

Social Justice Watch 0802

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Telegraph

Louie Gohmert: Anti-gay republican who refused mask has COVID-19
Anti-mask and anti-gay Texan lawmaker Louie Gohmert sent shudders through the Republican Party Wednesday (July 29) after announcing that he has tested positive for coronavirus. The 66-year-old, who once said gay men should be thrown onto a deserted island...

telegra.ph/Celebrity-Masterchefs-Riyadh-Khalaf-feared-his-dad-would-honour-kill-him-07-31

Telegraph

Celebrity Masterchef's Riyadh Khalaf feared his dad would honour-kill him
Before being crowned Celebrity Masterchef champion, Riyadh Khalaf struggled through some dark times with his sexuality. The Irish-Iraqi TV broadcaster and YouTuber, who emerged victorious in the show's final last night, revealed that his coming out at 16...

telegra.ph/JK-Rowling-birthday-LGBT-folk-celebrate-with-donations-to-trans-charity-07-31

Telegraph

JK Rowling birthday: LGBT folk celebrate with donations to trans charity
JK Rowling turns 55 today, but what do you get the anti-trans millionaire who has everything as a birthday gift? Luckily, Twitter has figured it out. Trans and queer folk and their allies have been celebrating JK Rowlnng's birthday – her first since she came...

[telegra.ph/Gay-and-bisexual-men-report-huge-fall-in-casual-sex-during-lockdown-07-31](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/Gay-and-bisexual-men-report-huge-fall-in-casual-sex-during-lockdown-07-31)

Telegraph

Gay and bisexual men report huge fall in casual sex during lockdown

Gay and bisexual men are having significantly less sex in the age of coronavirus, according to a new survey, though some haven't changed their sexual habits at all. The survey was conducted by Australia's Kirby Institute, with 940 gay and bisexual men revealing...

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She was banned from social media earlier this month when it became clear that her views didn't exactly align with those of her right-wing pundit mother, who serves as a senior White House adviser.

It seems her parents eventually relented though, as she returned on Wednesday with a flurry of anti-Trump tweets.

1. "china virus" is racist.
 2. vaccines should not be capitalized
 3. the yankees probably didn't want you anyways
- CLAUDIA CONWAY (@claudiamconwayy) July 29, 2020

[telegra.ph/Kellyanne-Conway-Daughter-returns-to-Twitter-with-Trump-takedown-07-31](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/Kellyanne-Conway-Daughter-returns-to-Twitter-with-Trump-takedown-07-31)

Telegraph

Kellyanne Conway: Daughter returns to Twitter with Trump takedown

The daughter of Kellyanne Conway, Claudia, has returned to Twitter after being booted off by her parents – and her first act was to troll "homophobic" president Trump. Fifteen-year-old Claudia has more than 148,000 followers on Twitter and 251,000 on TikTok...

telegra.ph/Transphobes-are-once-again-trying-to-weaponise-cervical-cancer-07-31

Telegraph

Transphobes are once again trying to weaponise cervical cancer
Another day, another example of transphobes really needing to get a hobby.
After an American news broadcaster used the phrase “individuals with a cervix”
in a report about cervical cancer, countless anti-trans Twitter users hounded the
outlet. The mob of...

Abolishing ICE isn't a radical thing to do, it's a humane thing to do.

ICE is illegally detaining immigrant children in hotels. Watch these lawyers get
violently removed from a Hampton Inn in Texas after trying to give legal aid to
the kids there. [source](#)

They don't want you to understand that history matters. They don't want you to
understand that political education and training matter. They want you to think
you are going it alone, trying to invent the wheel in the streets. They want you to
lack the tools you need to win. [source](#)

telegra.ph/The-Uighurs-suffering-deserves-targeted-solutions-not-anti-Chinese-posturing--China--The-Guardian-07-31

Telegraph

The Uighurs' suffering deserves targeted solutions, not anti-Chinese posturing |
China | The Guardian

While Trump faces off against Xi, others must act to prevent genocide in
Xinjiang and a new cold war

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Girls-07-31

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Chloe x Halle were joined at the GLAAD Awards 2020 by Drag Race royalty Vanessa ‘Vanjie’ Mateo, Naomi Smalls and Mayhem Millar for an homage to the Spice Girls. The GLAAD Awards travelled back two decades to channel the 1997 Brits, as Chloe x Halle and the...

[telegra.ph/LGBT-groups-condemn-BBC-after-it-quietly-cut-ties-with-trans-charities-07-31](#)

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LGBT groups condemn BBC after it quietly cut ties with trans charities
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[telegra.ph/Washington-DC-Police-name-suspect-in-2002-murder-of-trans-teens-07-31](#)

Telegraph

Washington DC: Police name suspect in 2002 murder of trans teens
Police in Washington DC have finally admitted that the killings of two Black trans teenagers almost 20 years ago were “clearly a hate crime”. Ukea Davis, 18, and Stephanie Thomas, 19, were found dead in a car in 2002. Both had been shot at least 10 times....

