

# Social Justice Watch 0801

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Telegraph

The Umbrella Academy season 2: Klaus actor Robert Sheehan teases plot  
As The Umbrella Academy gears up to return for season two, Robert Sheehan (Klaus Hargreeves) has teased how the new episodes tackle homophobia and racism in the 1960s. The pansexual Klaus' relationship with Dave struck a chord with queer fans in season one...

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[telegra.ph/Sam-Smith-Burna-Boy-collab-sparks-debate-about-Nigerian-homophobia-07-30](http://telegra.ph/Sam-Smith-Burna-Boy-collab-sparks-debate-about-Nigerian-homophobia-07-30)

Telegraph

Sam Smith Burna Boy collab sparks debate about Nigerian homophobia  
Sam Smith is dropping a new single, "My Oasis", with Nigerian superstar Burna Boy, which has prompted a mixed reaction from queer citizens of the west African nation. The British singer released a teaser for the track, the first to be released since they...

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[telegra.ph/Inverness-or-Bust-Britains-forgotten-trans-history-told-in-new-documentary-07-30](http://telegra.ph/Inverness-or-Bust-Britains-forgotten-trans-history-told-in-new-documentary-07-30)

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Inverness or Bust: Britain's forgotten trans history told in new documentary  
An untold story from Britain's transgender history will form the basis for Inverness Or Bust, a new documentary by the trans-led, award-winning non-profit film project My Genderation. Inverness Or Bust is a story about friendship, allyship and trans Pride...

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Eclipsed Race and Class? Calling AOC a 'B\*tch' Is Not Just About Sexism  
What Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez experienced last week is a continuation of the trend of using sexist and racist slurs against powerful women of color. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) wears a face mask to protect herself from the coronavirus during...

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BBC accused of 'bowing to hate' for removing trans charities from helpline  
The BBC has been accused of bowing down to "deliberate and orchestrated hate campaigns" after dropping trans charities covering England, Scotland and Wales from its Action Line website. The BBC's Pride network told members this week that the trans charities...

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[telegra.ph/Womens-Equality-Party-officer-booted-out-for-views-on-race-and-disability-07-30](https://telegra.ph/Womens-Equality-Party-officer-booted-out-for-views-on-race-and-disability-07-30)

Telegraph

Women's Equality Party officer booted out for views on race and disability  
A Women's Equality Party (WEP) officer who declared her support for JK Rowling and tried to stop trans women playing sports has been "kicked out" over comments on race and disability. Hilary Baxter was the co-leader of the Oxford branch of the WEP until last...

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[telegra.ph/Labour-Trans-member-spearheads-efforts-to-end-anti-trans-rhetoric-07-30](https://telegra.ph/Labour-Trans-member-spearheads-efforts-to-end-anti-trans-rhetoric-07-30)

Telegraph

Labour: Trans member spearheads efforts to end 'anti-trans rhetoric'  
Local efforts to tackle anti-trans rhetoric in the Labour Party are being

spearheaded by a transgender man. Dylan Tippetts, the LGBT+ officer for the Bridgwater and West Somerset Constituency Labour Party (CLP), wants “an educative approach to tackle anti...

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[telegra.ph/Louie-Gohmert-Anti-gay-republican-who-refused-mask-has-COVID-19-07-31](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/31/louie-gohmert-anti-gay-republican-who-refused-mask-has-covid-19/)

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...

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[telegra.ph/Celebrity-Masterchefs-Riyadh-Khalaf-feared-his-dad-would-honour-kill-him-07-31](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/tv-and-radio/2020/07/31/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...

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[telegra.ph/JK-Rowling-birthday-LGBT-folk-celebrate-with-donations-to-trans-charity-07-31](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/celebrity-news/2020/07/31/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 Rowng's birthday – her first since she came...

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[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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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.

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...

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[telegra.ph/Transphobes-are-once-again-trying-to-weaponise-cervical-cancer-07-31](https://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...

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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](#)

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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](#)

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[telegra.ph/The-Uighurs-suffering-deserves-targeted-solutions-not-anti-Chinese-posturing--China--The-Guardian-07-31](https://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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[telegra.ph/GLAAD-Awards-Chloe-x-Halle-and-Drag-Race-queens-serve-Spice-07-31](https://telegra.ph/GLAAD-Awards-Chloe-x-Halle-and-Drag-Race-queens-serve-Spice-07-31)

## Girls-07-31

Telegraph

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

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

Telegraph

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

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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....

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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](#)

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# BBC accused of 'bowing to hate' for removing trans charities from helpline

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The BBC has been accused of bowing down to “deliberate and orchestrated hate campaigns” after dropping trans charities covering England, Scotland and Wales from its Action Line website.

The BBC’s Pride network told members this week that the trans charities have been dropped due to “audience complaints” relating to the “increasingly contested issues relating to trans issues and children”.

“It is a complex area and the BBC needs to remain impartial,” BBC Pride said in an email.

Leading charities Mermaids, The Gender Trust, and The Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES) provide vital support and advice for trans, non-binary and gender-questioning people.

