

Email addresses and names throughout this document have been withheld under s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:15 pm

From: Media

To: [REDACTED]@mediaworks.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Newshub Nation request

Hi [REDACTED]

You could attribute the following to an unnamed Human Rights Commission spokesperson.

The Human Rights Commission position is that the human rights of trans people are not up for debate.

All people have the same human rights and freedoms, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

Trans people are protected from discrimination under the Human Rights Act, a position supported by [Crown Law](#) in 2006, and can take complaints of discrimination to the HRC.

<https://www.hrc.co.nz/our-work/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity/your-right-complain/>

Trans people can already access single-sex spaces. In line with international human rights standards, they can amend sex markers on passports and driver licences through self-declaratory processes.

Sex on a birth certificate can also be amended by applying to the Family Court.

For more reading, you could view the recent [report to the UN General Assembly](#) written by United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular paragraph 27.

Alternatively, New Zealand research on the experiences of trans and non-binary people has recently been published by [the University of Waikato](#).

Note the word 'transsexual' is only used by 6% of respondents; it is generally deemed to be an out of date term. Transgender is better.

Resources are available on the HRC website.

<https://www.hrc.co.nz/our-work/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity/trans-people-facts-information/>

I hope this is useful.

[REDACTED]

Comms team

**From:** [REDACTED]@mediaworks.co.nz>

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:37 pm

**To:** Media <[media@hrc.co.nz](mailto:media@hrc.co.nz)>

**Subject:** Newshub Nation request

Hi there,

Can the HR Commission please help me with the following.

Withheld under s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (privacy).

Any position statement or report on the rights of Transsexuals in NZ?

Has there been any work done on rights to shared spaces / sport?

The context is an interview [REDACTED] with a radical feminist who says that she is Gender Critical.

That is it not possible to change sex through gender self identification or declaration.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Content withheld under s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (privacy) and s9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act (free and frank opinions).

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:45 PM  
From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz  
To: Media <media@hrc.co.nz>; [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz  
Cc: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz  
Subject: RE: Newshub Nation request

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Seeking a comment from us to ensure a “balance” of views are presented perpetuates the idea that the human rights of trans people are up for debate. They are not.

The person who has been interviewed is well known for anti-transgender views and sentiments and is permanently banned from Twitter for violating their rules against hateful conduct.

All people have the same human rights and freedoms, regardless of their gender identity or expression. Trans people are protected from discrimination under the Human Rights Act, a position supported by [Crown Law](#) in 2006.

Trans people can already access single-sex spaces. In line with international human rights standards, they can amend sex markers on passports and driver licences through self-declaratory processes. Sex on a birth certificate can also be amended by applying to the Family Court.

For more reading, [REDACTED] can view the [recent report to the UN General Assembly](#) written by United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in particular paragraph 27. Alternatively, New Zealand research on the experiences of trans and non-binary people has recently been published by [the University of Waikato](#). He will see the word transsexual is only used by 6% of respondents; it is generally deemed to be an out of date term. Transgender is better.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

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From: Media <mailto:media@hrc.co.nz>  
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 12:42 PM  
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz  
Subject: FW: Newshub Nation request  
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

Queries from [REDACTED] Newshub. [REDACTED] interviewing Meghan Murphy from Canada and wanted some balance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Can you help respond to his questions below. He knows of the Transgender Inquiry on the HRC website.



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Content withheld under s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (privacy).

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Monday, 21 October 2019 4:15 PM

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

To: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Subject: Karanina's Team Meeting Minutes & Actions

Kia ora koutou

Minutes [here](#)

31/10/19 Think of new term for TERF [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]

Context. In an internal team meeting of the Team of the EEO Commissioner, it was noted that the term TERF is not appropriate for the Commission to use. An action point was raised to consider alternative wording.

No other information withheld. Context not recorded so repeated here.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Thursday, 17 October 2019 4:04 PM

From: [redacted]@hrc.co.nz>

To: [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Massey Uni

Kia ora [redacted]

Thanks for the email. Yes, we are aware of the event and I heard it had been cancelled last night.

