cause his pain
But he was sure that he would find
What caused the troubles in his mind
He asked him questions which annoy
Like did he fancy girl or boy
Dragons and why he could not fly
The which he answered with a sigh
And snorting fire sadly said
A nameless dragon should be dead
Or else be left to crawl away
And hide himself from light of day
We showed him all our love and care
But in our hearts we felt despair
It seemed that for our dragon son
There was no more that could be done
The dragon doctor deeply sighed
And said one thing could still be tried
“Until your dragon gets a name
I fear she’ll die of very shame.
I think there’s something we’ve all missed –
We’ve just been using the wrong list.”
And turning to her kindly said:
“There’s nothing wrong inside your head.
”Firenza” is the first name here:

I think it suits you well my dear.”
Our dragon gushed out gouts of flame:
At last she knew her own true name!
And freed from all her pain and care
She hurled herself into the air
No longer now our dragon boy
She set ablaze the sky with joy
“Firenza” was the name she roared
As on her mighty wings she soared
With love we saw our daughter fly
And claim as hers the entire sky

Firenza’s story’s now been told
She lived with us as we grew old
So happy now that she could fly
So sad knowing that we must die
And she be left to be alone
To live forever on her own
She stayed with us right to the end
Our dragon daughter, our best friend
Such sadness only dragons know
For they must stay while we must go
And part from those that we love best
And go at last to our long rest.
PF

For Catholics who are other than male/female and heterosexual, evangelization under current Catholic dogma implies being truth tellers in one sphere and liars in another, preaching an ‘objective’ Gospel that does not touch the real person. Our bodies and our spirits long for truthfulness, and come alive when we allow them to bear witness to it. All the faithful must see themselves in their differently-aged, differently-abled, differently-gendered, differently-bodied, differently-sexually-oriented, differently-coloured, differently-tongued neighbour. Then we can create affirming, equality-expressing theologies where no one is excluded from the ‘we’ that is the Christian community. *From the “Bristol Text” summarising the conclusions of the lay-led Root and Branch synod.*

I have yet to hear of a conversion therapist who prays for a trans person's body to match their brain and internal identity. Funny how some miracles are beyond the power of prayer!

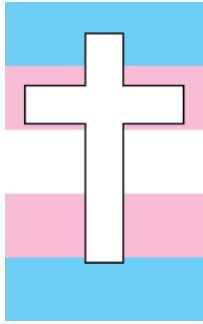
Your God transcends gender. And yet She is also Mother. She is *Shekhinah*, pillar of holy fire, guiding you through the wilderness. She is *Sophia* and *Al-Hakim*, the essence of Wisdom, filling your troubled heart and telling you exactly what needs to be done next. She is *Jamal*, beauty, and *Sakina*, serenity. She is *Rahim*, the merciful source of all life. She is *Shakti*, coursing through your veins when you cry out for God, infusing you with unbearable longing. She is Guanyin, radiating well-being. She is Tara, formed from the Buddha's own tears as he gazed upon the suffering of the world and wept. She is Miriam, Mary, Maryam.

You feel Her closest when you are shattered and when you are exalted. She dives into the heart of the tidal wave and scoops you into Her arms, promising that no matter how disastrous the disaster, She will always be with you. She is in the front row clapping too loudly when you get it right. Your God sneaks you in the back door to *daven* with the learned men in the synagogue. She whispers in your ear when you are trying to control yourself: *Go ahead*, She says, *break the alabaster jar and cover His feet with priceless nard*.

Your God transcends form. And yet She also dwells within every created thing. She animates all that is growing and going to seed, all that is ripened and fragrant, all that is raw and undomesticated. She dwells in creativity, in beauty, in chaos. She breathes with the laboring female animals, breathes with the newborn's first inhalation, breathes with the old ones as they exhale one last time. She is the passion of lovers, the dignity of the queen. She is merciful, but She is not the least bit sentimental.

You do not mean to break the rules and call Her God. You try not to even conceive of God that way. But sometimes you can't help it. Everything that feels holy feels like Her.