My sister works at a daycare. One of her coworkers was diagnosed with COVID 19, and the school ONLY notified the people in that woman’s classroom, and no other teachers or parents. Now my sister has COVID. [source](#)

[telegra.ph/Amazon-Prime-series-Made-in-Heaven-accused-of-copying-indie-film-08-01](#)

Telegraph

Amazon Prime series Made in Heaven accused of copying indie film

A queer independent filmmaker has accused an Amazon Prime series of ripping off his 2011 anthology film without any credit or acknowledgement. Indian film and TV director and screenwriter Onir accused the creators behind Amazon series Made in Heaven of copying...

[telegra.ph/Ellen-DeGeneres-reportedly-wants-to-quit-to-recover-her-personal-brand-08-01](#)

Telegraph

Ellen DeGeneres reportedly wants to quit to 'recover her personal brand'

Ellen DeGeneres reportedly wants to quit The Ellen DeGeneres Show to "recover her personal brand" amid claims the set is rife with racism, fear and intimidation. WarnerMedia has launched an investigation into the working environment on The Ellen DeGeneres...

[telegra.ph/Rosie-Duffield-MP-brands-transphobia-allegations-a-Communist-pile-on-08-01](#)

Telegraph

Rosie Duffield MP brands 'transphobia' allegations 'a Communist pile-on'

Labour's Rosie Duffield has slammed accusations that she's "transphobic" as a "tedious Communist pile on" amid a heated online row about who can get cervical cancer. The controversy began late last night, when Duffield – who last week in parliament suggested...

[telegra.ph/The-Outside-Project-opens-LGBT-domestic-abuse-refuge-in-London-08-01](#)

Telegraph

The Outside Project opens LGBT+ domestic abuse refuge in London

London's The Outside Project has opened a new LGBT+ domestic abuse refuge, named for transgender pioneers Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. The

grassroots organisation, which in 2018 opened the UK's first LGBT+ homeless shelter and community centre, announced...

[telegra.ph/Say-her-name-Dominique-Remmie-Fells-remembered-at-candlelit-vigil-08-01](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/Say-her-name-Dominique-Remmie-Fells-remembered-at-candlelit-vigil-08-01)

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'Say her name': Dominique 'Rem'mie' Fells remembered at candlelit vigil
Philadelphia's Black LGBT+ community has remembered murdered trans woman Dominique 'Rem'mie' Fells with flowers, candles and a vigil. Fells, a Black trans woman whose dismembered body was found in a river in June, was 27 when she died. The vigil, organised...

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dawnstaceyennis/2020/07/30/house-votes-to-end-trumps-transgender-military-ban>

Forbes

House Votes To End Trump's Transgender Military Ban
If it were to become law, the amendment would block the Pentagon from using Congressionally-approved funds to bar trans Americans from the armed forces.

[telegra.ph/Boris-Johnson-pulled-out-of-ditching-GRA-reform-on-advice-of-Carrie-08-02](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/Boris-Johnson-pulled-out-of-ditching-GRA-reform-on-advice-of-Carrie-08-02)

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Boris Johnson pulled out of ditching GRA reform 'on advice of Carrie'
At the last minute, Boris Johnson pulled out of abandoning Gender Recognition Act reform "on the advice" of his fiancée Carrie Symonds, Tory MPs claim. The announcement that Johnson would "scrap" plans to reform the Gender Recognition Act (GRA), which were...

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'Say her name': Dominique 'Rem'mie' Fells remembered at candlelit vigil

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Philadelphia's Black LGBT+ community has remembered murdered trans woman Dominique 'Rem'mie' Fells with flowers, candles and a vigil.

Fells, a Black trans woman whose dismembered body was found in a river in June, was 27 when she died.

The vigil, organised by Philadelphia's Black LGBT+ community and held yesterday (July 31) in West Philly, saw a sea of people chant "Say her name"

and lay candles and flowers next to a mural bearing her name.

Family members of Fells were also in attendance, with her uncle, Roland Williams, speaking on behalf of the family.

“The support is tremendous. It’s something that we couldn’t think of,” said Williams, who also shared memories of his niece.

He continued: “Rem’mie was just always having a good time and laughing. We have a lot of family get togethers, she loved being around her cousins, uncles and aunts. She likes to eat and have a good time.”

“She was great at sewing, great at taking old clothes and making them into something fashionable for her. The sky was unlimited for her. Unfortunately, it was cut short,” said Williams.

Members of Philadelphia’s trans community at the vigil demanded safety and equality, at a time when violence against the trans community – particularly against trans women, and especially Black trans women and trans women of colour – is surging.

Williams added: “They’re looking for equal rights just as we have as people. They want to be seen. They want to be heard and they should be seen and heard.”

Fox29 reports that the vigil was also a fundraiser to benefit three causes, which organisers said were chosen by Rem’mie’s mother. One is Morris Home, Philadelphia’s LGBT+ recovery house.

The community also organised a fundraiser to cover Fells’ funeral costs.

Dominique ‘Rem’mie’ Fells: Black trans woman’s body recovered from river in June.

Fell’s mutilated body was recovered from the Schuylkill river on June 9. Her corpse was stuffed into a suitcase with both legs severed, with stab wounds and evidence of trauma to the face and head.

