

*Katherine Foy*

In February 2020 Katherine Foy signed the Labour Campaign for Trans Rights Pledge, which called, among other things, for those who express “bigoted, transphobic views” to be expelled from the Labour Party.

Reply to Labour Party LGBT Network questions:

1. Do you accept that trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary people are non-binary - and will you commit to respecting trans people as their self-declared gender – if so, how will you integrate this approach to tackle the culture of entrenched transphobia, from the grassroots membership up to the leadership?
2. Will you defend the current Labour Party policy and principle of inclusion of Transgender women on All Women Shortlists?

1. "Yes, absolutely. As an aside I am pleased that this question is framed as one of acceptance and not one of belief. Society – and specifically cisgender society – needs to respect trans people's self-declared gender as a matter of reality, and accept self-declaration as reflecting a need to bring legal definitions into line with the reality of our lives.

Our party has a growing problem of entrenched transphobia at all levels. The first step needs to be the party and the leadership accepting and recognising that this problem exists, after which the party leadership needs to signal that it is absolutely not acceptable. Bigotry thrives when it is not challenged or called out – and we saw this all too easily with antisemitism. I will use my position and platform on the NEC to push for the party to take transphobia seriously.

The next step needs to be reforming our structures and processes to integrate an anti-transphobic policy. I will push for Labour to adopt a formal definition of transphobia, as written and decided by trans people, and similar in scope to that created by Trans Actual. I will seek to have this definition included in any terms of reference used by our complaints and disciplinary processes when handling incidents of transphobia.

We clearly need a formal and established Code of Conduct that applies to all Labour Party members, staff, and representatives, and which sets our clear sanctions for instances of transphobia (alongside other forms of bigotry). I would hope to see this Code of Conduct updated and applied through the NEC.

As an openly trans woman, transphobia is an existential threat to me and my wellbeing. Eradicating it from our party is my absolute number one priority."

2. "Yes"

Reply to Labour Women's Declaration Working Group questions:

1. We would like to ask, firstly, whether you agree that women should have the right to expect female-only facilities to be available in places such as changing rooms, public toilets, hospital wards, care homes, refuges, hostels and prisons, as provided for through the single-sex exemptions in the Equality Act 2010?

2. Secondly, do you agree that women should have the right to organise themselves, as a sex, across a range of cultural, leisure, educational and political activities and have the right to discuss policies which affect them, without being abused, harassed or intimidated?

3. Lastly, we would like to ask how you think that the Labour Party should go about fulfilling the promise it made to women in the Manifesto within the Labour Party itself?

“My position is not up for debate, any more than my womanhood is.

My feminism has no room for transphobia or trans-exclusion.”