



LWD reflect on a year of the women's movement

Speaker - Helena Coates

It's our Birthday today. Born out of the efforts of great women past and present.

September 2019 – WPUK were aggressively protested against and condemned on stage at Labour party conference.

And also the death of the beautiful, intelligent Magdalen Berns.

Enough of us were catching up now.

Enough of us had found each other and could see the necessity of making ourselves visible within the Labour Party.

So we pushed together for the Labour Party to make assurances on sex-based rights in the UK and Scottish manifestos.

We pushed to open up channels of communication with Labour MP's and Peers.

Marsha de Cordova has asked the Government what statutory guidance it intends to give public bodies in keeping with legislation. That is a start!

And yesterday Lord Hunt asked the same again in the House of Lords after raising questions along with Labour Lords Young and Triesman last month – so that's also moved on from "no debate".

Outside of Labour, there has been cross party work including some organised through Women Uniting whose own petition is currently standing at 7682 signatures

There has been Keira Bell's court case against the Tavistock - the first of several court cases now stacked up ready to go, like Authentic Equity Alliance's challenge to EHRC and ForWomenScotland's case against the Scottish Government.

Revised government RSE guidance not to teach children that they can be born in the wrong body.

World Rugby's decision to stipulate all female participation in female sport (and we hope that England Rugby will eventually catch up).

But since Truss' announcement there has been a poor response from Labour.

The hounding of Rosie Duffield going ignored, or in some cases actively encouraged.

We have been dis-invited to attend CLP talks, and smeared as anti-trans by our own Party's members and officers for speaking up for our sex.

In Scotland, GRA reform is not off the agenda. The guidance to the Gender Representation on Public Boards Act, which redefines "woman", and the Hate Crime (Scotland) Bill could criminalise anyone speaking out on women's sex-based rights.

In England Stella Creasy has teamed up with Stonewall in her campaign to make misogyny a Hate Crime and Stonewall representatives have spoken of "consolidation" and "rationalisation" of hate crime protections...so it does look like Stonewall are going for redefinition, via conflation of sex and gender or gender identity, in criminal law in England and Wales as well.

Nearly EVERY UK institution has already adopted self ID and many are replacing the collection of data on sex with the indefinable concept of gender identity...

So we have our work cut out - and part of that work is to carry on trying to engage the left in what our fundamental arguments really are, amid the smearing and false accusations that are used against us.