Mirabai Starr



Trans faith

New Ways Ministry on a better Catholic response to transphobia:

https://www.premierchristianity.com/interviews/jayne-ozanne-the-christian-campaigner-explains-why-she-wants-to-ban-hate-prayer/5807.article?fbclid=IwAR3HWrL4zjhYTGtQjj2xUPSdkrtWWNI-GrRbWVYPGhQ6h_Gv3e2FHxJ6TNA

Catholic transphobia at its worst: directive from Marquette diocese excommunicates trans people:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2021/12/10/marquette-dioceses-new-policy-could-ban-lgbtq-people-from-sacraments-and-ministry/?fbclid=IwAR1vysjTWrPnDpFdot07Bn2b-dl9HMdsjmMYxksabmVIdIibjBLBwNzrUU>

CofE Evangelical Council publishes material to help in challenging abusive culture in some evangelical churches:

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/3-december/news/uk/evangelicals-encouraged-to-engage-in-soul-searching-after-abuse?fbclid=IwAR0cCT9Rii9s6-QqNb4pl4mxJVZGKJIQmIsI5dclKQ42okF35B5vchSIDNA>

Jo Inkpin on dysmorphia and transphobia in the body of Christ:

https://www.transspirit.org/blog/divine-hugs-in-all-that-we-are?fbclid=IwAR2D8MoTpPY1_Wtv0jgnL8CmTgbAI_Yj99d2heHT2pKMK9Tb_ZPvIYaqkb8

Resources from Jo for TDOR:

https://www.transspirit.org/trans-awareness-days.html?fbclid=IwAR3LaLH2I1vkGWtb5CsTYC_QrQJFdIjghpkLrJG8r08SiAwtMxgyKjAeGWg

Reflection from Alex Clare-Young on TDOR:

https://www.stpeters.org.uk/blog/news/alex-clare-young/?fbclid=IwAR21mrMLuXVXxFIZF1rgZk0sH4qsaPd4j_NRpblPIMC18HQc7IE6JH7JnM

God is non-binary: video released for TDOR:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1rqWCYUtog>

Living as trans is a holy act (Q Spirit):

<https://qspirit.net/transgender-day-remembrance/?fbclid=IwAR1bWK->

[h3RTWGu9FBFLCfkd3_uag4U-8fTVVGHMMyeDVHwB-EFNYTzURATik](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3RTWGu9FBFLCfkd3_uag4U-8fTVVGHMMyeDVHwB-EFNYTzURATik)

Letter from Changing Attitude England to bishop Sarah about abusiveness of LLF process for LGBTQ+ people:

http://www.unadulteratedlove.net/blog/2021/11/12/ca-england-call-for-appointment-of-six-members-of-lgbtqi-community-to-the-house-of-bishops?fbclid=IwAR0sPEINjbLdN_fB5e8YAPFd7767G881OXKx5PcWOjiUGQp7MlkBJ0f9ns0

Open Table needs your help:

opentable.lgbt/support-us

US Catholic bishops ban investment in companies providing trans healthcare but not in fossil fuel companies:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2021/11/19/u-s-bishops-ban-investments-in-transgender-healthcare-but-not-fossil-fuels-and-other-ills/>

Sue Hibberd on gender diversity and inclusion – Quaker Yearly Meeting '21:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kD8au8Gxmw>

The “Bristol Text” from the lay-led Root and Branch Synod, summarising its conclusions, and including:

Engage with the complexity of sex/gender

Male-female gender binaries are in practice institutionalised through the historical understandings of ‘family life’ and ‘natural law.’ Transgender individuals challenge sex/gender binary norms, but scientifically we now know that sex/gender is complex and that we also establish our identities through the stories we tell. The Church’s teaching and ideology on sex/gender is confused, out of date and contradictory, leaving the faithful with little useful guidance. It urgently requires renewing, both wholly and frequently, becoming a pastoral response to diverse family forms.

Survey on safety in churches for LGBT+ people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/10/lgbt-christians-church-safety-jayne-ozanne/>

Fr Steve Wolfe affirms God’s love for trans people (including his trans sister):

“I have not yet met a trans sibling who gave me reason to be afraid in any way. And I believe God invites each of us to stand in defense of any child of God who is being bullied, even if that means accompanying a sister in transition and standing guard outside of a bathroom stall.”

