



**Right to freedom of expression, association and
assembly
Report to the United Nations SOGI expert**



LGB ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA

Lesbian Action Group

Coalition of Activist Lesbians

About LGB Alliance Australia

Our Vision

Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals living free from discrimination or disadvantage based on their sexual orientation.

Our Mission

To advance lesbian, gay and bisexual rights

We advance the interests of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, and stand up for our right to live as same-sex attracted people without discrimination or disadvantage.

We will ensure that the voices of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are heard in all public and political discussions affecting our lives.

To highlight the dual discrimination faced by lesbians

We amplify the voices of lesbians and highlight the dual discrimination experienced by lesbians as women who are same-sex attracted in a male-dominated society.

To protect children who may grow up to be lesbian, gay, or bisexual

We work to protect children from harmful, unscientific ideologies that may lead them to believe either their personality or their body is in need of changing. Any child growing up to be lesbian, gay or bisexual has the right to be happy and confident about their sexuality and who they are.

To promote free speech on lesbian, gay and bisexual issues

We promote freedom of speech and informed dialogue on issues concerning the rights of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. We assert that different opinions, even those we may disagree with, should be heard as part of the public debate.

You can find out more about us on our website – www.lgballiance.org.au

You can get in contact with us on email – contact@lgballiance.org.au

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Executive Summary

Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in relation to the human rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly – submission to the United Nations SOGI expert.

We thank you for the opportunity to have our submission considered from three organisations in Australia:

- LGB Alliance Australia <https://www.lgballiance.org.au/>
- Lesbian Action Group
- Coalition of Activist Lesbians <https://coal.org.au/>

We shall give you an overview of how things are for same-sex attracted people (LGB henceforth) here in Australia in terms of our human rights.

In summary, while we can now legally marry in Australia, it is currently illegal for us to publicly meet in single-sex spaces.

This contravenes our rights according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 17, 19(2), 17, 21, 22, 26, 27: freedom of expression, oral, written on all media, the right not to be subjected to unlawful attacks on honour and reputation, the right not to be discriminated against based on sex, **which includes same-sex sexual orientation**, equal protection under the law, **and freedoms of peaceful assembly and association with own cultural group and equal protection under the law to do so.**

Discrimination from within LGBTIQ+ organisations

Lesbians, gay men and bisexual women and men are thus facing discriminations and exclusions, and in some cases violence or threats of violence, in the very name of the “LGBTIQ+” rights umbrella that is now widely considered by national and international institutions to include and protect us.

How has this come about?

Gay and bisexual men and lesbian and bisexual women have a proud history of single-sex events. During the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s there were thriving gay and lesbian communities and cultural milieux whereby gay and bisexual men had their own single-sex events and lesbian and bisexual women had their own single-sex events. In the major cities here, one could go out almost any night of the week and find a single-sex venue or event. Lesbians and bisexual women for example had women’s or lesbian centres (including health centres) balls, dances, discos, pool nights, sporting events, pub nights, live music, conferences, camps and so on. Gay and bisexual men had male-only saunas, discos, pubs, bars and live shows and so on.

We all came together quite happily in mixed-sex spaces such as cafes and bookshops, and mixed-sex events such as Pride or Mardi Gras parties, whilst respecting each other’s need for single-sex events.

The LGB Alliance Australia project called [Lost Lesbian Spaces](#) details what the lesbian community in Victoria has lost in terms of single-sex space. This is significant. There are now only two organisations for lesbian women exclusively in Victoria while over 100 spaces/events and organisations have either been subsumed into compulsory mixed-sex LGBTIQ+ space/events/organisations or have disappeared entirely.

Since the advent of the corporate LGBTIQ+, we’ve all been put under the one umbrella, often with groups we have nothing in common with. The term lesbian has been redefined to include male people. We are now told we are “same gender attracted” not same-sex attracted. Gay men are being told the same thing. **There was no consultation or negotiation in this process**, in fact, we’d go so far to say that it has been done by stealth and certainly without consent.

The end result is that we have been told we must socialise with people of the opposite sex and we must accept opposite-sexed people in our dating pools. If we do not accept this we are labelled “bigots” and “transphobes”.