A brief timeline and history of this event:

- An event entitled “Feminism [2020](#)” was booked for November 13 at Massey University Wellington. The organisers are a small group of people who have been described as spreading anti-trans rhetoric, specifically regarding the inclusion of trans women in women’s spaces and the passage of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Bill. The speakers included Canadian blogger Meghan Murphy who has been banned from Twitter for violating its hateful conduct policy, as well as some New Zealand speakers
- There was a strong response from Massey students and the Students’ Association who objected to the event being hosted at the University
- On Wednesday, [a petition](#) of almost 6,000 signatures was delivered to Massey leadership asking them to cancel the event
- On Thursday, the Commission was contacted by [redacted] who suggested he get in touch with Saunoamaali’i regarding the event
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- Given the timing once our position was established (Friday evening), our comms team would not have been able to moderate the inevitable backlash against trans people over the weekend
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

Transgender students and staff have the right to be safe in their places of study and work, which includes an expectation of being free from discrimination and harassment.”

Educational institutions have a duty of care to all their students, particularly those who experience marginalisation in their daily lives. We would encourage institutions to carefully consider the impacts of hosting events that may be perceived as promoting transphobia or discriminatory attitudes and to be mindful of recent research highlighting that trans and non-binary people in Aotearoa New Zealand experience high levels of psychological distress arising from their experiences of discrimination.

Final statement prepared by the Commission but not released publicly.

The Counting Ourselves survey released its findings last month showing that trans and non-binary people in Aotearoa New Zealand experience “alarmingly high levels of psychological distress, suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts”. They also face high levels of discrimination and violence, as well as significant barriers when trying to access health services.  
<https://countingourselves.nz/>

Wellbeing and Mental Health among Rainbow New Zealanders, Results from the New Zealand Mental Health Monitor, June 2019 - Rainbow participants were more likely to report moderate or severe anxiety, moderate or severe depression, high or very high levels of psychological distress, and having ever experienced mental illness.  
<https://www.hpa.org.nz/sites/default/files/Mental-wellbeing-among-rainbow-adults-factsheet.pdf>

[REDACTED]

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 1:41 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Massey Uni

Kia ora Koutou

Thanks [REDACTED] I think this is the article you are referring too. The conference was being hosted by a group of Trans-exclusionary radical feminists who take the view that trans women are not women. The Commission and the National Council of Women do not support this position. I know [REDACTED] [REDACTED] formulated a position statement on behalf of the Commission last Friday but it hasn't gone out yet. It's a judgement call about how much publicity we give to this group. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/401146/massey-university-cancels-feminism-2020-event-citing-health-and-safety-risks>

Nga mihi

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2019 9:06 AM

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Is the event over? I'm trying to find a livestream link but I can't

Kia ora [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The parallel event went really well. The room was packed, with people standing at the back. The NZ Ambassador came. We saw Dame Catherine Healy from the Prostitutes Collective was there. The who's, who of NZ NGO's as well as a diverse group from around the world attended.

Karanina, Aych and Stella all spoke really well. It was great to have Aych there, as you said it would not have been right to have a panel about non-binary without a non-binary person on it.

It was also great to hear Kiara St James, the founder of a New York trans rights organisation speak too. Wonderful to hear the work that Planned Parenthood are doing across the US to offer healthcare to non-binary and trans people in a pretty hostile climate!

The questions from the audience were all supportive and how more can be done in their countries to support non-binary people – no TERFs present!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 15 March 2019 6:37 AM

To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: Is the event over? I'm trying to find a livestream link but I can't



Content withheld under s9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act on the basis that release of this information will inhibit the supply of information in the future and there is no public interest in the release of this information.

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Monday, 13 August 2018 3:36 PM

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: Re: NZ birth certificate draft legislation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Also attached is our original submission to the committee and a clarifying statement we sent after we made our oral submission in reaction to the trans exclusionary submitters we had to listen to on the day.

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]

Context: Email from ITANZ providing the Commission with their submissions to the Governance and Administration Select Committee on the Birth, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill. These are publicly available on the Parliament website.

Content withheld under s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (privacy).

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 November 2018 8:50 AM

To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

Subject:

Good interview of Louisa Wall on the trans exclusionary group on nation radio right now!

[REDACTED]

Content withheld under s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (privacy) and s9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act (free and frank).

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2017 10:52 AM

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>

To: Jackie Blue <jackieb@hrc.co.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Jackie's notes from her presentation by Dr Michelle Ryan + Link to Sydney Morning Herald

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Internal email discussing presentation by Dr Michelle Ryan who stated that "in the UK there was a minority feminist movement that rejected gender diverse women totally , really radical".