

Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

Qld Parliament

July 12 2021

Re Serious vilification and hate crime legislative reform

IWD Brisbane Meanjin

IWD Brisbane Meanjin is a community feminist group, ie we recognise and advocate for the retention and extension of group sex-based rights of girls and women, especially lesbians. We were established in 2017. We use a number of strategies.

1. the hosting of a regular feminist discussion/activist group;
2. the running, from time to time, of public meetings – these are sometimes videoed for our YouTube channel; [REDACTED];
3. most recently, the holding of street protests against the erasure of girls' and women's rights;
4. the holding of an annual feminist IWD rally and march, which has grown into a weekend of feminist presentations and discussion:
5. making submissions to government and other decision makers regarding the rights of girls and women, when the opportunity presents.

Feminists have long argued for the inclusion of girls and women as a protected group under vilification and serious vilification legislation. We have evidenced commercial and non commercial incitements of violence against women, the ongoing objectification of women via the very lucrative porn industry, unchecked domestic violence and sexual assault normalised by commercial companies such as Honey Birdette and frequently ignored by Police and treated as minor crimes by the courts, the normalisation of hate speech promoted against girls from within private boys schools. As is usual, the concerns of women have fallen on deaf Government ears.

The elephant in the room in this legislative review is the exclusion of women and girls from vilification law.

Women and girls constitute the largest population group in our community subjected to vilification, hate statements, incitements to commit violence against. Yet women and girls are, again, unlikely to be included in any reformed legislation.

Qld State Government support for gender identity ideology which holds that men who claim to be women are indeed women, has spawned a whole new area of language addition which objectifies and incites violence against women. In many areas, including government documents and the documents of government funded organisations, the word 'woman' has been virtually erased – replaced with terms such as 'cis woman', 'menstruator', 'persons who identify as woman', 'vagina haver', 'incubator'. Woman as adult human female is now regarded by many government departments and government funded organisations as a 'hate crime'. And that group of people against whom the hate crimes are being committed – girls and women especially lesbians – are excluded as a protected group under vilification legislation.

The Qld Government is more likely to consider as a hate crime the 'misgendering' of a man who wants to be regarded as a woman than it is to consider the hatred behind slogans such as 'Kill the

TERF'. The former it will outlaw, the latter it regards as 'free speech'. The difference is the latter shows hatred of women, under gender identity ideology women simply don't count. Sadly, the Qld Government has been captured by a dangerous ideology that erases women's rights and safeguards to protect children.

The Qld Government is more likely to consider as a hate crime the statement (factually correct) 'Transwomen are Men' than it is to consider the hatred behind statements such as [REDACTED] TERF'. The former it will legislate against, the latter it normalizes through its support for gender identity ideology. The difference is the latter expresses contempt for (non compliant) women and under gender identity ideology women don't count.

Women's right to even discuss the ongoing reduction of our rights to privacy, safety and fairness in sport, change rooms, toilets, domestic violence shelters, prison accommodation etc is being erased by gender identity law and associated laws relating to vilification and hate crime. That is part of the intention of changes to legislation. Conversations about women's rights and women's bodies, and the language we use to have the conversations ought not to be made taboo. But they are and the coming legislation, in as far as it relates to gender identity, will hasten the process. This is wrong. Individual women will be used as an example to others of what happens to you if you raise questions about gender identity ideology.

We recommend that instead of going down the road of strengthening gender identity ideology, as is the Qld Government intention, the Government turn this approach on its head by considering the current normalisation of vilification of women and girls and the impact this has on MVAW.

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12 July 2021

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Approved by IWD Brisbane Meanjin membership.

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