While LGB people are generally happy to mix socially with people of the opposite sex, there are still times we want and need to have single-sex spaces and events. Moreover, lesbians and gay men are not interested in having people of the opposite sex in their dating pool, no matter how they identify. **For lesbians, it is dangerous to have males**

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in their dating pool as there is plenty of evidence of sexual harassment, coercion and even rape (see Appendices)

We are **exclusively** same-sex attracted, which is completely at odds with “diversity and inclusion” laws that are currently enshrined as best practice throughout the country and that legally enable males to “identify” as female and vice versa. While risks of violence and harassment to gay men from women identifying as male are rare or even unheard of, even if occasional annoyance may occur, risks to lesbians from men claiming to be women are significant.

Our country’s laws thus *mandate* situations of potential risk for lesbians, many of whom have also previously suffered male violence. Statistically, roughly one in three women worldwide has *reported* suffering male violence; the unreported statistics may be much higher. Lesbians’ fears of sexual predation and threats of violence from men are based on the reality of collective experience. We have seen considerable evidence of bullying via social media (among other places, including legal action) of lesbians or any women claiming the right to meet in single-sex spaces.

So diversity and inclusion laws actually discriminate against LGB people by denying us our right to single-sex events and spaces and denying us the **“freedoms of peaceful assembly and association with own cultural group and equal protection under the law to do so”**.

The lesbian community here in Australia has been largely underground for over 20 years now in order to have single-sex events. This is not just happening in Australia, but is a worldwide issue throughout the Global North and increasingly in other liberal democracies Latin America, Eastern Europe and parts of Asia as well.

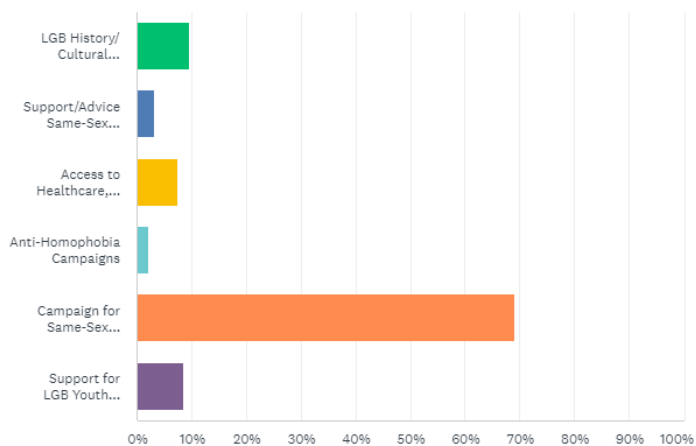
Lesbians cannot publicly advertise events for fear of having males (and potentially violent ones at that) turn up at events. This makes it very difficult for women who are newly coming out to find the lesbian community. It’s also very difficult for young lesbians to find mentors in older lesbians who can help show them the way in life as a same-sex attracted woman. This is very important for younger women.

There are many reports from lesbians who have been harassed, coerced, and even sexually assaulted and raped by trans identifying males and males in general, in mixed-sex spaces. (See appendices for evidence of what lesbian women are experiencing in mixed-sex spaces)

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In 2023, LGB Alliance Australia surveyed their members who unequivocally said they want this organisation to campaign for single-sex spaces.

Q.19 What do you consider to be a top priority policy area for the LGB Alliance Australia?



Source: <https://www.lgballiance.org.au/news/our-survey-results>

So in 2024 the LGB are now in the position where we have to apply to the Australian Human Rights Commission to seek an exemption to have single-sex events.

This is a costly and ridiculous process and **all exemption applications for lesbians have thus far been rejected.**

There is something fundamentally wrong when the Australian Human Rights Commission are actively discriminating against lesbian women who want single-sex events.

Grey highlighted are examples of single-sex exemptions granted that aren't related to lesbians but show that single-sex exemptions can be approved.

History of Single-Sex exemption applications in Australia

Exclusively same-sex attracted lesbians must currently hold secret private events by invitation only to be able to ensure that their events are female-only. Without an exemption, it is illegal for us to hold public single-sex events.

