

PRIDE
IN BELPER

THIS IS

ME



2025
guide

Welcome to **Pride in Belper** 2025

A Message from the Chair

Pride in Belper is more than an event – it's a powerful expression of who we are, how we come together, and what we stand for.

Each year, we celebrate LGBTQ+ lives in all their beauty and complexity, and we celebrate our whole community. Our values – Sustainability, Accessibility, Inclusivity, and Diversity – guide everything we do.

This year, those values feel more urgent than ever. Across the UK, trans, non-binary and intersex people are facing growing hostility, dehumanising rhetoric, and threats to their rights. These aren't distant concerns – they affect people here in Belper. Our community has felt the weight of that harm.

In response, we've asked political parties not to campaign at this year's event. We wrote to local MPs and Councillors:

“As organisers of Pride in Belper, and on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community and our allies, we state clearly: in solidarity with other Pride events, and especially with our trans, non-binary and intersex siblings, political campaigning by parties will not be permitted.”

Pride is political – it always has been. But we won't offer a platform to those who promote or tolerate division or discrimination. Instead, we create a space where our values are lived – visibly and joyfully.

Everyone is welcome at Pride in Belper – but hate is not.

There is no place here for division, exclusion, or misinformation. We honour both cis and trans women, whose rights and safety are hard won, and must never be set against each other. While we recognise that not all gender-critical views are rooted in malice, we reject narratives that scapegoat trans women or weaponise feminism to exclude others. Trans women face real harm when belief becomes a tool for fear and division – and we stand firmly with them.

Now more than ever, allyship matters. True allies don't just attend Pride – they speak out, take action, and support marginalised voices. Being an ally means listening, learning, and standing up for justice, not just during Pride, but every day. Solidarity isn't a slogan – it's a commitment.

A Sustainable Pride is a Hopeful Pride.

We're not just celebrating who we are today – we're building a future. One where LGBTQ+ young people are safe and supported. Where trans people are treated with dignity and receive the care they deserve. Where older LGBTQ+ people feel seen. Where disabled LGBTQ+ people are fully included. Where LGBTQ+ people of colour feel safe and valued. Where women's rights are upheld. Where life doesn't have to fit into a binary, and where disagreement doesn't lead to hate.

That's what sustainability means: building justice and inclusion into the very fabric of Pride – not as an afterthought, but as the foundation.

This vision is already taking root. Over 50 local businesses have joined The Belper Welcome List, publicly affirming support for LGBTQ+ people. If safety and belonging aren't guaranteed from above, we'll build them right here – together.

This is your Pride. Whether you're LGBTQ+, an ally, a local, or a visitor – come as you are, and stand with us in love, solidarity, and celebration.

With love and Pride,

Sarah

Chair, Pride in Belper



Are you ready to Strut your stuff on the PRIDE IN BELPER parade?



The Pride in Belper Parade – known as The Strutt – is the beating heart of our celebration.

Named after the Strutt family, who turned Belper into a thriving industrial community by bringing cotton mills, education, housing, and care to the town nearly 250 years ago, **The Pride in Belper Strutt** honours the spirit of building something better, together.

It's a joyful, visible expression of solidarity, love, and identity – where LGBTQ+ people, allies, families, schools, churches, businesses, and community groups walk side by side.

We'd like to give special thanks to the children of **Long Row Primary School**, whose colourful handmade banners will wave proudly throughout The Strutt – a joyful symbol of creativity and support from our youngest allies.

We're also incredibly grateful to students at **Belper School**, who have made stunning kites featuring the flags of many different sexualities – which they'll be waving as a beautiful celebration of diversity and pride.

Thank you to **Fleet Arts**, for their creativity in the run up to Pride in Belper, and who commissioned **MSDC Dance Company** to work with Year 7 and 8 students at Belper School. Together, they've created a unique processional dance for The Strutt. Fleet Arts are long time supporters of Pride in Belper and we're thankful for their allyship.

We're also thrilled that **Chris Lewis-Jones** is leading The Strutt with the fantastic **Belper Boom Samba Band**, a group full of passionate people who believe in joy, rhythm, and standing proudly for inclusion.

LGBTQ+ people march because we must. But in Belper, we march together, not just in protest and celebration, but in defiance of hate, in defence of dignity, and with fierce respect for every member of our community.

The importance
of the Strutt –
and our
incredible
community
involvement

Established in Derbyshire 1983

Fleet
arts



Registered Charity No. 516342



WHAT TO EXPECT AT



The Strutt begins at 12 noon from the Market Place and will journey past many of Belper's wonderful independent shops and invited stalls. Each year, we work hard to ensure stalls joining us for the day do not replicate the goods sold by our traders – because we want everyone in our town to benefit from Pride.