Police investigating the case have now issued an arrest warrant for a murder

suspect, Akhenaton Jones, after attending a home and discovering blood and a cutting tool believed to be connected to the case, according to *NBC Philadelphia*.

Jones, 36, is said to be an acquaintance of the victim, according to the outlet.

It is unclear if the case is being treated as a hate crime.

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Amazon Prime series Made in Heaven accused of copying indie film

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A queer independent filmmaker has accused an Amazon Prime series of ripping off his 2011 anthology film without any credit or acknowledgement.

Indian film and TV director and screenwriter Onir accused the creators behind Amazon series *Made in Heaven* of copying his award-winning film *I Am* in a series of tweets.

Onir spoke out about the similarities following a tweet from casting director Nalinii Rathnam.

“Did the makers of Made in Heaven ask/take permission/inform Onir before lifting this sequence frame by frame from his National Award winning film *I Am*?” Rathnam asked.

Onir shared the tweet and wrote: “I was quite taken aback when I saw that so

much of that section of *I Am* was not only there as content but shot exactly in the same way.

“But acknowledgement has never been the strength of this industry,” he added.

Queer Indian filmmaker Onir said the similarities between Amazon Prime series *Made in Heaven* and *I Am* are ‘disheartening’.

In a follow-up tweet, Onir said it was “disheartening” to see *Made in Heaven* showered with praise for a scene that was extremely similar to his.

He added: “I am being told that it’s just the incident and many such incidents happen and there were no actual similarities in the way it was executed.”

I was quite taken aback when I saw that so much of that section of *I Am* was not only there as content but shot exactly in the same way.

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Boris Johnson pulled out of ditching GRA reform 'on advice of Carrie'

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At the last minute, Boris Johnson pulled out of abandoning Gender Recognition Act reform “on the advice” of his fiancée Carrie Symonds, Tory MPs claim.

The announcement that Johnson would “scrap” plans to reform the Gender Recognition Act (GRA), which were initiated by Theresa May’s government in 2017, was expected in June after a *Sunday Times* article reported he was abandoning the reforms.

But Johnson didn’t make the announcement that GRA reform was being dropped.

In a Mail on Sunday article today, Tory MPs claim that Johnson pulled out of

making the announcement that he was dropping GRA reform because of the influence of his fiancée, Carrie Symonds.

A senior source told the *Mail on Sunday*: “Many detect the hand of Carrie in this, but for whatever reason, Boris does not appear to have an appetite for this fight at the moment. He’s got cold feet.”

Instead, Johnson and his minister for women and equalities, Liz Truss, have confirmed they will publish the government’s GRA reform plans “over the summer”.

The anticipated dropping of GRA reform – which would make an administrative process used by a small number of people simpler and less bureaucratic – was fiercely protested by trans allies, including 8,000 cis women who wrote to Truss condemning her anti-trans plans.

GRA reform reportedly backed by 70 per cent of the public.

The Gender Recognition Act is a 2004 law that transgender men and women use to gain legal recognition of their gender.

A huge consultation in 2018, responded to by over 100,000 people, reportedly found that 70 per cent of respondents backed Theresa May’s proposals to “streamline and de-medicalise” the process of legal gender recognition for trans men and women in the UK.

But the government has repeatedly delayed publishing the full results of the public consultation and its proposals for GRA reform off the back of it, amid increasingly toxic public debate about trans lives.

Johnson was “expected to declare that the Government was abandoning moves to allow transgender people to change their birth certificates without a medical diagnosis”, the *Mail* reports.

Pulling out of this announcement was “a blow to Cabinet Minister Liz Truss, who has been fighting a ‘culture war’ within Whitehall to stop the rules being relaxed”, the *Mail* said.

“MPs who supported Ms Truss’s drive have claimed privately that the Prime

Minister backed away from a confrontation with trans activists on the advice of Ms Symonds,” the *Mail* added.

Trans-rights activists had warned that abandoning plans to reform the GRA, coupled with a potential rollback of existing trans rights under the Equality Act 2010, would be a “new Section 28“.

Section 28 was a homophobic law brought in by Margaret Thatcher in 1988 that banned the “promotion of homosexuality” in British schools.

Fears have grown in recent months that the Tories could introduce similar discriminatory plans to erase the existence of transgender people, with Labour’s Nadia Whittome condemning Truss’ “quibbling” over GRA reform for “fanning the flames of populist hate” against trans and non-binary people.

A Downing Street source “categorically denied” the claims in the *Mail*, saying: “This story is untrue. Ms Symonds has not discussed this issue with the Prime Minister.”

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Celebrity Masterchef's Riyadh Khalaf feared his dad would honour-kill him

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Riyadh Khalaf with his father Sam (Instagram/@riyadhk)

Before being crowned Celebrity Masterchef champion, Riyadh Khalaf struggled through some dark times with his sexuality.

The Irish-Iraqi TV broadcaster and YouTuber, who emerged victorious in the show's final last night, revealed that his coming out at 16 sparked a huge family rift.

While his Irish-Catholic mother was unexpectedly supportive, his father was appalled to learn that his son was gay and Khalaf actually feared he could be killed.

“My parents were right at the bottom of the pile for who to come out to,” Khalaf told the BBC. “It was self-preservation. I didn’t know if I was going to be kicked out and made homeless, or if my dad would try to honour-kill me.