2024 Lesbian Action Group are appealing the Australian Human Rights Decision to not grant them a single-sex exemption.

2023 The Lesbian Action Group applied for a single-sex exemption to hold a celebration at the Victorian Pride Centre for International Lesbian Day on October 8th.

Not only was the application rejected, but the Victorian Pride Centre rejected their booking.

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The group were told they were discriminatory and transphobic for wanting a women-only event. This is despite many more submissions from around the world in support of the exemption than against it.

While lesbians should be entitled to exceptions and special measures because they are a disadvantaged minority group, these provisions under human rights and equality laws do not prevent males from attending lesbian events. This is inequality and discrimination against lesbians, as other cultural, religious, and disadvantaged groups are permitted permanent exceptions and special measures to hold public gatherings for their groups.

2022 Jessica Hoyle, who had applied for an exemption to hold a single-sex event in Launceston, Tasmania for lesbian women had her application refused yet again, on appeal to TASCAT Tribunal, on the basis that granting the exemption would discriminate against trans women. This tribunal's decision also did not take into consideration that same-sex attracted lesbians are a disadvantaged minority group with the need to have public gatherings that are solely for their group. This decision discriminates against lesbian women.

<https://www.spectator.com.au/2022/12/tasmania-where-womens-rights-neverarrived/>

2022 Jessica Hoyle v Tasmanian Anti-discrimination Commissioner. Jessica Hoyle, appealed the decision made to refuse an exemption to hold a single-sex event in Launceston for lesbian women. The TASCAT Tasmanian Tribunal upheld the anti-discrimination commissioner's decision.

2021 Jessica Hoyle, a Tasmanian lesbian, applied for an exemption to hold a single-sex event in Launceston for lesbian women. This exemption was refused by the anti-discrimination commissioner on the basis that this would discriminate against trans women. Anti-discrimination Commissioner, Sarah Bolt, did not take into consideration that Ms Hoyle as a lesbian woman is a part of a disadvantaged minority group in our society when making her decision to refuse the exemption. This decision discriminates against lesbian women.

2020 Hobart City Council granted an exemption to employ a female artist for their Urban Wall 2021 project.

https://equalopportunity.tas.gov.au/current_exemptions

2019 Cooper Screen Academy in Tasmania granted a single-sex exemption for female-only acting group. https://equalopportunity.tas.gov.au/current_exemptions

2017 Matrix Guild Inc., a lesbian housing group, ask for one room to be allocated for women only in the new Victorian Pride Centre. This was deemed to be transphobic and was refused.

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2009 Ascot Vale Leisure Centre, Victoria was granted an exemption to offer women-only swimming sessions to enable Muslim women to participate. See Ascot Vale Leisure Centre (Anti-Discrimination Exemption) [2009] VCAT 765

2006 – 2009 Sappho's Party, a South Australian lesbian group, were taken to the Sex Discrimination Tribunal by a trans-identifying male because he was refused a ticket to their lesbian only event. See O'Keefe v Sappho's Party Inc [2009] SAEOT 50

2003 Sally Goldner, the co-founder of Transgender Victoria, took the organisers of Lesbian Festival 2004 to the Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria for advertising that the forthcoming festival was for Lesbians Born Female only. The women managed to get an exemption from the Victorian CAT Tribunal, but it was later overturned and faced with the possibility of litigation by the transgender community, the Lesbian Festival 2004 was officially cancelled, and a private party was held instead.

It is unbelievable to us that the Australian Human Rights Commission, as well as State based Human Rights Commissions in Australia are actively discriminating against lesbians.

Male Exemptions Granted

Gay men also have to apply for a single-sex exemption, but these are usually granted.

2018 Vic Bears and The Laird Hotel

<https://vicbears.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/20181030-Laird-Hotel-VCAT-application.pdf>

2008 Peel Hotel Single Sex exemption granted for three years

<https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/national-news/new-south-wales-news/its-not-a-ban-says-boys-club/11001>

1998 The Laird and Club 80 were granted 'Male-only' status by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in deference to their history and service to the gay community. While we still maintain this status, a few times a year we open the doors to the community for events such as Vic Leather Open Day (May), Men on Men Open Day (June) and Northside Bizarre (October)

https://www.lairdhotel.com/about_us.php

We suspect misogyny is playing a part in why lesbian applications are universally refused while gay men's are granted. We also know that trans identifying males are bullying and potentially violent towards lesbians whereas trans identifying females are generally no threat to gay men; they are not such an existential threat as trans identifying males are to lesbians. Thus, trans identifying males are challenging lesbians who apply for single-sex exemptions, whereas this is not happening for gay men.