There's a café open from 10am at No.28 on the Market Place. Then live music and performances begin outside at 1pm, with more on Strutt Street, where businesses create a vibrant Cafe Quarter once the parade has passed through.

Our main stage, in the Memorial Gardens, hosts an exciting line-up, including a fabulous range of drag kings and queens from across the region.

There is a fully accessible route for The Strutt from the Market Place to the Memorial Gardens. A Relaxation Station will run intergenerational meditation session, at 2pm, 2:45pm, and 3:30pm in the Quiet Space, in the Dentist's Car Park. This space includes a calm, cushioned tent, ear defenders, ear plugs, and a peaceful environment for anyone who needs a break from the crowds.

A fully accessible washroom, called the RevoLOOtion, will be in the Coppice Car Park, which also has bicycle parking available. Blue Badge parking is dotted around the town – see the map on page 10 for exact locations.

BSL signers will be at some locations, to help make performances and activities more accessible.

The Blend Youth Project will be based in the Memorial Gardens, with Youth Workers on hand to support and welcome any young person who wants to chat or spend time in the Youth Zone.

The Children's Area, also in the Memorial Gardens, will be buzzing with activity – including storytelling, crafts, and games led by our Children's Champions.

And don't forget to explore the town and check out the creative entries in our Shop Window Display Competition – a brilliant way to see how local businesses are showing their support for Pride.



Dance & MUSIC

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT WHO WILL BE
PERFORMING WHERE

MARKET PLACE

- 1pm Ed Hulse
- 1.30pm Keen Baldwin
- 2pm Belper Boom
- 2.20pm Ed Hulse
- 3pm Ignite
- 3.30pm The Movement Project
- 4pm Ed Hulse

ON THE RAINBOW STAGE IN BELPER MEMORIAL GARDENS

- 1pm Tony's Tunes
- 1.30pm Kyle
- 2.10pm Vic Lowrence
- 2.45pm Dragged Up in
Belper
- 3.45pm Soap Box
Preacher
- 4.30pm Lucy Milford
- 5.15pm Vaguely Savory

STRUTT STREET

- 1.30pm Saskia Searle
- 2pm Leo Fox-White
- 2.30pm Darcey Booth
- 3pm JP Acoustic
- 3.30pm Ogres Humming Bird

Introducing the 2025 PiB wrist band!



Every year at Pride in Belper we have produced some glorious wristbands...check out our back catalogue!

2019 = short rainbow stripe
2022 = long rainbow stripe
2023 = trans flag
2024 = pansexual flag
2025's wrist band is the colour of the bisexual flag.

What do you need to know about the bisexual flag?

- The bisexual flag was born on December 5th, 1998
- The pink stripe represents being attracted to people of the same sex (gay and lesbian)
- The blue stripe being attracted to people of the opposite sex (straight)
- The purple stripe that runs between them marks the overlapping of the colours representing sexual attraction to both sexes (bisexual)



What does it mean if you identify as bisexual?

- Bisexual (commonly abbreviated to “bi”) is just one of the many non-binary sexual orientations
- Bi people have the capacity to form attraction and/or relationships to more than one gender
- A person who is bisexual does not have to be equally attracted to more than one gender identity. It is very common for bisexual people to prefer one gender over another, and some say that this preference changes over time
- Some bisexual people feel romantic feelings towards one gender but physical attraction towards others. Only individuals can identify what they're feeling.

Where's best to find more information about bisexuality?

- [Bisexual.org](https://www.bisexual.org)
- [Bisexual Resource Center](https://www.bisexualresourcecenter.org)
- [glaad – Bisexual](https://www.glaad.org/bisexual)
- [LGBT Foundation – Coming out as bisexual](https://www.lgbt.foundation/coming-out-as-bisexual)
- [HRC – A Resource Guide to Coming Out as Bisexual](https://www.hrc.org/resources/a-resource-guide-to-coming-out-as-bisexual)
- [Planned Parenthood – Sexual Orientation](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/sexual-orientation)

Children and Young People's Areas

Pride in Belper is once again delighted to welcome everyone to a brilliant range of Children and Young People (CYP) activities.

So, what's on offer this year? Kath Greaves from Tiny Talk is running a session for babies, toddlers, and young children at 12:30pm where children can try their hand at learning some signs.

Crafting with Liz Cooper (12 noon – 3pm) will be available to make Pride wands, and Georgina Greaves from the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site will lead the making of Scandinavian friendship bracelets and willow hearts (12 noon – 4pm).

Author Troy Jenkinson will host a special story time (1pm – 2pm) with his brand-new book *The Happiest Axolotl in the World*.

Children can also take part in the ever-popular Children's Champions Challenge for a chance to win one of three prizes.

Blend Youth Project is providing a space for young people to chill out and get creative.