“It sounds silly but you go to the worst-case scenario. My mum was great – confused but great – but my dad took it very hard.”

Khalaf came out to his parents in two stages: his mother first, after she found gay porn on the family computer. He mustered the courage to tell his “outrageously heterosexual” father nine months later with a note that read simply: “I am gay.”

“We will fix this”, his father instantly replied, which Khalaf understood meant: “We will get you some help and some conversion therapy.”

Ten years on, he and his father Sam are now able to discuss the initial reaction.

“I thought of family, which is really stupid, because I left Iraq so long ago,” Sam told The Guardian, adding that his relatives reinforced his intolerance by urging him to send his son to Syria.

“They asked, ‘How come your son is like this? You should change him.’ They said we could help Riyadh: Bring him to Syria and treat him there with conversion therapy.”

“Thankfully that never came to fruition,” Khalaf said. “We never actually did that, but we battled through the next few months.

“Eventually through a lot of tears and a lot of anguish, my dad learnt to put love above his shame, learnt that actually my identity was a gift, not something that he should be afraid of.”



Khalaf's father now joins him on Pride marches and even rallied for equal marriage in Northern Ireland, becoming "the perfect example" of an LGBT+ ally, Khalaf said.

It's meant they had to cut ties with their wider family, but it's not something they regret.

"There is no relationship now," Sam said. "Because of Riyadh I have lost family members, but it is fine with me, honestly. Once my two boys, my wife and I are happy in our home, I don't care what is going to happen out on the street."

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Ellen DeGeneres reportedly wants to quit to 'recover her personal brand'

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Ellen DeGeneres reportedly wants to quit *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* to “recover her personal brand” amid claims the set is rife with racism, fear and intimidation.

WarnerMedia has launched an investigation into the working environment on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* following claims that the set is “dominated by fear”.

Three *Ellen* producers have between them been accused of groping and grooming junior staff members, asking employees for sex and creating an atmosphere of intimidation.

Ellen DeGeneres, 62, has long been plagued by rumours of “notoriously mean” behaviour behind the cameras, seemingly at odds with her famously sunny disposition. The allegations have intensified as several reports of a toxic workplace environment surfaced over the past four months.

After months of swirling rumours about the host’s alleged mean behaviour, including that the star is “one of the meanest people alive”, Ellen apologised to staff this week saying she would seek to “correct the issues” moving forward.

And now, reports have emerged that Ellen wants to “shut down the show” in order to “recover her personal brand”, according to the *Daily Mail*.

An “insider” at Telepictures, the production company behind the *Ellen* show, said that the host is telling executives that she has had enough and wants to walk away from the show.

“She feels she can’t go on and the only way to recover her personal brand from this is to shut down the show,” the insider said.

They added: “The truth is she knew what was going on, it’s her show. The buck stops with her. She can blame every executive under the sun – but Ellen is ultimately the one to blame.”

***Ellen* show staff reject DeGeneres apology.**

The news that Ellen DeGeneres wants to quit comes as staff rejected her apology this week.

“Don’t think for a minute anything she has said in that apology means anything. She created and then enabled this toxic culture to go on for so long,” said one staffer, who spoke anonymously to the *Daily Mail*.

“If anyone had come to her or those three vile [executive producers] to complain, they would’ve been fired.”

The Telepictures insider added: “Inside Telepictures we’ve had enough of her. She is a phony who does not practice what she preaches.

“The behaviour of her show executives has been appalling, but [Ellen] is no

better. In fact, she is the worst. It's outrageous that she is trying to pretend that this is all a shock to her. The fish rots from the head, and Ellen is the head."

In her apology letter this week, *US Weekly* reported, DeGeneres said: "On day one of our show, I told everyone in our first meeting that *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* would be a place of happiness – no one would ever raise their voice, and everyone would be treated with respect.

"Obviously, something changed, and I am disappointed to learn that this has not been the case. And for that, I am sorry. Anyone who knows me knows it's the opposite of what I believe and what I hoped for our show."

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GLAAD Awards: Chloe x Halle and Drag Race queens serve Spice Girls

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Chloe x Halle were joined at the GLAAD Awards 2020 by *Drag Race* royalty Vanessa ‘Vanjie’ Mateo, Naomi Smalls and Mayhem Millar for an homage to the Spice Girls.

The GLAAD Awards travelled back two decades to channel the 1997 Brits, as Chloe x Halle and the trio of queens dressed as “the melanated Spice Girls”.

Drag Race legends Miss Vanjie, Naomi Smalls and Mayhem Miller served Sporty, Ginger and Baby realness respectively, while the sister duo dressed as Scary and Posh to perform their hit “Do It”.

“We are SO proud to stand alongside our #LGBTQIA+ family at the #GLAADawards this year,” Chloe x Halle wrote on their Instagram, sharing a clip of the performance.

Fans were, naturally, left gagging.

“IF YALL WANTED MY SCALP ALL YALL HAD TO DO WAS ASK NICELY,” wrote one.

“Y’all can’t keep f***king slayinggg like this omg,” added another.