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2021/10/05/gay-priest-affirms-gods-love-for-transgender-people-including-his-sister/>

Journey of evangelical pastor son of trans woman:

https://ourpath.org/ourpath_podcast/s4-ep-5-when-a-parent-transitions-a-son-does-too/?fbclid=IwAR049ZagNaSXdkUHSWnU_4H1fcKWdcIyeCgZhqNg8R0d-yc4CmfGV2OAtS4

Jo Inkpin discusses trans liberation:

https://open.spotify.com/episode/23hyUvmS9Cbz7uPDfMBrbz?fbclid=IwAR0C5G_kHez5mxiSkO5C98nKPLIOFcej-C3aIwfTGkhmT2N2GE5MoZnlsZE

Radio interview with Chrissie Chevasutt:

<https://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Saturday/The-Profile/Episodes/Chris-Chevasutt-The-transgender-Christian-explains-how-Jesus-changed-their-life?fbclid=IwAR1JYrLg0K0gFZs67vyWo6oPF2IyaAQR0FqobNv91LwE2TMKoaE5jgSECLs>

...Chrissie's latest vlog:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dan-mG-Fmv0>

Trans teen outed and shunned at Vineyard church:

https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/devastated-transgender-teen-outed-hull-6174834?fbclid=IwAR0Bo29FPuTJA6Fs6fU4pXWmFhpfJ8wOF_rqzBtKGwe-KhGS7xIJyMa9jp8

Supporting trans and non-binary staff and students:

<https://blog.yorks.ac.uk/cris/files/2021/06/Supporting-Trans-and-Non-Binary-Staff-and-Students-Dr-Esther-McIntosh-and-Dr-Sharon-Jagger.pdf>

Trans response to "O Antiphons":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9Buw2h3drY>

The prophet speaks: podcast interview with Jewish trans woman Joy Ladin:

<https://www.queertheology.com/podcast/410/>



Trans law and politics

Government's consultation on banning conversion therapy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/banning-conversion-therapy>

.....with huge loophole for "consent":

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/28/conversion-therapy-ban-uk-adults-consent/?fbclid=IwAR22IGrFOMMARsJozx74mHMBVhtke_qZbXidVnuxhnF3py19XjD7SouT8xY

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/29/conversion-therapy-ban-consultation-backlash/>

...failings well expressed by Jayne Ozanne:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/nov/02/uk-ban-conversion-therapy-adults-rightwing-evangelicals?fbclid=IwAR0p5n3-6a1ieetKIO8f10TUzyTMcuNOpVKL44M2WEmefBvBLno-5zVsoyo>

....Premier Christianity interview where Jayne explains her views:

https://www.premierchristianity.com/interviews/jayne-ozanne-the-christian-campaigner-explains-why-she-wants-to-ban-hate-prayer/5807.article?fbclid=IwAR3HWrL4zjhYTGtQjj2xUPSdkrtWWNI-GrRbWVYPGhQ6h_Gv3e2FHxJ6TNA

...Jayne's response to the letter to the government from Christian leaders:

https://www.viamedia.news/2021/12/17/evangelical-alliance-loving-orthodox-or-damaging-dangerous/?fbclid=IwAR22OuH7vbzP2MVPXwyDdB6FHqZnGaRWtZlh6tSYxublftC599QYJz_bDc

Canada votes to ban conversion therapy:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/conversion-therapy-conservatives-1.6269147?fbclid=IwAR0cCT9Rii9s6-QqNb4pl4mxJVZGKJlQmIsI5dclKQ42okF35B5vchSIDNA>

Supreme Court dismisses appeal on option to have x (non-binary) marker in passports:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/16/gender-neutral-passports-non-binary/>

Sweden's first woman prime minister appoints Sweden's first trans minister:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/30/sweden-trans-government-lina-axelsson-kihlbom-magdalena-andersson/?fbclid=IwAR0GBoRcpmgwOr5M2bJ5GtDdwry3RCgLUSUGVcaz7oFQyYZKtZKycgrG90w>

