

'Supreme Court gender ruling is unworkable, it's discriminatory and it sets us back 50 years'

TRANS ACTIVIST KATIE TALKS ABOUT CONFLICTS OF LAWS AND HOW IT'S NOT ABOUT TOILETS, BUT FEARMONGERING...



RECOGNITION: For Women Scotland campaigners celebrate outside the Supreme Court in London after it was ruled the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act refer to a biological woman and biological sex PA

nationally, earning her accolades like the British Diversity Awards 2023.

As a well-known trans advocate in Leicestershire and beyond, Katie hopes that sharing her story will help raise awareness of the challenges faced by the trans community.

As government figures show just 0.54 per cent of the population aged 16 and over in England and Wales identifies as transgender, the lived experiences of trans individuals are essential in shaping fair and informed laws on sex and gender.

The Supreme Court judges, while making the decision, heard from several anti-trans hate groups, but no trans person.

"It's just horrendous, the decision was so biased," said Katie. "How can they possibly make a fair

judgement if they've only heard half the evidence.

"Sex and gender is a complex thing and most people haven't had trans women's training.

"How can they make a judgement on it with no experience, yet the people it is affecting are trans women."

When the Supreme Court ruling was announced on April 16, some groups celebrated it as a victory for women's rights, while many in the trans community expressed deep disappointment and concern over its implications.

Cis-gendered allies, as well as friends in the trans community have all sent Katie messages of support since the announcement of the ruling.

However, after publicly coming out on a YouTube video in 2018, she has become accustomed to

hate comments and trolling, including being called a paedophile, sex pest and a groomer.

"We suffer from the same misogyny as trans women," said Katie.

"On top of that, I get all this extra hate for being trans as well, being called these vile names.

"Now when I get called those names, it's just like water. It goes over my head. But no one should have to do that. It's disgusting.

"Being trans is tough enough anyway. The transition itself is really hard.

"All the losses we face. Nobody should go on this journey lightly. It's really hard and I tried to fight against it for so long, but I was so unhappy."

Katie is still determined to keep educating others even as platforming trans voices has become riskier.

"It's only by listening to trans people that you really get to empathise with them and understand them.

"That's why personal stories and my story are the most important part of the transwar."

As the national debate over gender identity intensifies, campaigner Katie says she will continue to use her platform to inform, advocate and push back against growing hostility towards the trans community.

"We don't mean any harm," Katie added. "We just want to be happy."

Roadworks to improve city junction set to start

ROADWORKS are about to begin at a busy Leicester junction tomorrow.

Drivers are being warned of potential disruption as short-term road closures are enforced as the city council improves road crossings at the junction of Blackbird Road and Parker Drive.

The £295,000 scheme near to Leicester's B&Q store, will see the construction of a new signal-controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing, and an additional zebra crossing at the junction in northwest Leicester.

Existing traffic lights at the junction will also be replaced. Officials say the work is expected to take about two months to complete.

During the roadworks, traffic will be controlled by temporary lights. Some short-term road closures will also be involved but the councils said they would be kept to a minimum and

signposted diversions will be in place when that happens.

A city council spokesman said: "This latest round of highway improvements will provide improved crossings in a busy residential area and help further extend the network of safe routes for walkers, wheelers and cyclists into local neighbourhoods. Every effort will be made to minimise disruption."

The new signal-controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing will be on Blackbird Road, close to its junction with Parker Drive. A parallel zebra crossing will also be created on the left-turn slip-road from Blackbird Road to Parker Drive.

The money from the scheme is coming from a developer building new homes in nearby Somerset Avenue under a Section 106 Agreement.

More information can be found on the council website.

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