“Oh my godddddddd yes,” added super-fan and pop icon Rina Sawayama.



As well as Chloe x Halle and the *Drag Race* queens’ performance, one of the big highlights of the night was an appearance from Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union – who thanked their daughter Zaya for “leading us in our journey” as LGBT+ allies.

The couple were on hand to present the award for Outstanding Drama Series to Pose, just days after the show’s Black and Latinx trans cast were snubbed by the Emmys.

Other big winners were Lil Nas X, who won Outstanding Musical Artist, and *Schitt’s Creek*, which won Outstanding Comedy.

Other GLAAD Awards performers included Ben Platt, who dedicated his performance to those still “in the closet”, and Shea Diamond, who told trans youth watching at home: “Don’t let anyone, especially our government, fool you into thinking that you are anything less than perfect and meant to be.”

Shea was introduced by Demi Lovato, who also came out swinging for trans youth and queer people of colour.

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Gay and bisexual men report huge fall in casual sex during lockdown

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Gay and bisexual men are having significantly less sex in the age of coronavirus, according to a new survey, though some haven't changed their sexual habits at all.

The survey was conducted by Australia's Kirby Institute, with 940 gay and bisexual men revealing their sexual habits since the coronavirus began its rapid spread in March — and the results are eye-opening.

The results — published in *JAIDS* — showed that there was a 12-fold decrease in the number of sexual partners gay and bisexual men were having sex with after the pandemic hit.

Of the 587 men who said they were having casual sex before the pandemic, 84

per cent said they had stopped hooking up. The other 16 per cent said they'd continued to have casual sex throughout the pandemic.

Almost 95 per cent of men recognised that sex with a variety of partners, as well as group sex, posed a particular risk for transmission of the virus.

Gay and bisexual men are changing their sexual habits to help tackle coronavirus.

Researchers conducted the study to predict short term changes in rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The results indicate that queer men are changing their sexual behaviour in an effort to reduce the risk of transmitting or contracting COVID-19.

“Gay and bisexual men have adjusted their prevention strategies throughout the HIV epidemic to protect themselves and each other,” said the study’s lead author Dr Mohamed A. Hammoud.

Despite the often negative impacts on individuals, we must recognise their investment in the health of themselves and their peers.

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JK Rowling birthday: LGBT folk celebrate with donations to trans charity

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JK Rowling turns 55 today, but what do you get the anti-trans millionaire who has everything as a birthday gift? Luckily, Twitter has figured it out.

Trans and queer folk and their allies have been celebrating JK Rowng's birthday – her first since she came out swinging for the “gender critical” movement – by donating money in her name to Mermaids, a charity which supports trans youth.

In honour of the special occasion, one Twitter user wrote: “Happy Birthday JK Rowling! To celebrate, I've donated £5 to ‘Mermaids in your name, a charity that supports rather than demonises the trans community.

“Perhaps others can do the same. Have a lovely day.”

#HappyBirthdayJKRowling! To celebrate, I've donated £5 to

@Mermaids_Gender in your name, a charity that supports rather than demonizes the trans community. Perhaps others can do the same. Have a lovely day. pic.twitter.com/vXRy4WPqPO
— Ben Tedds (@BenTedds42) July 31, 2020

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Kellyanne Conway: Daughter returns to Twitter with Trump takedown

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The daughter of Kellyanne Conway, Claudia, has returned to Twitter after being booted off by her parents – and her first act was to troll “homophobic” president Trump.

Fifteen-year-old Claudia has more than 148,000 followers on Twitter and 251,000 on TikTok, where she frequently posts in support of LGBT+ rights and Black Lives Matter.

She was banned from social media earlier this month when it became clear that her views didn’t exactly align with those of her right-wing pundit mother, who serves as a senior White House adviser.

It seems her parents eventually relented though, as she returned on Wednesday with a flurry of anti-Trump tweets.

“Got my phone back! Probably won’t have it for long though considering I’m

about to revolutionise Twitter brb,” she began.

First she had a message to all the adults in her life who “belittle” her in defence of her mother Kellyanne Conway: “It’s none of your business.”

“I am my own person,” she declared. “I possess just as much respect and intellect as you do. What I do and how I use my platform is for the betterment of my generation.”

With that in mind she took a jab at her mother’s boss, calling him “racist, homophobic and tyrannical” and a “golfing idiot of a president” in the replies to his tweets.

And she didn’t stop there.

1. “china virus” is racist.
2. vaccines should not be capitalized
3. the yankees probably didn’t want you anyways

— CLAUDIA CONWAY (@claudiamconwayy) July 29, 2020

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LGBT groups condemn BBC after it quietly cut ties with trans charities

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The heads of Britain's biggest LGBT+ groups have united to demand the BBC reinstate trans-support charities onto its Action Line website and explain why they were removed.

All trans-specific charities for England, Scotland and Wales have been removed from the BBC's Action Line page, which the leading LGBT+ groups slammed as “deeply troubling”.

The ten LGBT+ organisations also accuse the BBC of breaching its “duty of impartiality, as set out in the Royal Charter”.

The BBC quietly dropped three trans-specific charities – Mermaids, Gires and

the Gender Trust – from its Action Line help pages during changes to its “LGBT Issues” and “Gender Identity: Support and Information” pages this month.