More transphobia from Rosie Duffield on BBC:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/18/labour-mp-rosie-duffield-bbc-politics/>

SNP MP says trans conversion therapy should remain legal:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/15/joanna-cherry-snp-trans-conversion-therapy/>

The law on exclusion of trans people from single sex spaces:

<https://oldsquare.co.uk/hard-cases-make-useful-law-can-trans-people-lawfully-be-excluded-from-single-and-separate-sex-services-rob-in-white/?fbclid=IwAR0LPusF4s2-pYjnkpl9C5bkOetVVE-Kg7idEHY9gFDwILvImSe8VZ8z6k>

The case helpfully supports the guidance given in the Code on the provision of single (or separate) sex services to populations including trans people as being:

1. a starting point that trans people *should* be included consistent with their affirmed gender;
2. that possession (or not) of a GRC is irrelevant;
3. that any exclusion must be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim;
4. with *strong* evidence required for separate provision of service to a trans person, and *exceptional* evidence for denial of service.

All useful principles clear to service providers.

Oxford Council supports trans people – read Hannah Massie's fine speech:

https://www.genderaware.org/oxford-city-council-motion?fbclid=IwAR2uRdHim2etoYsO9yO7_GivkFN55NHgV7NOYufMPr7hJ9FhbaQ9Z6WEGXs



Trans health

Good Law project taking legal action over GIC waiting times:

https://www.gendergp.com/good-lawproject-legal-action/?fbclid=IwAR3_z0YdwqSrBdnOxI4vWk6a94iuicP-U8aVAbcxutgDDPydwYaeqme3Y04

Poor GP care of trans patients:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/oct/10/gps-fob-us-off-most-trans-people-avoid-the-doctor-when-theyre-sick>

Crisis funding for trans healthcare in Scotland:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/09/trans-healthcare-scotland-budget-crisis-funding/>

Benefits of puberty blockers:

<https://www.gendergp.com/puberty-blockers-side-effects-pros-cons/?fbclid=IwAR1vZiNsET6qzf0F6z2j8yXE8hUWYZx4Gu8YqiydwWTxrGq-6QTS3jN8HV8>

Benefits of social transition for trans children:

https://thinkprogress.org/trans-kids-socially-transition-study-529f34c1bb3b/?fbclid=IwAR1w7BTwPkJytgfcvXe9WdfM_11N4BSplMkQJa4btxkae6FWnl-b6vqfp5c

Protest outside NHS England about parlous state of trans health care:

https://www.rs21.org.uk/2021/12/04/a-huge-step-forward-for-trans-protest-in-britain/?fbclid=IwAR2_nqzpmAajiAGkOaCL36aeELJTq47WJsy1K8jaMUbKa5De6heZCbuPWT0

Advice from Gender GP on shared trans healthcare from your GP:

https://www.gendergp.com/transgender-guide-to-shared-care/?fbclid=IwAR0_qdpDVbDPZlw-2ZRJQLJvGSBXM3NNNfnv8LR1BT7WH32TtLBpPcc9Q78

Research confirms link between provision of gender-affirming hormone therapy and lower rates of depression and suicidality:

[https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(21\)00568-1/fulltext?fbclid=IwAR0Tm3WkMLioG-7JeAsYVMC_liSD56D-o0swWHUfWXk67sxp_uIDZ4AtGtg](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(21)00568-1/fulltext?fbclid=IwAR0Tm3WkMLioG-7JeAsYVMC_liSD56D-o0swWHUfWXk67sxp_uIDZ4AtGtg)

Study dispels rapid-onset gender dysphoria myth:

https://neurosciencenews.com/gender-dysphoria-myth-19878/?fbclid=IwAR2sCvf8aohrnwxQpCBXe8CqHH8XujBM0C2AC_OZ-zPINyi4rusepftFeEI

Dangers of conversion therapy for trans youth:

<https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/treating-transgender-youth-the-danger-of-gender-identity-conversion-therapy>