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Online Dating

Our online dating sites are no better. What used to be single-sex dating sites are now wholly mixed-sex dating sites. We have reports from lesbian women about being sexually coerced and harassed by trans identifying males and males in general in online dating sites.

Legislation

In 2013 in Australia, the Federal Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (SDA henceforth) was amended.

The word 'sex' is no longer defined.

The words 'man' and 'woman' are also no longer defined in the SDA. The Amending Act repealed the definitions of 'man' and 'woman' that had previously existed.

Prior to the Amending Act, 'man' and 'woman' were defined in s4(1) of the SDA as follows:

Man means a member of the male sex irrespective of age.

Woman means a member of the female sex irrespective of age.

This essentially makes the SDA not fit for purpose. How can you protect something that is no longer defined?

Changing the law in 2013 to remove the idea of biological sex puts women and LGB people at risk. Biological sex is important and needs to be protected.

The repeal of the definition of 'woman' and 'man', together with the comments in the 2013 amendments, suggest that the word 'woman' in the SDA is intended to include transgender women (males) and suggest the word 'man' includes transgender men (females).

There must be a way for 'sex' to be protected and also for 'gender' to be protected without gender erasing the concept of sex. Sex is fundamental to same-sex attracted people and our rights as same-sex attracted people are under threat because sex is no longer defined in the SDA.

Furthermore because of these laws lesbians have been unable to reach out publicly to younger lesbians who share our particular combination of protected characteristics. They have been denied access to a rich culture and a supportive community that should be theirs. They do not have the visible role models young people need, especially vulnerable young people. They do not have the support and validation they need from others who share their lived experience as females, who have grown up female and lesbian, as a biological women, and who believe in biological reality. This is unconscionable.

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We have also been unable to reach out to isolated lesbians, lonely lesbians, detransitioned lesbians, older lesbians, vulnerable lesbians, and a whole cohort who might well have benefitted from being welcomed into a supportive community of lesbians born and raised female, and all that that entails, both for the good and for the challenges.

LGBTIQ+ Organisations

Mainstream LGBTIQ+ organisations no longer have the rights and wellbeing of the LGB as part of their objectives. In fact there is evidence that they are actively discriminating against the LGB.

For example the [Victorian Pride Centre](#) is a multimillion dollar Government funded building in Melbourne, built specifically for the LGBTIQ+ community. There are Trans only organisations in the building but lesbians who want single-sex space (as per the Lesbian Action Group example mentioned earlier) have been discriminated against and rejected by management of the centre. There are no lesbian organisations in the building because they are deemed to be transphobic by management.

Ironically, the centre runs trans only events. However, every event run otherwise is compulsory mixed-sex spaces.

LGB Alliance Australia has also done research on how government funding is being spent by LGBTIQ+ organisations and can categorically report it is not being spent on the LGB. <https://www.lgballiance.org.au/news/forced-teaming-for-me>

Mainstream LGBTIQ+ organisations are all about the TIQ+ and not the LGB. This is shown in two articles by LGB Alliance Australia looking at word counts in annual reports for the largest mainstream LGBTIQ+ organisations in Australia. Their emphasis is totally on trans and queer. You can see over time how their emphasis has gone from LGB to TIQ+.

See:

<https://www.lgballiance.org.au/news/the-acon-word-count>

<https://www.lgballiance.org.au/news/mainstream-lgbtq-orgs-failing-lgb>

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Conclusion

The LGBTIQ+ is a broad and diverse grouping of different people, some groups having little in common with another. This is particularly apparent for lesbians, whose rights as same-sex attracted females are being redefined by trans and gender diverse groups, without any negotiation nor consent.

