

## **“The law still sees me as a man”: Trans voices hit back as JK Rowling celebrates court ruling**

Fears amongst trans people are on the rise after the UK Supreme Court ruled the word “woman” under equality law means only a biological female on 16 April 2025.

The case challenged Scottish Government guidance that allowed trans women with a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) to be treated as women for gender representation on public boards.

The Court found that interpretation unlawful, affirming single-sex services and spaces, such as hospital wards and sports facilities, can lawfully exclude trans women, even those with a GRC.

The court stressed trans people remain protected under the Equality Act from discrimination and harassment based on gender reassignment.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed the ruling, saying it provides “real clarity” for policymakers and public bodies.

He said: “A woman is an adult female, and the court has made that absolutely clear.”

Reactions have been mixed across the nation. Women’s rights advocates praised the ruling for safeguarding single-sex spaces. However, many in the transgender community expressed deep concern.

“This ruling makes me feel like I’m being pushed further to the margins of society,” said Luna, 23. “I’ve done everything legally required to be recognised as a woman, yet the law still sees me as a man.”

Jamie\*, 36, who is non-binary and married to a trans woman, said: “The UK used to be seen as a leader when it came to LGBTQ+ rights, but now it feels like we’re moving backwards.

“What’s even scarier is we don’t know where we’d even go for a better life, as so many countries around the world seem to be heading in the same direction.”

Author J.K. Rowling was among those who vocally supported the decision, contributing £70,000 to the campaign group For Women Scotland.

She shared several celebratory posts on X, hailing the outcome, including a [photo](#) of herself holding a cocktail and cigar with the caption: “I love it when a plan comes together.”

Human rights charity, Sex Matters, also took to X to celebrate the ruling, posting: “What an amazing day yesterday was: 16th April 2025, the day women in the UK got their rights back.”

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is expected to update guidance to help organisations comply with the ruling while maintaining respect for all.

As the UK adjusts to the ruling, finding the balance between protecting women's rights and ensuring trans people are treated with fairness and dignity remains a deeply divisive and evolving issue.

\*Name has been changed to protect their identity.