Trans life

Judith Butler on gender critics as fascists:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/commentisfree/2021/oct/23/judith-butler-gender-ideology-backlash>

Fake “experts” who drive transphobic narrative:

<https://www.gendergp.com/trans-experts-fake-expertise-driving-campaign-against-transgender-people-uk/?fbclid=IwAR3KDDemXSMSQtK4pgcBnDVnPrh7zWt8wTFvVIR0FAsu56m3azFE0uOMp7U>

Lovely trans man’s coming out story for “Coming Out Day”:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/11/coming-out-kayden-coleman/>

Alicia Weigel: great article about reality of being intersex:

https://atxwoman.com/alicia-weigel-cover-woman/?fbclid=IwAR28tDGa0OeJ_TkMcVIwlr8zaDCitqSm0jMqP0X8aBfOXmuUGRcLMlZkq74

“Gender critical” feminist comments on Kathleen Stock controversy:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/oct/13/discussion-women-trans-rights-feminists>

...in the interests of “balance”, the Guardian has now published a more trans-positive piece, focusing on the use of language:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/oct/14/language-society-trans-people-tolerance-debate-words>

„,another Guardian piece on Stock controversy at Sussex:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/oct/16/campus-in-the-spotlight-how-sussex->

[became-focus-of-row-over-trans-rights](#)

..a trans woman's take on the Stock controversy:

https://grace.substack.com/p/the-uk-media-has-seriously-bungled?fbclid=IwAR0CHxFDpynYx3F6UPbsuVr6Fir5Sx84Q_pD9430NJur0E7Ttli0tcX5Dns

...thorough examination of Stock's views:

<https://www.liberalcurrents.com/academic-freedom-in-the-media-who-is-being-silenced/?fbclid=IwAR0LS3J0PIEuTaCuOmKaoYyFsvWjOeRPQc8DVFUnlAKjKKFE6hYLOeTvU7E>

Trans academics talk about their careers:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/03/kathleen-stock-trans-university-transphobia/>

Gender Inclusion Network - a new movement seeking to promote better understanding of trans people:

"Thousands of academics are refusing to be silenced when it comes to trans rights

By Nic Crosara

..

In a recent UK survey, 93% of participants reported that transphobia within the media had an impact on their experience of transphobia from strangers in the street. 85% said it impacted how their family treats them. It's clear that we must do more to counteract this.

But what can we do to combat the misinformation that much of the British media seems hellbent on perpetuating? Well, the Gender Inclusion Network (GIN) is a new global movement that launched this week and is on a mission to rise to the occasion.

GIN is led by Professor Sally Hines, Chair of Sociology at the University of Sheffield and Dr. Natacha Kennedy, Lecturer in Education at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Sally Hines addressed the outrage within academia at the misrepresentation of trans related issues in the UK. "The reality is that there is a broad consensus in favour of the inclusion of trans people in society, coupled with a richness of work exploring the complex meanings of gender and sex in the 21st century. Yet this is hardly ever reported in the UK media. Instead, we have simplistic narratives of 'conflicting rights'. The very existence of trans people is represented as supposedly at odds with women or feminism."

Hines and many others feel that the media doesn't mirror not only the views of students and staff within academia but also the UK at large.

The EU and UN recently condemned the UK, comparing it to Hungary and Poland, both countries are well known for their anti-LGBTQI agendas. Transphobia within the UK press and political establishment were specified as being big contributors to the problem.

GIN is made up of over 1000 members of academics, students, policymakers, health and medical professionals and more. The organisation seeks to:

Advance the understanding of gender and sex as fluid categories

Protect the rights and needs of people of all (or no) gender

Counter transphobia of all forms in social life and institutions

Counter sexism and gender-based violence and discrimination

Further intersectional understanding and political mobilisation to stress the relationship between gender and other social inequalities

Forward self and bodily autonomy and reproductive choice and rights

Develop social, cultural, legal and policy frameworks to forward the above

Share knowledge and expertise, and develop best practice

The organisation will address these intersectional issues through publications and reports. It will also hold in-person and virtual events such as workshops, conferences and discussion groups.