At 2:30pm, Fliss Goldsmith will be reading the classic *And Tango Makes Three* (2:30pm – 3pm), an inclusive, heart-warming shared story. At 3:30pm, the LGBT+ Quiz will begin – participants can play in teams or solo.

As always, there will be plenty of free play toys provided by Derbyshire Toy Library, and this year includes a tremendous teddy tombola!

Over on Green Lane, the relaxation station will be offering half-hour mindfulness sessions with Weronika Allan at 2pm, 2:45pm, and 3:30pm – a space to relax and feel connected.

Everyone is warmly invited to join in – all are welcome and celebrated just as they are. The Children and Young People's team looks forward to sharing this special day with you.

Young people deserve to be seen and celebrated

Why we at Blend Youth Project are proud to partner with Pride in Belper:

At Blend Youth Project, we believe young people deserve to be seen, heard, and celebrated not just in the future, but right now. That's why we're proud to partner with **Pride in Belper** again this year.

Pride isn't just a celebration. It's a space where our young people can express themselves freely, safely, and joyfully – often for the first time. From the young people designing banners and posters, to those helping organise events or simply walking proudly in the parade, **their voices and creativity are at the heart of everything we do.**

We know that for LGBTQ+ young people especially, visibility matters. Community matters. And Pride in Belper offers both. It's local, inclusive, and genuinely youth-positive – which makes it a perfect partner for us.

So whether you see a young person performing, volunteering, or just soaking up the love, **please look after them.** Cheer them on. Respect their space. And celebrate the incredible energy, courage and insight they bring to Pride and to our community all year round.

Because Pride belongs to them too.

The Pride in Belper Welcome List

Where Belonging Begins

In a time when LGBTQ+ communities across the UK face increasing hostility and exclusion, welcome is more than just a word — it's an action. It's something we choose to do, together, with intention and care. That's why Pride in Belper created the **Welcome List**.

The Pride in Belper Welcome List is a growing collection of local businesses, organisations, and community spaces that have made a public commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion — and especially to the safety and dignity of trans, non-binary, and intersex people. These are not just places that tolerate diversity, but places that **actively welcome it**.

Every name on the list represents a door that is open, a team that has chosen to be visible in its support, and a space where LGBTQ+ people can show up as themselves and feel respected. In a climate where political leaders and institutions too often fall short of protecting our community, the Welcome List is a grassroots response — a way for us to create the safety and belonging we all deserve.

As of this year, the list features **over 50 Belper businesses**, from cafés and pubs to salons, retailers, and service providers. Each one has committed to our values of **Sustainability, Accessibility, Inclusivity and Diversity**, and to creating environments where everyone is treated with dignity and care.

The Welcome List is not just symbolic — it is practical. It helps LGBTQ+ people navigate the town knowing where they can expect kindness and respect. It reminds us all that community isn't just built at Pride events, but in the everyday spaces we live, work, and connect.

Most importantly, it is a shared act of resistance. When our safety and rights are debated, denied, or disregarded, this list is one way we say: we are here, we are together, and we will make space for one another.

If our leaders cannot create safety for us, then we must come together and do it for ourselves — and for each other.

The Welcome List is one way we're doing just that. To view the full list or to sign up your business or organisation, visit <https://prideinbelper.co.uk/the-welcome-list/>

Together, we make Belper a town where everyone can belong.

How is Pride funded?

We are absolutely committed to ensuring that the Pride in Belper weekend is free for everyone to attend. Obviously, it is not free to put on the event so how do the small team of volunteers raise the funds each year?

Each year we have been consistently supported by Belper Town Council, who have granted £1000 a year for several years on the bounce.

Alongside the funding, we receive support from the council team (placing the flags on poles around the town and helping remove the rubbish after the event).

The Council members recognise how important Pride in Belper has become in the calendar of events and we are grateful for the support. When the County and Borough have proved fruitless, Belper Town Council have always supported Pride in Belper.

We make grant applications to external bodies: last year we received some funds to commission our first BSL signing team, the accessible Revoloo toilet and equipment for the Quiet Space.

We receive donations of goods from Asda and Morrisons – last year we received snacks and water for our tireless volunteers and cut flowers to dress the market place, which we then distributed around the various older people services in the town.

A portion of the funds come from our lovely local business sponsors and we are pleased to help promote those businesses throughout the event, on our website and on social media.

And then to our stall holders, who help to make such an engaging and vibrant event – we charge a manageable fee to trade across the weekend and we hope they enjoy the weekend as much as we all enjoy having them.

And last but not least, we have a street collection licence in place and lots of donation buckets dotted about so that you can make an affordable donation if you are willing and able.

As the political environment shifts around us, and costs increase, it has been tougher than ever to raise the necessary funds this year. You can help make sure Pride in Belper continues to celebrate, protest and support our community by dropping some change in a bucket or going to www.prideinbelper.co.uk and using the donate link.