This move, which members of the BBC’s internal LGBT+ Pride network were told this week was because of “audience complaints”, has already seen the public-service broadcaster condemned for “bowing down to deliberate and orchestrated hate campaigns” against trans people.

The bosses of leading equalities charities Stonewall, Switchboard LGBT+ Helpline, LGBT+ Consortium, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, The Rainbow Project and the LGBT Foundation have all signed today’s far-reaching letter, which demands the BBC give the affected organisations the opportunity to see and respond to the complaints levelled against them.

“This is a deeply concerning decision, particularly in light of increased misinformation and debate around trans people’s lives, which is being reflected in our national media,” reads the letter, which is also signed by the heads of major transgender charities Gendered Intelligence, Mermaids, GIRES and Sail NI.

“We are seeing continued efforts from a small but motivated group of people to discredit legitimate organisations working in the field of supporting trans people.”

The letter – in which the LGBT+ organisations say they “speak in one voice” in defence of the trans community – was sent this afternoon to the BBC Editorial Policy Department.

The removal of the charities, according to letter, “signals a deliberate removal of authority and approval [of the trans charities] as well as the support they could provide to trans people in need of help”.

The letter adds that trans-support charities “are facing an increasingly toxic and hostile public dialogue around trans lives. They work to support their service users through this toxicity and hostility every day.

“It has been suggested that this dialogue has made the listing of the charities a complex matter. We cannot see the complexity.

“All the charities are dedicated to upholding the rights of this vulnerable

population who are currently facing public humiliation and deliberate misinformation more than ever. That population make up a proportion of your readership and viewers.”

None of the charities were alerted by the BBC before being taken down from Action Line or were given the opportunity to respond.

The BBC’s Pride network said on 15 July that it had spent a week trying to discover the “rationale” for removing the trans charities but admitted it still did not know.

“We are troubled that trans people are the only ones whose access to support has been reduced. Even more so that the action has taken place within an opaque process,” the letter says.

“If the organisations are not reinstated, then the opaque decision-making process is simply inadequate and highly damaging to the BBC’s reputation for impartiality and considered decision-making.”

Last month, senior MPs and LGBT+ activists were among 150 people who branded BBC News “institutionally transphobic” and expressed “serious concerns” about its coverage of trans issues in a letter to BBC News director Kamal Ahmed.

Today, the letter from the UK’s biggest LGBT+ groups added that “opposition to transphobia is a fundamental democratic principle”.

“It is, after all, trans people’s democratic right not to be discriminated against,” the letter says. “It is also the BBC’s imperative not to merely arbitrate between complaints and the fundamental rights of those affected are engaged.”

A BBC spokesperson previously said: “We understand this issue is hugely important for some audiences so our Action Line LBGT Issues page links to gender identity information on the NHS website, which also links through to additional relevant resources.”

PinkNews has contacted the BBC for comment.

Full list of signatories on letter to BBC Editorial Policy Department regarding removal of trans-support charities.

Nancy Kelley, CEO, Stonewall

Natasha Walker, co-chair, Switchboard LGBT+ Helpline

Peter Zacaroli, co-chair, Switchboard LGBT+ Helpline

Paul Roberts, chief executive, LGBT+ Consortium

Hugh Fell, chair of trustees, Family and Friends of Lesbian and Gays

John O'Doherty, director, The Rainbow Project

Paul Martin, chief executive, LGBT Foundation

Susie Green, CEO, Mermaids

Dr Jay Stewart, CEO, Gendered Intelligence

Shaan Surat R Knan, chair, GIRES

Nicola Doran, director, Sail NI

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Louie Gohmert: Anti-gay republican who refused mask has COVID-19

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Anti-mask and anti-gay Texan lawmaker Louie Gohmert sent shudders through the Republican Party Wednesday (July 29) after announcing that he has tested positive for coronavirus.

The 66-year-old, who once said gay men should be thrown onto a deserted island so they could “die-off”, may himself have to get used to isolation.

He declared his positive result for COVID-19 only moments before a planned trip on Air Force One with US president Donald Trump to Midland.

He was tested during a pre-flight screening at the White House, an insider told CNN.

In a video recorded from his Capitol Hill office, a smiling Gohmert casually declared he had acquired the “Wuhan virus”. How? Because he’s been wearing a face mask for the last two weeks, he said.

My statement about today's diagnosis: pic.twitter.com/qvf7zIcgdN
— Louie Gohmert (@replouiegohmert) July 29, 2020

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Rosie Duffield MP brands 'transphobia' allegations 'a Communist pile-on'

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Labour's Rosie Duffield has slammed accusations that she's "transphobic" as a "tedious Communist pile on" amid a heated online row about who can get cervical cancer.

The controversy began late last night, when Duffield – who last week in parliament suggested a ban on laughing gas or "hippy crack", which she said youth are "buying off the internet for pennies" – liked a Piers Morgan tweet.

Morgan had commented "Do you mean women?" in response to a CNN tweet about new American Cancer Society guidelines that state: "Individuals with a cervix are now recommended to start cervical cancers screening at 25 and

continue through age 65, with HPV testing every five years.”

