

On 17 Sep 2024, at 15:37, BARKER, Baroness <BarkerE@parliament.uk> wrote:

Dear Derek,

Apologies for the time it has taken me to respond. The last couple of weeks have been problematic. It is only in the last couple of days that I have had a chance to read and reflect on your email of 8th September to Jospeh Galliano and the paper attached to this email.

I have two points to make.

I have gone back over our correspondence. It began when you got in touch to give your analysis of the demise of Opening Doors and to ask how that work might be picked up by other organisations. It lend on to a wider, albeit somewhat rough thoughts about what I termed the infrastructure of the community.

On the 8th of September, without telling me, you chose to share initial thoughts with a number of people. Some of them are people whose contribution to the community has been outstanding and who deserve all credit. However others are people who have in recent years chosen to collude with the religious nationalist campaign which by a series of tactical battles, against trans people, abortion rights, surrogacy, and RSE in schools attempts to achieve a greater aim – the destruction of human rights and the organisations which uphold and defend them. As you know in this country their focus is the erasure of the rights of trans people, and the tactics used are exactly those that were used against LGBT people in years gone by. As such they are a threat to us all. So not only do I not work with them, I actively oppose what they do.

In your paper you raise the issue of how young people who sex with other young people who are under age are treated. I can see that you are trying to make a nuanced point on a very sensitive issue, but for me the issue of the age of consent is not one which should be up for debate now.

So for these reasons, and with some regret, I think it best that this correspondence should now end. Rupert, I am happy to talk separately about your idea of informed patient groups.

With all personal good wishes for the future.

Liz Barker