There will be road closures in place for the parade - allow extra time for your journey

THE PARADE

Gather at **The Market Place** from **11am**. There will be a **Cafe** in **No 28** with music and stalls outside

The **Pride Parade** or '**Strutt**' as we like to call it in Belper will leave **The Market Place** at **12 noon**

- Starting at **The Market Place**
- Head down **King Street** past **The Ritz**
- Turn left onto **Strutt Street** to the end of the street
- Turn right onto **New Road** over the railway bridge
- Turn right onto **Campbell Street** past **The 1924**
- At the end of the street turn right back up **King Street**
- The Parade will end near **The Memorial Gardens**

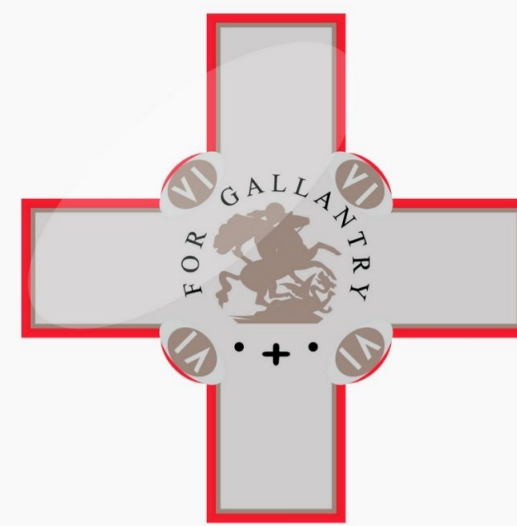
Accessible Route
If you feel you cannot complete the entire Strutt, our Accessibility Route starts on **The Market Place** and you can finish by heading off into **The Memorial Gardens**.

- 1 Quiet Area
- 2 The Ritz Cinema
- 3 Rainbow Stage
- 4 Cafe Quarter
- 5 Accessible toilet





TIMELINE UPDATE FOR 2025



The country ranked Number One on the rainbow map has remained unchanged for the last 10 years.

Can you guess who it is?

We have hidden the answer somewhere on this page...

2025: UK drops 6 places in the Rainbow rankings from 16th to 22nd.

This is largely as a result of the continued failure to ban conversion therapy along with the recent reversion of gender recognition.



In sunnier news within 2025:

Leichtenstein's Marriage Equality law came into force.

Czechia legalised same-sex civil unions.

Brazil is processing a same sex - marriage bill, which is expected to come into force during 2025.

These countries join **Greece** and **Thailand** on the journey to marriage equality .

The country who ranks last is less of a surprise, so we will give you that one for free!

There are 76 measuring criteria. In the style of Eurovision, Russia scored un point!

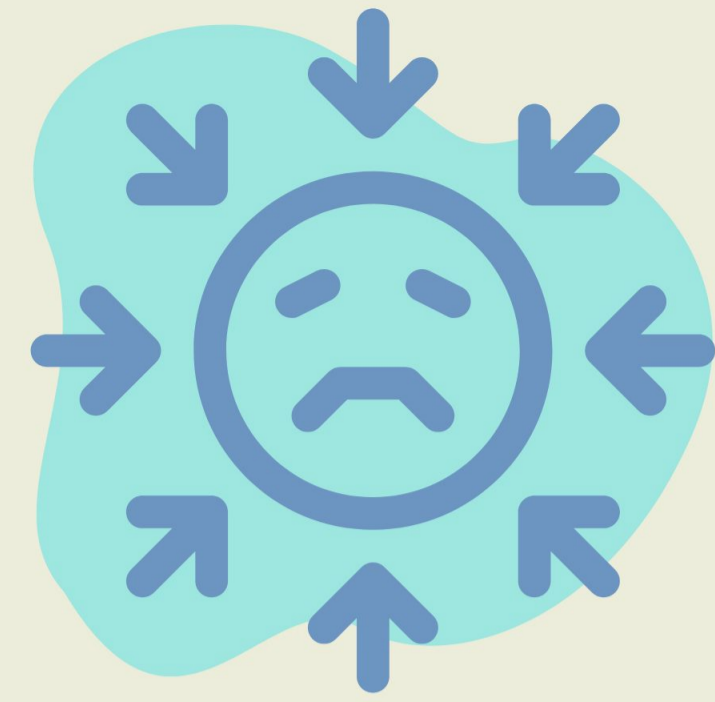
The Russian government designated the 'International LGBT movement' as 'Extremist'. The Pride Flag has been declared a forbidden symbol.

Since the last Pride In Belper, the first wave of convictions have taken place with fears that the floodgates have been opened.

'Perpetrators' are given short custodial sentences for first offences but face 10 years in prison for repeat offences.

In January 2024 a woman was imprisoned for 5 days for wearing rainbow earrings...