To join GIN email: sally.hines@sheffield.ac.uk
@nicrosara "

Russell T Davies on LGB Alliance:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/14/russell-t-davies-lgb-alliance-attitude-awards/?fbclid=IwAR0Q7GqAfEKZoaEedqL1n-ud2oc1O8zuKr1YOaYaKmC8PwHv4hy-RSvmkSg>

New shadow equalities minister also condemns LGB Alliance (and Kathleen Stock's position as a trustee of the Alliance):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/14/kathleen-stock-labour-taiwo-owatemi/>

Australian Trans Resources Toolkit:

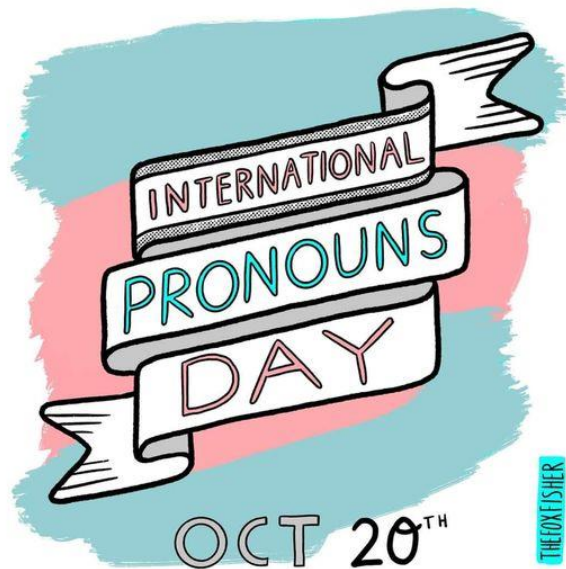
https://www.transhub.org.au/vitality/resources/?fbclid=IwAR04nTpSZTJ6uHG3j3XE_V4S0YBDiRHShpBipKowCbx_1-gQU6QPmTtR4iA

Frank Turner's reconciliation with his trans parent:

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2021/nov/25/frank-turner-on-reconciling-with-his-trans-parent-miranda-is-a-really-nice-person-my-dad-wasnt>

YouTube video about GIRES's Tranzwiki resource:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKcyeISEy9g>



Let's change the world one pronoun at a time.

...Alex Clare-Young sheds light on their own pronouns:

https://alexclareyoung.co.uk/2021/10/21/my-pronouns/?fbclid=IwAR2bPDDRg3oKj1k8dACjhiaOj51TRPP6Y9pRg_MpXprKKa9vQMAvoXTNJ08

Trans man's coming out story:

https://metro.co.uk/2021/10/10/my-mental-health-was-saved-after-coming-out-as-trans-15388699/?fbclid=IwAR23qaKrPtardPWIGTNdQ5JWOXhD_GIixcX5NNyv8iIlGUtoQIOxn u8RgLQ

...and a trans woman's story:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/nov/01/a-new-start-after-60-petra-wenham-transition-transgender>

Grace Petrie on why butch lesbians should support trans women:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/22/grace-petrie-connectivity-trans-lesbian-transphobia/?fbclid=IwAR0IKOC2JGvAmrDr-pkDBCqCdUlnITkQSbVGO284f9gU3xfgSF6OJqqkxg>

Trans hate crimes quadrupled in last 5 years:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-54486122?fbclid=IwAR1DDRMDhdhEGPB5YeQ6LBNYtJ1cugRlCqxqdbjIeJg7fSXZvfOMi kTlv11k>

Case of Ewan Forbes, trans rights and law of primogeniture on R4 Today programme (about 2hrs 42 mins in):

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0011cpl?fbclid=IwAR1pmK5W9C4d1Tmjt2e_CB66MVPORchlgYPUz5jfmWxN_4PJ8-t6XNFsKTW

...more about the significant but seemingly hitherto suppressed case of Ewan Forbes:

https://inews.co.uk/news/long-reads/secret-court-case-50-years-ago-robbed-transgender-people-rights-1291857?ito=facebook_share_article-top&fbclid=IwAR1EXJoisq2TQnHd3eP4vWOWeqeN29e_des8iXwqDORDmGPtIYDY2wo BhJE