The LGB are all about sex-based rights and the TIQ+ are all about gender identity which erases the concept of sex and sex-based rights.

This is a dangerous conflict of rights happening, with the LGB losing out. Our right to **freedoms of peaceful assembly and association with own cultural group and equal protection under the law to do so** is so eroded now as a result that we can no longer legally have public single-sex events.

While we completely acknowledge that trans and gender diverse people's rights need to be protected, it can't be at the expense of the LGB. We are seeing an unprecedented rise in homophobia and misogyny coming from within LGBTIQ+ organisations and community.

At a recent LGBTIQ+ and policing event in regional Victoria, lesbians were excluded from the event because they want lesbian-only space and are deemed to be transphobic. Diversity and inclusion only extend to certain groups of people it seems.

We urge the UN to have a separate mandate for the LGB, to protect our sex-based rights. We want the new UN SOGI Special Rapporteur to be a leader in protecting our sex-based rights. We must stress the importance of decoupling SO from GI (sexual orientation from gender identity) in UN processes and policies, because we do not have a commonality of needs or goals, and indeed the transgender agenda is so often directly in conflict with the needs or goals of LGB.

We ourselves are not aiming to discriminate against anyone. We support the benefits of times when we can all come together. We also support any group's right to gather together on their own, in order to discuss and explore their unique needs, and celebrate who they are. We only wish for the same respect.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit this and hope you will take action on what we have reported.

LGB Alliance Australia

Lesbian Action Group

Coalition of Activist Lesbians

Appendices

Quotes from lesbian women about harassment experienced in mixed spaces, particularly from trans identified males.

"lesbian woman, 26-year-old Chloe, said she felt so pressured she ended up having penetrative sex with a trans woman at university after repeatedly explaining she was not interested."

"I was told that homosexuality doesn't exist and I owed it to my trans sisters to unlearn my 'genital confusion' so I can enjoy letting them penetrate me"

"We know a minority, but still a sizeable minority of trans women, do pressure lesbians to go out with them and have sex with them and it's a very disturbing phenomenon."

"What we are seeing is a regression where once again young lesbians are being told 'How do you know you don't like dick if you haven't tried it?'"

"They tried to do the right thing and they gave them a chance, and realised that they are a lesbian and they didn't want to be with someone with a male body, and the concept of transphobia and bigotry is used as an emotional weapon, that you can't leave because otherwise you're a transphobe,"

One (lesbian) compared going on dates with trans women to so-called conversion therapy - the controversial practice of trying to change someone's sexual orientation.

All above from <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-57853385>

"One night we went out to a queer club night, and the group included a male friend who used they/them pronouns. We were in the club when a stereotypically gay song came on, and I made a joke that 'I have to dance to this because I'm a lesbian'. This friend said to me 'so am I' and I thought they were joking - I only knew they used they/them pronouns, I'd never heard them call themselves a lesbian before, but they joined me on the dancefloor. I realised that they were trying to insinuate some kind of similarity between us, some kind of lesbian camaraderie. They were dancing really close to me and tried to put their arm around my waist. This friend had a beard and had not even remotely transitioned to female. I remember thinking 'I don't want a man to touch me' and was disgusted at my own reaction - I felt like someone would be able to sense my transphobia."
<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home>

"Last spring for weeks a young man who was taking hormones to grow breasts (I know this because they were wearing only a white bra made out of T-Shirt material and you could see everything. It was obscene and in 45 years I have NEVER seen a woman dressed like that-- they were essentially topless) dressed as a woman, wearing a very short miniskirt flashed me his penis on multiple occasions"

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/3>

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"I was at a "lesbian" swingers' club a couple of months back. It was originally advertised in its Facebook group as an event for "people with vulvas", but the trans activists and their comrades jumped on it and the group ended up changing their entry qualifications. So on the actual night there were a whole bunch of 50+ year-old men masturbating over girls getting it on with each other. A group of men ended up having a gangbang in an open room for all to see. (I don't think any of us wanted to see that). One bloke just wore a terrible cheap blonde wig and a white string vest dress thing, and literally stood masturbating over two women 69ing upstairs. He wasn't even pretending. Apparently we lesbians are no longer allowed to just enjoy women and be alone with women. Men and their penises must always be included."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/20>