Standing against the rise of intolerance and the erosion of truth

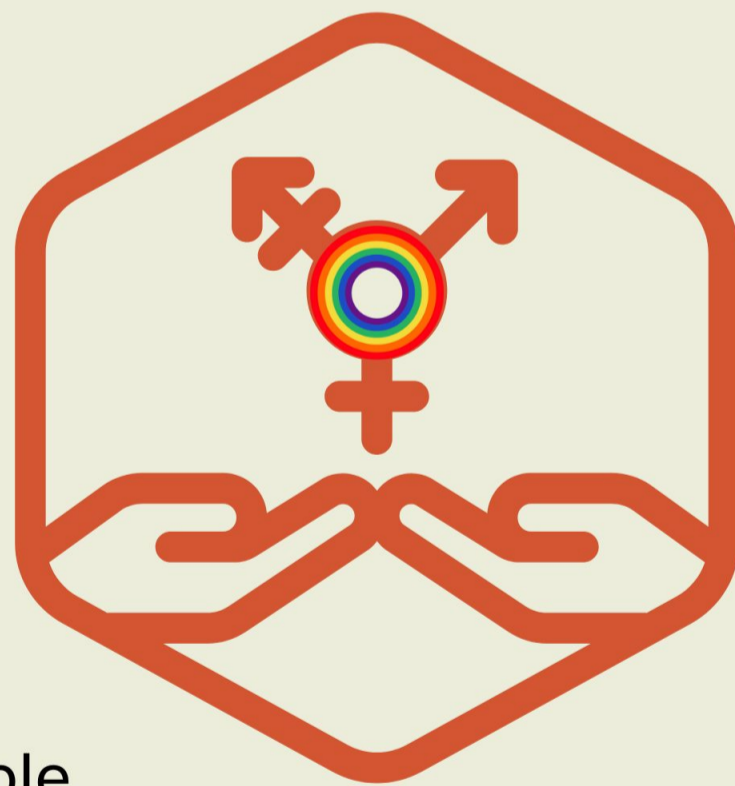


Intolerance is on the rise. It no longer hides behind anonymous online profiles, it is openly voiced in our streets, institutions, and public offices. The effects are clear - division, fear, and harm across our communities.

This growing hostility is often fuelled by a deliberate rejection of facts. In the UK, the response to the Cass Review showed how complex healthcare issues were hijacked to question the very existence of trans people.

Instead of focusing on care and evidence, inclusion itself became the scapegoat. Language is also being distorted. The word “woke”, which once meant socially aware, is now used dismissively rebranded as “lefty equality rubbish.” This shift is part of a broader attempt to undermine empathy and equality by ridiculing the language of justice.

These attacks are not genuine efforts to engage in discussion. They are attempts to shut down the visibility and voices of all people in minority groups.



Real equality means acknowledging that people face different challenges. Equity requires us to give people what they need to thrive, not just what is equal on paper.

LGBTQ+ people still experience higher rates of mental health challenges, housing insecurity, healthcare discrimination, and social stigma. These are not matters of opinion- they are real, documented facts.

There is also a growing trend to portray support for minority groups as divisive or political. The Pride in Belper Welcome List, which promotes businesses and services that are welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community has been misrepresented as divisive. This narrative ignores the injustices these efforts seek to address. Inclusion is not the problem; it is part of the solution.

The Pride in Belper social media team has experienced this backlash first hand. Volunteers working to promote inclusion, education, and equality face relentless online hostility. We are regularly met with comments that are not only dismissive but actively silencing.

People say things like, “I treat everyone the same,” or “LGBTQ+ people are just attention-seeking.” Others go further, stating, “Stop pushing your ideology on others. Stop being deliberately provocative. No one is interested.”

This intolerance shows how far we still must go. In moments like this, passive support is not enough. Silence has never been good at tackling inequality. What we need now is visible, vocal, and courageous allyship.

And still, we are here. We remain proud. We continue to show up with compassion and strength, because we have to.



Trans and non-binary voices after the Supreme Court ruling on the Equality Act

In April 2025, the UK Supreme Court made a high-profile ruling on the meaning of “sex” under the Equality Act 2010. The Court concluded that, in the context of single-sex services and spaces, the word “sex” refers to legal sex as recorded on a birth certificate, unless it has been changed by a Gender Recognition Certificate.

It’s important to be clear: this ruling did not change the law. The Equality Act remains in place, and trans people are still protected from discrimination under it. What the ruling does is interpret how the law applies in certain situations, particularly where the rights of different groups may need to be balanced.

And crucially: the ruling does not dictate who can use which toilet, changing room or space. That remains a decision for each service provider, who must still make fair, proportionate decisions under existing equality law.

