

26 September 2025

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities, Department for Education, By Email.

Dear Bridget,

EHRC statutory guidance next steps

I know that many MP colleagues, as well as trans-led, LBGTIQA+ and human rights organisations, and individuals, will have written to you setting out their concerns about the proposed new guidance from the Equality Human Rights Commission (EHRC) for dealing in practical terms with the UK Supreme Court judgment on the case of For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers.

As the Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion, the constituency with one of the largest trans and non-binary populations in the UK, I have previously written to you about the implications of this judgment.

I am very concerned to make sure that MPs have the chance to debate any new guidance. However, I believe the proposed guidance from the EHRC is currently not fit for purpose, and not suitable to be placed before MPs at all.

I believe it is deliberately misleading in nature and have seen how its proposed wording has already caused significant confusion and distress. With the comments from the Health Secretary this week regarding trans men and single sex spaces, I do believe there is a real risk of trans people being essentially segregated from public spaces unless this matter is looked at again before any draft is put forward to the House.

This is a fear also echoed by many trans and non-binary constituents and allies who have written to me.

I am therefore writing to urge you very strongly to reject the guidance on grounds of practicality and human rights, and seek new advice on how (and whether) the Supreme Court judgment could be applied in any real-life situations while respecting the existing rights of trans people.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Siân Berry MP, Green Party, Brighton Pavilion