

# Responsibility in Transgender Disputes<sup>1</sup>

Susan Gilchrist<sup>2</sup>

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THE FINAL VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS IN PREPARATION AND WILL BE PLACED ON THIS WEBSITE IN A FEW DAYS TIME.

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND RELEVANT TO THIS PAPER: GO TO

Gilchrist, S. (2019c): “Transgender Questions and Arguments”:

<http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/243P-TransgenderQuestionsAndArguments.pdf>

Download Gilchrist, S. (2019b): “The Development of Transgender Behaviour and Identities in Early Life”: <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/243P-BehaviourSelfIdentity.pdf>

Download Gilchrist, S. (2019a): “Divisions: Self-Declaration and Gender Variant People”: <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/243P-DivisionsSelfDeclaration.pdf>

IN THE MEANTIME, I ATTACH A COPY OF THE INTRODUCTION TO THE RESPONSIBILITY PAPER

## SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

The use of terminology needs to be clarified in any discussion of these issues. In this article “*Transgender*” refers to anybody who experiences discomfort in conforming to the gender identity assigned to them at birth. “*Transsexual*” is used to describe those who identify with a gender which is opposite to that which is assigned to them at birth. Both words are often shortened to “*Trans*” which becomes an all-inclusive term. “*Cis-gender*”, is a word which is sometimes used to describe those people whose gender identity aligns with their biological sex.

The word “*Transsexual*” and the description of “*Sex Reassignment Surgery*” are both misnomers, for there are few people who believe that such actions change biological sex, instead they enable people to integrate fully into society in the gender identity they possess. The terms “*Gender Reassignment Surgery*” or “*Gender Confirmation Surgery*” are much

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<sup>1</sup> This document is available at: Gilchrist, S. (2020a): “*Responsibility in Transgender Disputes*”:

<http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/248P-Responsibility.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> A personal biography is available at: <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/SusanBiographyPicture.pdf>

more accurate and much to be preferred. The term *“Trans Women”* for male to female transsexuals would also be a far more accurate description, as would the description *“Trans Men”*, for female to male transsexuals, or *“Trans People”*, for the large numbers who refuse to conform to either of these binary modes. There are many biological or natal women who use the term *“Women”* as an inclusive term and are happy to accept trans women as women: but others do not.

At issue is the definition of *“Women”* and this is what at first seems to be the source of the present toxic disputes. Can trans women be called *“Women”* because they are people who integrate fully into society as women? Or must the word *“Women”* be defined exclusively as *“Adult biological females”* as some more radical feminist groups assert? Both definitions can be true, but when some groups accept one definition and deny the other something important about the status of being a woman, or a man, or a trans person is lost. This is redolent of those feminists who argue that only biological women can be feminists, and the other feminists who are happy to describe their male allies as feminists as well. Much of this dispute depends on the ways in which *“Men”* and *“Women”* are defined, for none of these denies the realities of biology, or the protections that are needed to prevent the abuses of sex.

Trans people come in many varieties. There are male to female transsexuals, female to male transsexuals and those who refuse to conform to either. Currently about four-fifths of all trans people who come forward today identify with non-binary roles. It may therefore seem strange and perverse that this article concentrates almost exclusively on male to female transsexuals. That is because in these transgender disputes, even the existence of non-binary transgender people, and female to male transsexuals are almost completely ignored.

There are many in the transgender community who refuse to conform to any binary gender identity, and to argue that transgender people are men or transgender people are women is anathema to such people. There are others who do identify with this gender binary and the slogan, *“trans women are women”* is often heard. However, that is a slogan which is not ours to give. It is all women and the rest of society who have the right to assign it... thus it is only ours to receive. That is why I will continue to use the word *“Transsexual”* as a generic term in this article for those transgender people who fully identify as men or women in society, while recognising that these issues are about gender and not biological sex.

One element at the core of these disputes is the argument put forward by some radical feminist groups that gender identity as an essential element of personality does not exist, arguing that transsexuality is a perversion of homosexuality instead<sup>3</sup>. These views conflict with the views of the professional medical institutions who regard transsexuality as naturally expected variations of the human condition, which are intrinsic to the personality created, that arise very early in development and cannot be changed either by the individual concerned or by the predations of others in subsequent life. A further area of dispute put forward by radical feminist groups is their assertion, *that when transgender people transition, they believe that they are changing sex*. They define this assertion as core of the *“Gender Ideology”* which they use for their attack<sup>4</sup>. That description is totally denied by the great majority of transgender people who are fully aware of the differences between gender and sex and I show it to be incorrect.

In this article I examine the foundations for all of these claims, since they give insights into how gender identity is formed for everyone, binary and non-binary trans people, those who

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<sup>3</sup> Hayton, Debbie (2020): “Gender identity is bollocks” *Spectator, Australia*: 4 April 2020: <https://www.spectator.com.au/2020/04/gender-identity-is-bollocks/>. [accessed June 2020]

<sup>4</sup> Hayton, Debbie (2020) Facebook Post about RT article “Mob Justice: How one feminist’s simple Tweet enraged transgender activists and saw her sacked from her dream job” 31 August 2020 <https://www.rt.com/news/499510-mob-justice-feminists-transgender/>

refuse to identify, and those whose gender identities follow the more usually expected paths. I also describe a new neurophysiological analysis which confirms that trans conditions are variations of the usually expected paths of personality development, and I show how they integrate into and apply to the creation of other aspects of personality and identity beyond these gender and sexual concerns

The proposed changes to the United Kingdom Gender Recognition act which would allow people to self-identify for the purpose of changing their birth certificate to show the gender they identify with, has promoted these toxic disputes, this is not a debate. The battles are being fought on two fronts, the provision of “safe spaces” where women can be kept secure from male intrusion and abuse, and the legitimacy of trans identities: In particular, the identities of male to female transsexuals. Because of these agendas, the intensity of the arguments, and the refusal to listen to each other, all other trans people are almost completely ignored. That is most recently seen in the United Kingdom Government’s refusal to endorse any meaningful reform to the 2004 Gender Recognition act, even when the public response to the government consultation was very strongly in favour of reform being required<sup>5</sup>.

I divide this article into four major sections. The first major section, B: is “*Understanding*”. In this I consider the various theories put forward about the origins of trans conditions. The second C is “*Experience*”. In this I consider the experiential evidence that is available. In section D which I call “*Campaigning*” I discuss the approaches put forward by some of the campaigning groups, and in section E, which I describe as “*Effects*” I consider some of the consequences that result. Sections A and F refer to the introduction and the conclusions that are reached

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<sup>5</sup> King, D; Paechter, C; Ridgway, M: UK Government (2020) “Gender Recognition Act Analysis of consultation responses” [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/919890/Analysis\\_of\\_responses\\_Gender\\_Recognition\\_Act.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/919890/Analysis_of_responses_Gender_Recognition_Act.pdf)