Despite these legal clarifications, the ruling has sparked public debate, confusion, and for many trans people pure fear. So we decided to ask a handful of trans and non-binary people how they’re feeling, and what the ruling means to them. We asked three questions:

- How did the Supreme Court announcement make you feel?
- What is your experience of living authentically – both before and after the judgement?
- What will this ruling mean for you in your everyday life?

On the next few pages, we centre trans and non-binary voices. Not legal theory, not political talking points. Just real people, sharing how this decision lands in their lives.

What follows are their reflections. Courageous, honest, and deeply human.

I continue to use the proper public toilets

The Supreme Court announcement was snuck out at 10pm on a Friday. Instead of enjoying my weekend, I felt physically sick. Over the next few days, I was genuinely suicidal.

All kinds of questions raced through my mind, most of them surrounding where I’d go to the toilet. I’ve used the ladies’ since coming out as trans in 2017, and I’ve never had a single problem. On the contrary, I’ve had plenty of positive experiences. “Your hair looks amazing!” “Where did you get that top?” It’s the polar opposite of the scenes in the gents’, where grunting blokes urinate on the floor and leave without washing their hands.

Although the “gender critical” transphobes claim to speak for all women, they do not. Since coming out as a trans woman, I’ve grown ever closer to my cis-women friends. The experience was very much one of “Welcome to the sisterhood”.

I continue, and will continue, to use the proper public toilets, but I’m far more wary now. It would only take one idiot in an “Adult Human Female” T-shirt to roar “There’s a man in the ladies!” to ruin my day. “Biological sex”? I have a vagina – it’s biological. I’m not a man. Tried it – didn’t like it.

The Prime Minister continually states that the Supreme Court decision has given “clarity”. Liar. The Equality and Human Rights Commission insists I have to use men’s toilets. The woman who wrote the Equality Act, along with former Supreme Court judge Lord Sumption, say the opposite.

This country is lurching towards 1930s Germany, and I’m terrified.

JLH is a trans non binary person, and we are grateful for them agreeing to share their thoughts

How did the Supreme Court judgment leave you feeling?

JLH. I have had a week or so to reflect after the initial shock: on reflection, the main emotions I identified were fear - scared. I am experiencing a lot of anger and sadness.

PIB: what do you think the root of the fear could be?

JLH: I am a visibly trans person and I have become fearful of the potential consequences of being in public spaces. I am worried that I will experience a restriction on my right to just move around the world in peace. I mean, I am already quite a fearful person but I am now concerned that conflict or challenge could come at any time and that is not ideal.

I feel that this ruling has just extended permission for people to be transphobic without consequences. It was already hard enough but it does feel as if this has opened up a whole new level of permission. I mean - if this is the route we are taking as a society, what more is to come? I mean, look at the direction we seem to be heading in!

What is your experience, both before and after the announcement? How has your experience changed?

JLH: There are a lot of unknowns about what this actually means. It is horrific, but there has been a level of exposure of the kind of transphobia we had already been experiencing. I just think the ruling shows that the trans community are completely invisible because it had unintended consequences that are obvious to the community but apparently not the judges! This has created a ridiculous situation of trans men in the women's toilet.

We were already here, existing. There is no gender recognition certificate for non binary people. Prior to this, trans people went to whichever loo suited.

I just don't feel safe in any loo

This really hasn't added any clarity for non binary people, which is no change at all.

To be honest, it is completely ridiculous that peoples' experience has been reduced to discussions about toilets. I mean, the bigger issue is trans women being excluded from single gender services such as health services or support to escape from domestic violence.

I don't identify as trans masc but my image does 'confuse' people as they may assume male. I used to be able to get away with occasional weird looks. Now I just don't feel safe in any loo.

PIB: What does a lack of safety mean for you?

JLH: This is hard because I do a lot of avoiding in the first place, but in terms of safety I mean any kind of conflict/challenge/slurs/verbal assault. I hear stories, but I don't know if I am really at risk of being dragged out of a loo or whether that is my anxiety talking.

What is really getting to me is this is having a direct impact on trans women. It is so completely ridiculous that we have stepped back feminism and the rights of all women.

For example, the supreme court hearing did not allow any representations from trans groups/legal representatives so their voices were completely ignored in making this decision. The panel of judges only heard from TERF groups as part of the enquiry, along with Amnesty, EHRC and some LGB groups that believe trans women with gender recognition certificates are still just men.

This group was funded by 70k from JK Rowling. There was no input from trans or queer people. At the end of the day, this literally leaves trans men with nowhere to pee. It is fundamentally inhumane to exclude people from basic human services.

PIB: what would an inclusive public toilet look like?

JLH: It is perfectly ok to have men and women's toilets but make gender neutral loos available so that everyone has their place. It really is not that hard.

Like I said before though - this is not just about toilets. It is about access to services such as domestic abuse support, healthcare and social care. This ruling is a nonsense because you can't see the complexity of someone's genes.... you can have bottom surgery and no-one would know your gender is different from that assigned at birth. It is very sad and misguided.