"I was cotton ceiling-ed by a trans-identified male on Facebook by DM. He was wanting to come up and hang out with me. I wasn't interested, I said 'No, I am same-sex attracted', and that I'm only interested in being friends. The next thing I'm being called a genital fetishist and a transphobe! I have never had this happen before, so I contacted an admin of the lesbian group he was on, and complained."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/23>

"About 15 years ago, before the current trans politics became so powerful, I came out as a lesbian and attended several organised social gatherings and support groups. Already there were trans-identified males turning up and taking part as "lesbians" and no one said anything, I think because women are so socialised to be nice. The males' behaviour was mostly ok, but just having them there made me uncomfortable and changed the vibe, it just wasn't a lesbian group any more. One male was severely mentally ill and treated the group as his personal therapy session which was exhausting and off putting for women who came there just wanting to meet each other. I'm sure things are much much worse now. I have a lesbian friend who was tricked into a date with a male and felt too scared / embarrassed to leave. It's a green light for creeps."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/32>

"It was advertised as a women's dance. Being a Chillout (2019) event we thought it reasonable to expect mostly, if not all, lesbians at the dance. There were 4 individuals present who were clearly males trying to present themselves as women. It just spoilt the entire vibe. To top it off, of course they used the women's toilet. We live in country Victoria and there is so little social stuff for lesbians. When we queried the presence of these trans-identified males (TIMs) at a women's/lesbian dance we were told: "if they say they are women then they have to be allowed to attend". The same thing happened at the Red Velvet Ball, TIMs came, only a few but it is just wrong. It has the same selfish tone as blokes who would sleaze on to lesbians in gay pubs. Their very presence is invasive and off-putting. It is all about them getting validation by intruding into lesbian spaces. It made us so angry and sad. Why can't we just have one dance a year that is just for lesbians? You know, adult human females who are same-sex attracted. There is no respect."

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<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/40>

"There's a club in my home town that only has gender-neutral toilets. One night in there when I'd gone to see a gig, a man cornered me in one of the rows of cubicles, put his face right up close to mine, and said 'I'm gonna rape you so hard'. He then laughed and walked off. A couple of weeks later a woman was raped in these toilets in the same club, leading to the club being closed down for a while."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/49>

"There is one remaining lesbian bar in London, called 'She' bar. The decor is about as imaginative as the name, with it resembling something of the inside a shipping container. But it's all we have, so it's where everyone goes. It's underground, down a flight of stairs leading from a busy Soho street. Little signage outside means most people would likely walk by without knowing of its existence. The point, I suspect, is probably to be nondescript and discrete, so that lesbians catch knowledge of it by word of mouth, but general passersby wouldn't bother descending the steps.

Lesbian spaces are often guarded like that. This is partly because some men like to leer at us (women generally, but especially women kissing) and also what exactly would be the point in having a very mixed lesbian bar? Chat-up attempts would have a significantly higher fail rate(!) and the whole point of lesbian bars is to make lesbian connections possible, whether platonic or romantic.

Into that social context, the last time I was at She bar there was a very tall, large man in hyper feminine clothing (mini skirt, stiletto heels, bright lipstick) stood at the bar. Not simply getting a drink at the bar, but hanging around in front of it, staying in everybody's field of vision, purposefully making a show of himself. He would titter about on his heels and sort of look around, swaying back and forth, then stroke the sides of his torso down to his hips, suck the end of his straw, twirl a strand of hair on his big blonde wig, before cat walking up and down a bit more. His presence meant the bar wasn't very busy. Lots of lesbians sat at their tables with empty drink glasses because this man was putting everyone off going up to order.

Maybe it would've been different if he was sat on a stool, or chatting to bar staff, but he just seemed to be loitering and looking to be noticed or for 'something' to happen.

In the end, out of frustration, and as an experiment to discover what would happen, I said I would buy everyone at my table a round of drinks. The bar is short, there's not much space, so I ended standing very much in the vicinity of this colossal man as he had placed himself smack bang in the centre of the bar. "Hello lovely..." he said to me, to which I briefly laughed, having expected something cliché like that. "Alright mate", I said back, grinning at him. But he didn't like my response (because it is assertive, pointedly friendly, and often how people who are equals address one another i.e how men speak to each other) and so he turned away, wandering off.