Duffield then added: “I’m a ‘transphobe’ for knowing that only women have a cervix....?!”

She continued by saying that the allegations of transphobia being levelled against her are “just this week’s tedious ‘Communist’ pile on...”

Add to the list of reasons Rosie Duffield needs booting, she’s a transphobe too pic.twitter.com/Ju7Iyhiv3f
— Sarah (@Sarah_Cundy) July 31, 2020

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The Outside Project opens LGBT+ domestic abuse refuge in London

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London's The Outside Project has opened a new LGBT+ domestic abuse refuge, named for transgender pioneers Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson.

The grassroots organisation, which in 2018 opened the UK's first LGBT+ homeless shelter and community centre, announced the Star Refuge on Monday (July 27).

The domestic-abuse refuge is named to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera's STAR House, the shelter for homeless queer youth founded by the pair in New York in 1970.

"The Outside Project have opened a domestic abuse refuge for London's LGBTIQ+ community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," the group said.

"If you ever feel like you need to stay somewhere else for your own safety or wellbeing then you are right. Don't wait. To discuss your options and refer into

our refuge contact our partner agencies.”

Galop, the national LGBT+ domestic-violence helpline, and homelessness charity Stonewall Housing are both listed.

A post shared by The Outside Project (@lgbtiqoutside) on Jul 27, 2020 at 12:53am PDT

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The Uighurs' suffering deserves targeted solutions, not anti-Chinese posturing | China | The Guardian

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While Trump faces off against Xi, others must act to prevent genocide in Xinjiang and a new cold war



A complex officially known as a vocational skills education centre in Dabancheng, Xinjiang. Photograph: Thomas Peter/Reuters

Leaders in China and the US seem nostalgic for the worst aspects of the 20th century. Following recent revelations about forced labour, family separation and the repression of Uighur births, there should be no doubt that the policies inflicted by the Chinese Communist party (CCP) on the indigenous central Asians it rules meet the UN definition of genocide. While the Trump administration has belatedly begun imposing sanctions over these atrocities, its overall China policy is driven by self-serving, not humanitarian, motivations. It is clear that after first appeasing Xi Jinping, Trump now hopes a new cold war will cover up his own bungled response to Covid-19. How, then, should other countries respond to the Xinjiang crisis amid dangerous Trumpian provocations? It helps to understand what's been happening in Xinjiang on its own, outside the

context of superpower sabre-rattling.

What the People's Republic of China (PRC) has been doing in Xinjiang has little to do with counter-terrorism. It is the culmination of a decade-long campaign to develop the north-western territory of Xinjiang by making its landscape and peoples seem more "Chinese". The PRC has reversed what were once relatively pluralistic diversity policies in favour of assimilationism, aimed at engineering a homogeneous "Zhonghua" people: a nationalistic, unitary Chinese identity envisioned in general secretary Xi Jinping's "China Dream".

After a peaceful Uighur protest in Urumchi in 2009 was repressed by police with lethal force and turned violent, the party increased investment in the region by requiring rich provinces and cities in eastern China to build industrial parks and commercial zones in Xinjiang. As labour costs rose in the rest of China, the state relocated cotton-growing and low value-added manufacturing from coastal China to Xinjiang. The goal was to provide manufacturing jobs for poor Uighur farmers and cheap labour for Chinese manufacturers.

Alongside this process of turning Uighurs into "Chinese" factory workers, the party attacked symbols of their identity. It razed the old cities of Kashgar and Hotan; it penalised, then outlawed, veils and head-coverings for women and beards on young men; it opposed public prayer, fasting at Ramadan, and abstention from alcohol; it discouraged Uighur language and culture, to the point where Uighur students in the one remaining Uighur language class in Xinjiang schools study Chinese classics in Uighur translation, rather than Uighur classics (the earliest Uighur texts are older than Beowulf). The party sent police and inspection teams to search and even live in Uighur homes to hunt for signs of "religious extremism", such as simply owning Qur'ans. In response, unrest only increased.

After four relatively small terrorist events in 2013-14, a new party secretary in Xinjiang, Chen Quanguo, implemented hi-tech surveillance and "grid policing", an intense deployment of checkpoints and police stations around areas that are deemed suspect. A new artificial intelligence system drew on a vast database of behavioural and bio-data to assess, sort and submit some 2 million people deemed likely to have "extremist thoughts" to imprisonment or arbitrary internment. Children of detainees were sent to orphanages and boarding schools to be brought up Chinese. Simultaneously, the CCP began suppressing Uighur births, while encouraging Han (China's ethnic majority) to have more babies.

Through coerced insertion of IUDs (80% of all IUD placements in China in 2018 were performed in Xinjiang, which has only 1.8% of the population), sterilisations and mass detentions, the CCP lowered population growth rates by as much as 84% in Uighur population areas between 2015 and 2018. The forceful transfer of children and measures intended to prevent births are two of the five elements of the UN definition of genocide.