This feels like a misguided attempt to 'protect' women and it is causing a moral panic that all women need protecting from scary trans women. It is sad that there is so much misinformation and fear being put into the world. Statistically, Trans women are so very unlikely to commit SA on cis women.

I recognise that this is legitimately based on a real fear of male violence made stupid by fearing 'men' being in the toilet. No one seems to have noticed that a cis man could claim to be a trans man and enter women's toilets.

There was that interview with the MP Mhairi Black who highlighted that this is based utterly and entirely on transphobia.

And we haven't even started on intersex! The whole thing is sexist, misogynistic and utterly ridiculous.

This should have been a debate about all women for all women. It is a community discussion. There was no place for male judges to make this decision.

What will it mean for you?

We must celebrate the people who have come forward about this ruling and said no - not in my name. The businesses in Belper are stepping up with the Welcome List.

I cry with sadness but I am crying in gratitude for the celebrities who step up and fund trans charities.

PIB: (Nicola Coughlan of Derry Girls and Bridgerton fame has given a substantial donation to trans-led charity Not a Phase.)

You just have to hold onto these signs of hope.

Legal recognition was invalidated overnight

How did the Supreme Court announcement make you feel?

The actual Supreme Court judgement itself was only about the small minority of trans people like myself who have a gender recognition certificate along with new birth certificate, and legal recognition in law of our acquired gender.

To be honest, I had no idea the court case was even happening. I woke up to learn from the news that the legal recognition of my womanhood that I'd had for 20 years, and that I fought with others so bloody hard to get, had been effectively invalidated overnight.

I transitioned over 30 years ago in my youth. I've lived integrated in society as a woman almost my whole adult life.

That legal gender recognition, especially when combined with the equality act, represented a turning point for me - practically speaking, it was a state promise of legal acceptance, a guarantee that my basic human rights to participate normally in society would be respected, and that I would have a right to privacy about something that for me was attached to so much trauma and pain. It kind of gave me permission to let go of that trauma.

How do I feel now? I feel betrayed. Invalidated. Targeted. Frightened. Hopeless. Mostly frightened and hopeless, especially about the future.

I don't feel angry towards the judges or the Supreme Court – they were placed in the difficult position of attempting to resolve a messy conflict of law, which they did to the best of their ability.

Judges don't write those laws, governments do – what mattered, then, is how the government chose to respond.

Sadly the government's response has not been helpful, or even neutral. Instead, they're currently working to put another anti-trans person in charge of the EHRC.

The EHRC is an organisation that is supposed to be fighting to protect our rights, but is doing exactly the opposite, issuing statutory guidance to organisations and businesses that will actively harm, out, segregate and exclude us.

So, towards the government and politicians, I feel anger and hurt, and I feel *deeply* betrayed. Because they are sacrificing us, a tiny minority of people, many of us vulnerable, and going back on a legal promise, all for a few votes.

What is your experience, both before and after the announcement? Has your experience changed? What will it mean for you?

I've not really been out much about my past until recent years. I've been trying to be more open, trying to learn to let the shame go.



There is one more interview with the trans/non-binary community on our YouTube channel. Visit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da7wfes4RRl

At the last Pride in Belper event the team helped me to try to find something to wear so I could be out about being trans (thank you!) I wore a big trans flag for the day. It was the first time I'd been clearly, loudly, proudly out as a trans woman, rather than just woman, at a pride event.

But now, with the changes in law combined the exclusionary, outing, segregating guidance being given out by the EHRC (which is also being embedded in upcoming NHS constitution), the only way I'm going to be able to get by, if at all, is by hiding my trans history again – which will now mean breaking the law (with extra problem that, if sent to prison, I'd likely be sent to a men's prison.)

It means things that shouldn't matter, like my appearance, now will, very much so – as of course it will for all women when it comes to things like gender policing of single sex spaces. In truth, I'm not in a good place. All the old trauma I'd let go in the past is back again.

There's no practical way for me to avoid single sex spaces. I'm old, I've got long term health conditions that mean my life is all about careful planning to make sure I'm always by a loo, for instance. I've got my 2nd mammogram coming up – I'm too scared to go to that. Currently, I'm too scared to leave home.

I don't know what the future holds. I'm certainly not prepared to be targeted, outed, segregated, humiliated, excluded, as the government and the EHRC are currently mandating. I refuse to live that life – if that's what it's going to be. I will not put myself through that.

I'm feeling too damned old, exhausted, and tired to be an activist all over again.

Where we are now is like Section 28 and then some, only this time the targeted group, trans people, is much smaller, and so for us to have any chance of us winning this fight we're going to need help, a LOT of help, from our allies.