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The rest of the night everyone sat at their tables chatting whilst this glammed-up bloke switched between hovering around the bar and sort of vaguely dancing in the middle the floor. No one else could dance because we all felt too uncomfortable by his presence. In a way, had he not been asserting himself physically in this manner it wouldn't have been such an issue. The bar isn't 'women only', it even has male staff members (to the consternation of some), but it was this guy's manner and attempt to dominate the space that made all the women present hold ourselves back from readily ordering drinks, or milling about between tables mixing, or dancing.

The entire point of lesbian bars is to create a relaxed atmosphere for meeting one another. The fact of a man's presence, and how he wielded his presence, meant we all felt like we had to breathe in, be guarded, and worry about what he was trying to engineer. This defies the purpose of a lesbian space entirely. It took just one man dominating the space to make dozens of lesbians feel uncomfortable. He didn't care, he was enjoying himself, and probably felt hard done by that he wasn't 'included' by any of us socially (or sexually) that night.

Male entitlement like this risks robbing lesbians of the few spaces on the planet we have left. Make women feel uncomfortable, or at risk somewhere, and they simply won't visit that place again. That's before we even consider things like male sexual harassment, presumably the next step in the encroachment on our sexualities and advancement on lesbian existence."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/49>

"I went to a lesbian night club in Soho with my date (a woman). It felt really good to be able to be ourselves and not feel self conscious about expressing our sexuality and affection for one another. Occasionally, my date and I would kiss but I noticed that every time we kissed a transwoman was staring at us. "She" wasn't talking to or interacting with anyone. "She" was just sitting alone in the middle of floor while we (women) were dancing and making out. I stopped kissing because I could see the transwoman was getting off watching us and it felt voyeuristic. Most of all "her" gaze resembled the seedy look men give women. I felt a combination of anger and other indescribable feelings including a sense of powerlessness. This was meant to be a safe space and it would have been if the creepy transwoman hadn't been there. We shouldn't be made to feel uncomfortable in our own spaces."

<https://www.noconflicttheysaid.org/home/page/51>

"We, the signers of this forum, testify to having experienced gender-based, punitive and sexual violence aimed at "correcting" our sexual orientation within spaces presenting themselves as LGBTQIAP+. It is not an urban legend. These are not isolated cases. Moreover, when following these attacks, we undertake to create other spaces to meet in complete safety and together to live our homosexuality serenely, we still suffer from bullying (physical attacks, cyber harassment ...)

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<https://marianne.net/agora/tribunes-libres/quand-les-ultra-progressistes-defendent-les-agressions-sexuelles-envers-les-lesbiennes>

"It seems like it's taboo for lesbians to have any boundaries anymore. If we don't either identify as male or date males who want to be treated like women, we're TERFs and deserving of death."

<https://unspeakablelgbtq.weebly.com/the-stories/it-seems-like-its-taboo-for-lesbians-to-have-any-boundaries-anymore>

"I was told that homosexuality doesn't exist and I owe it to my trans sisters' to unlearn my "genital confusion" so I can enjoy letting them penetrate me"

One recalled being pressured to kiss and touch a transwoman against her will in a club, another the violating experience of having a "transwoman slapping her ass" in the women's toilet of a gay club.

"The man I went on a date with, unknowingly, was mutual friends with people I knew, he threatened to out me as a terf and my job if I refused to sleep with him. I was too young to argue and had been brainwashed by queer theory so he was a "woman" even if every fibre in my being was screaming throughout so I agreed to go home with him. He used physical force when I changed my mind upon seeing his penis and he raped me"

<http://www.gettheloutuk.com/attachments/LesbiansAtGroundZeroFindings.pdf>

"Some lesbians reported turning down transwomen on online dating sites and being subjected to threats of violence, threats of sexual violence and rape, threats of corrective rape, attempts immediately being contacted by underage girls looking for sex, hopes that another transwoman rapes them and demands to meet despite the women clearly having already said no.