Trans Actual on SafetobeMe international conference:

https://www.transactual.org.uk/notsafetobeme?fbclid=IwAR01TYKb7LgEoX5NdmMwxcR4gBOX7U2GMEO_ff-0JNSYwzqiH9kT-LXXoy8



Trans world

Remembering our dead:

<https://tdor.translivesmatter.info/?fbclid=IwAR1CON0UYG3xDwUXohSTTXeXtTzIdlBSz0srI4mTMJhTqIgZHJD73aRZEn8>

Thomas(ine) Hall – intersex in colonial America:

https://qspirit.net/thomasine-hall-intersex-colonial/?fbclid=IwAR2Td4LaO0_nt3uORYeTkJmJoDnovWNgOPE619aoOBMEySSXu2aPTdOD_Oc

Regressive trans Bill in Quebec:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/26/quebec-trans-rights-simon-jolin-barrette-canada/>

Ugandan trans woman obtains ID card in correct gender and challenges “sad” African trans narrative:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/10/22/trans-uganda-id-gender-cleopatra-kambugu/>

Transphobic Malaysia:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-59286774>

NZ votes for self-id for trans people:

https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/127239124/parliament-unanimously-passes-sex-selfidentification-law-simplifying-changes-to-birth-certificates?fbclid=IwAR3ZvdGY6wKL56J_wAKcUI7Fvg3USOr_XbHN8ltnlISaqlZWFgoGpC5u9tk

Clinic for trans youth opens in Shanghai:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/12/china-gender-clinic-shanghai-trans-kids/>

Yet another trans woman of colour killed in USA making 2021 deadliest on record:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/10/marquiisha-lawrence-trans-2021-violence/>

Joe Biden’s statement of support for trans people on TDOR:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/nov/20/biden-transgender-day-remembrance>



Trans books and media

Finn Mackay: *Female Masculinities and the Gender Wars*

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/oct/05/finn-mackay-the-writer-hoping-to-help-end-the-gender-wars>

Excellent interview by Freddy McConnell with Torrey Peters (author of the brilliant *Detransition, Baby*):

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/oct/07/torrey-peters-trans-novelist-interview-detransition-baby>

...another great interview with Torrey:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/dec/04/trans-writer-torrey-peters-interview-detransition-baby-faces-of-year>

Open letter to BBC about its failure to be impartial on trans issues:

<https://cnorthwood.medium.com/an-open-letter-to-the-bbc-on-trans-lives-ca6fd50f7ef4>

Another open letter to BBC in response to absurd article about lesbians being pressured to have sex with trans women:

https://openletter.earth/an-open-letter-to-the-bbc-regarding-an-article-published-by-catherine-lowbridge-9223a3ca?fbclid=IwAR1wTHUFB3z0DtIQ7rY5w09_2IFi2plsjOvU7ZvRNJBQaObVHVr4YQat_GI

...of course BBC rejects complaints:

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2021/nov/01/bbc-rejects-complaints-that-it-published-transphobic-article>

...here is Julia Serano's excellent essay on the subject, showing just how blatantly transphobic and harmful the BBC article was:

<https://juliaserano.medium.com/on-being-explicitly-named-in-a-violent-gender-critical-manifesto-e74ece76583d>

...BBC quits Stonewall diversity scheme over trans issues:

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2021/nov/10/bbc-quits-stonewall-diversity-scheme-impartiality-concerns-transgender-issues>

Pink News selection of best trans books:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/13/trans-books-awareness-week/?fbclid=IwAR1Ad1DDb3FHM3Yut41CM1eZr8NqUIuU2wZePO4p9LicnZxLmUZj4qzvOJ0>

Transitioning teens: Charlie Craggs documentary:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/11/16/charlie-craggs-transitioning-teens/>

Eddie Redmayne says he would not play a trans character now:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2021/nov/22/eddie-redmayne-playing-a-trans-character-in-the-danish-girl-was-a-mistake>

Trans character in West Side Story explicit in Spielberg version:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/13/west-side-story-anybodys-iris-menas-trans/>