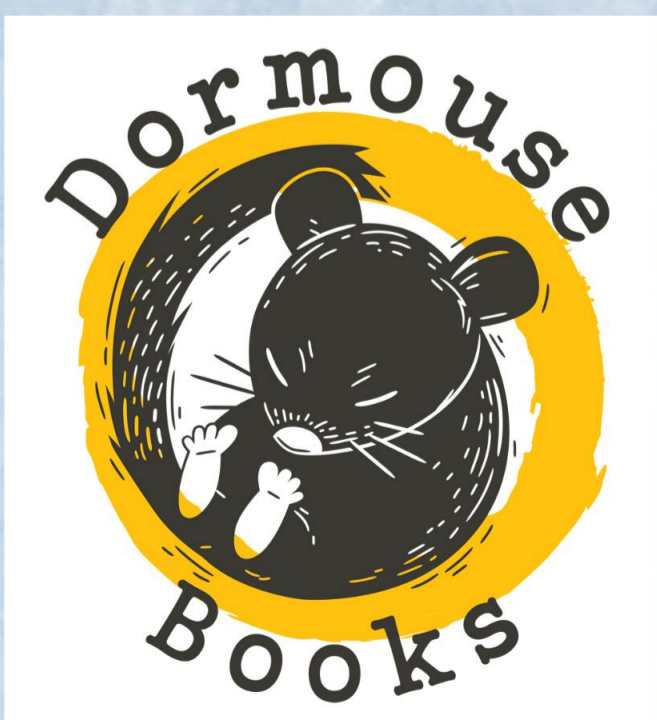
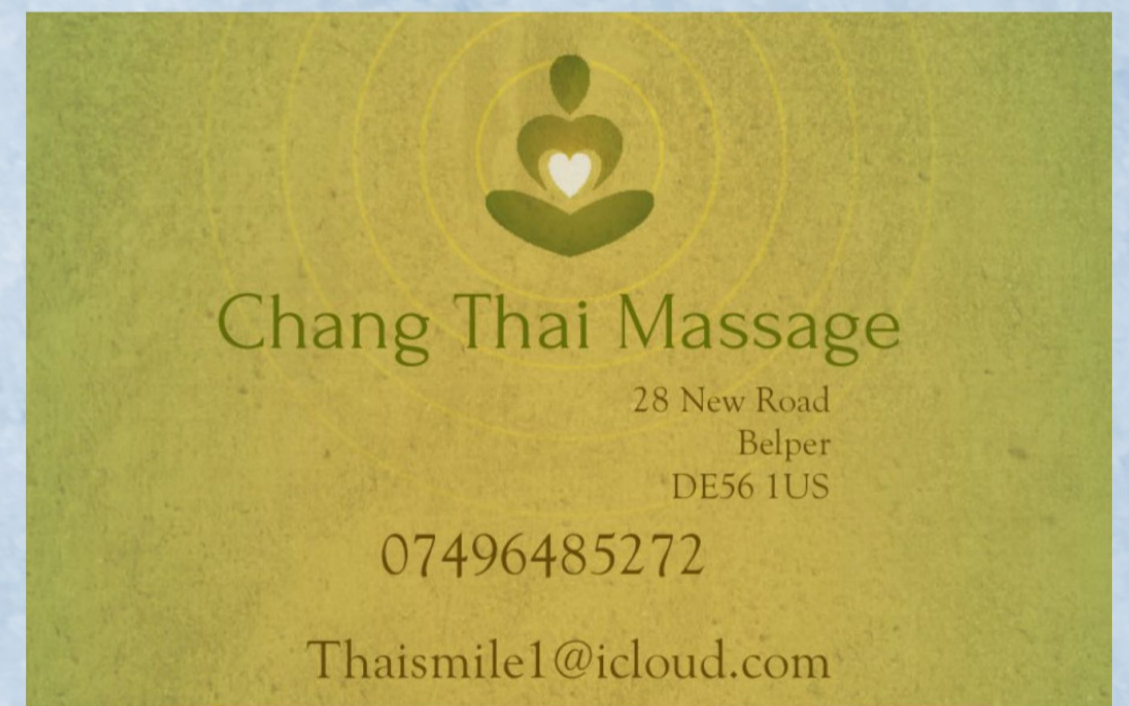
Pride has never been just a celebration; it was always a political act.



THANK YOU



to all our funders, sponsors and supporters
We really couldn't put this event on without you



Pride in Belper Dog Show

2pm, Sunday 3rd Aug
Memorial Gardens

CATEGORIES

- PUPPY (12 weeks to 1 year old)
- BEST VETERAN (over 7 years old)
- MOST HANDSOME DOG
- PRETTIEST BITCH
- DOG MOST LIKE ITS OWNER
- BEST PRIDE COLLAR/LEAD/
HARNESS SET
- BEST TRICK
- BEST PUPPY / BEST VETERAN /
BEST IN SHOW

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