One lesbian reported being invited to participate in incestuous relationship with her sister and an older transwoman after turning the transwoman down.

One woman was told that a "girl dick" was just a built in dildo.

One woman reported saying she frequently got comments like, "[T]his penis makes me more of a woman than you, with this penis I'm going to dominate all of you[.]

[W]e're going to rape you until you kneel before males[.]

[D]eath awaits you. I'm going to pour gasoline on you so that you burn faster fucking whores[.]

If a woman tells me she doesn't want to fuck with me, I rape her. I'm much more of a woman than you, [you] shit privileged[.]

[Y]ou envy trans because men prefer to fuck with us."

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One woman said she was asked repeatedly about where she masturbated, including if she masturbated in university bathrooms, and was accused of being a prude after saying no and that she didn't know any women who did that.

One woman said she had to delete the Her app because the abuse from transwomen on the site towards lesbians like herself was horrible.

One woman was said, "There were several times when I expressed gender critical beliefs that a "transwoman" threatened to "out" me locally and shortly after this conversation I was receiving private messages from these kinds of males, some were pictures of their penis."

One lesbian was told they needed to see a psychiatrist to cure their internalized homophobia and "genital preference" after turning down transwomen on online dating sites and apps.

Four women also report being called TERFs if their orientation was known or they indicated a lack of attraction to male bodies.

Other women reported being told they were not actually women. Another was told she would be single forever despite being engaged at the time.

Several women said their experiences in dealing with transwomen and sexual harassment was the same as their experiences dealing with men and sexual harassment.

One lesbian said that she faced continual online persecution from a transwoman who said because she is a masculine lesbian, she should be a trans."

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>

"One lesbian was told by a man that his dick would make her normal.

Some women said this abuse was because they rejected online male advances.

One woman said after she rejected advances from either a transwoman or transfeminine man, the person said, "Come one. You're a slut. I know you like it because you're a dirty and mean slut." This despite the fact that she never talked like that at all to the person.

A woman on PinkCupid (dating app) said that having her settings say she was a lesbian interested in other women meant that she received huge amounts of abuse from men in their 30s and 40s who sent her streams of angry messages after viewing her profile."

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>

"Transwoman, close to 30, not operated. After clarifying several times that I didn't want to have sex with her because I didn't have sex with people with a penis, he grabbed my head to put it on her genital organs, insulting me: "fucking transphobic whore."

Another woman described her incident of sexual pressure as, "A transfeminine man cornered me in a nightclub bathroom and told me he wanted to help me put in a tampon.

Freedom of Expression, Association and Assembly

He touched my boobs and tried to touch my genitals. I screamed really loud and he ran away. They are aggressors because they are men."

Another story of sexual pressure by a transwoman told by a respondent was, "In a bar, after an argument, a man who claimed to be a transwoman showed me his genitals and, grabbing my arm, forced me to touch it."

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>

"Has a transwoman ever sexually pressured you or forced you to have sexual contact (genital touching, oral sex, anal sex, or vaginal sex) against your will or without your consent?"

18.1% of women responded yes, having an average age of 34.

The average age of the women who said no was 33.4.

Bisexual women were much less likely than lesbian women to be sexually pressured, with a rate of 8.5% compared to 30.9%.

50.0% cis woman reported being sexually pressured.

40.0% of women in the United States reported being sexually pressured by transwomen compared to 17.7% in Spain, 16.7% in Mexico and 33.3% in Argentina. Women in rural areas were least likely to be sexually pressured by transwomen at 14.3%, while 17.2% of women in cities and 26.3% of women in the suburbs 48 reported being sexually pressured by transwomen.

0% of mixed-race women, Hispanic / Latina women and Gitana women reported being sexually pressured by transwomen, while 16.7% of Mediterranean white women, 20.7% of white women, 25.0% of women who declined to state their race or where their race was unknown, and 33.3% of black women reported having been sexually pressured by transwomen. 20.5% of women who reported using dating sites were sexually pressured by transwomen compared to 13.9% who did not use dating sites."

<https://4w.pub/content/files/2023/04/Cotton-Ceiling-paper---blind-submission.pdf>