Since 2019, the party has moved hundreds of thousands of Uighurs and other Xinjiang peoples from internment camps and villages into factories in those industrial parks built by east China provinces, cities and companies as part of the development project. It has also transferred tens of thousands of Uighurs to factories in eastern parts of China, housing them in barracks under military-style discipline. In doing so, the PRC has made Chinese provinces, cities and hundreds of companies that invested in Xinjiang and built and supplied the internment camps, partners in the Xinjiang gulag system. Recent investigations have implicated at least 83 global brands in supply chains connected to this forced labour regime.

The US is right to investigate and block the import of products from these supply chains, and any company sourcing from anywhere in China, not just Xinjiang, should redouble their due diligence. Likewise, employing the recently passed Uighur human rights policy act (UHRPA) and the global Magnitsky act, the US recently sanctioned Chen and other Xinjiang officials. It has put Chinese security agencies and companies on the Entity List that restricts their access to US technology. These are positive developments. The UHRPA, which Trump delayed for a year and half, apparently in the hope that Xi would gift him a trade deal to help his re-election, is a precise, calibrated tool to target PRC human rights atrocities.

Its application and that of global Magnitsky sanctions could not be more different from the White House's other, pointlessly antagonistic actions against China and Chinese people: broad tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods; using a racist term to refer to Covid-19 rather than collaborating to defeat a global pandemic; cancelling Peace Corps and Fulbright exchanges; calling Chinese students and scholars "spies"; threatening to block CCP members and their families (a group estimated at more than 200 million, the vast majority with no role in policy-making); or shutting down the PRC consulate in Houston, Texas, at short notice.

Although there are certainly structural issues underlying US-Chinese rivalry, we should not discount the extent to which power-grasping and sheer lunacy from the top has needlessly exacerbated tensions. Both the US and China are better than their current leaders. Other countries, multilateral organisations, NGOs and people outside the US and Chinese governments must thus think and act with agility to help stop the genocide but also head off a cold war. Investigations of supply chains, shaming and sanctioning of corporations and officials linked to the Xinjiang gulag and similarly targeted measures will be important. Providing support and legal refuge to Uighur, Kazakh and other Xinjiang exiles is critical.

A number of democratic nations have already denounced the Xinjiang atrocities in the UN Human Rights Council – a body from which Trump rashly withdrew the US, clearing the way for cynical PRC perversion of the council's purpose. Although these 22 nations (including Britain, much of Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand) were outnumbered by a cadre of states lined up behind Beijing, the joint statement condemning Xinjiang mass detentions matters, as will future such moves.

At the same time, whatever can be done to slow the runaway, off-the-rails train of Trumpian China policy more generally, and resolutely oppose racism and indiscriminate China-bashing, is equally necessary. If the UK, EU and other democratic allies are caught in the middle of a US-China cold war, the Huawei tiff will be just the beginning. Maintaining cultural and academic relations with the PRC is now more important than ever, as White House xenophobes seek to exclude Chinese people from American soil. And though the president himself is not known for heeding wise advice, cautionary words from friends of the pre-Trumpian US can still influence the broader conversation and prevent Sinophobic frenzy from surging along with coronavirus.

- James Millward is professor of history at Georgetown University and the author of *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang*

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Transphobes are once again trying to weaponise cervical cancer

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Another day, another example of transphobes really needing to get a hobby. After an American news broadcaster used the phrase “individuals with a cervix” in a report about cervical cancer, countless anti-trans Twitter users hounded the outlet.

The mob of accounts, whose display pictures ranged from up-close photographs of cans of BrewDog beer and “I ❤ JK Rowling” posters, to photographs of dead writers, as well as verified Twitter users called “Dan” and “Tim” and “Peter”, all sought to slam *CNN* for being inclusive.

In a tweet and an accompanying article shared Thursday (30 July), *CNN* reported on how the American Cancer Society now recommends cervical cancer

screenings for individuals with a cervix should start at the age of 25 and continue through age 65.

Individuals with a cervix are now recommended to start cervical cancer screening at 25 and continue through age 65, with HPV testing every five years as the preferred method of testing, according to a new guideline released by the American Cancer Society <https://t.co/gUhYdIIx69>
— CNN (@CNN) July 30, 2020

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Washington DC: Police name suspect in 2002 murder of trans teens

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Police in Washington DC have finally admitted that the killings of two Black trans teenagers almost 20 years ago were “clearly a hate crime”.

Ukea Davis, 18, and Stephanie Thomas, 19, were found dead in a car in 2002. Both had been shot at least 10 times.

Now, almost two decades on, police in Washington DC have finally found a suspect in the case – but he died three years ago in a fatal shooting, the *Washington Post* reports.

D.C. Police Chief Peter Newsham admitted that the murder of the two best friends was “clearly a hate crime” and said suspect Michael Dupree Price had

been with the women on the night they were killed.

Police identify suspect in 2002 murder of two trans women in Washington DC – but he was killed three years ago.

Police tracked down two new witnesses in the cold case who told them that Price killed the women when he discovered that they were trans.

But police were too late to bring Price to justice. He was shot dead in May 2017, aged 36.

Authorities began investigating the case again earlier this year when Detective Danny Whalen found a letter that referenced a person who allegedly had information about the killings.

The letter was discovered in an old file, but had never been followed up on.

He's been deceased since 2017, but what was he doing since 2002? Why wasn't he brought to justice?

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