On 7 July, the three trans charities – alongside the LGBT+ Foundation – were quietly dropped from the BBC’s “Gender identity: information and support” page. This came soon after senior MPs and LGBT+ activists branded the BBC “institutionally transphobic“.

Days later, the LGBT+ Foundation was reinstated to the BBC Action Line “LGBT Issues” page – but the three trans-specific charities have apparently been permanently removed without explanation.

Lui Asquith, head of legal and policy for the trans-support charity Mermaids, condemned the BBC for removing the trans charities “at a time of growing transphobia in wider society”.

They continued: “The real victims in this are the trans and gender diverse people who need support and help and this decision further isolates and ostracises those vulnerable individuals.

“We are clear: trans people are here and we are not going anywhere, even if the BBC want to bow down to deliberate and orchestrated hate campaigns. It is a disgrace that the British public service broadcaster has used a false representation of ‘balance’ to validate transphobic claims.

“To date, the BBC have dealt with this opaquely and we call for transparency urgently and as a matter of public importance.”

Mermaids has sent a Freedom of Information request to the BBC, demanding to know who was responsible for the decision to remove the trans charities, and for copies of relevant correspondence between the Women at the BBC staff network and BBC Pride staff network.

BBC Pride, which on 15 July said it had spent a week trying to find out the “rationale” for removing the information about the charities from the BBC Action Line website but admitted it still did not know, emailed members on 27 July about the removal of the trans charities.

“As you know we’ve been finding out about the decision to change the links to

gender identity resources on the BBC Action Line website since the previous ones were taken down on 7 July,” the email reads.

“Updated links are now on the LGBT Issues Action Line page. We have spoken to Action Line and Editorial Policy, who advise Action Line, about the rationale behind this and they are happy to share their thinking.

“A decision to look at the gender identity information line was taken following audience complaints about the action line. This was against a backdrop of increasingly contested issues relating to trans issues and children. It is a complex area and the BBC needs to remain impartial when signposting audiences to organisations that can offer appropriate advice.”

A BBC spokesperson 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.”

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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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# Eclipsed Race and Class? Calling AOC a 'B\*tch' Is Not Just About Sexism

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What Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez experienced last week is a continuation of the trend of using sexist and racist slurs against powerful women of color.



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) wears a face mask to protect herself from the coronavirus during a press conference in the Corona neighborhood of Queens on April 14, 2020 in New York City. (Photo: Johannes Eisele/AFP via Getty Images)

In response to Congressman Ted Yoho's horrible sexist abuse, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) offered a powerful critique of the culture of misogyny, impunity, and dehumanization of women in a passionate speech on the House floor last Thursday.

Using the same brush to paint experiences of all women and an assumption of

shared and equal vulnerability ignore the disproportionate amount of struggle women of color and working-class women must go through as they resist intersecting systems of oppression.

What is interesting in the whole discourse is the dominant tendency of framing this incident exclusively in terms of sexism while ignoring its intersection with race as well as class. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) expressed solidarity with Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and indicated she had been called offensive names for the past 18 years. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) tweeted, "Imagine what we could get done if women didn't have to deal with things like this on top of doing their job." The overwhelming support for AOC and critiques of Yoho (R-Fla.) came from liberal white women and other progressive circles who consciously or inadvertently upheld the language of "sisterhood." This sisterhood promoted solidarity that is based on the shared identity and struggles of being women. On the one hand, this solidarity based on sex is essential at a time when the sitting president has been accused of a series of sexual misconducts and violence against women and when there have been concerted efforts by the government to overturn Roe v. Wade and abortion rights, cut international funding for women's rights and reproductive health, and dismantle reproductive health services for women in the United States. On the other hand, using the same brush to paint experiences of all women and an assumption of shared and equal vulnerability ignore the disproportionate amount of struggle women of color and working-class women must go through as they resist intersecting systems of oppression.

Lisa Lerer rightly points out in a *New York Times* article that Hilary Clinton, for example, has been called a "bitch" numerous times (and she never condemned these abuses publicly). Still, she was never called that word in the nation's capital in front of reporters by a sitting congressman, which very likely indicates her white and class privileges. In contrast, what AOC experienced last week is a continuation of the trend of using sexist and racist slurs against powerful women of color. In 2017, for example, the Florida Republican Sen. Frank Artiles referred to Audrey Gibson—a Black woman and Democratic member of the Florida Senate—as "fucking asshole," "bitch," "girl," and also used the n-word at a members-only Governors Club steps away from the state capital.

Dissident and non-conforming women like AOC are not necessarily strangers to the word "bitch." However, the mundanity of calling rebel women a "bitch" in private and public spaces takes a spectacular turn as the abuse becomes so

normalized that powerful, privileged white men do not hesitate to use the language within the space of the nation's capital. Does it become normalized for ALL women, though? It didn't get normalized for Hilary Clinton, but this happened to women of color like AOC and Audrey Gibson.

### **Get our best delivered to your inbox.**

AOC's belongingness to the United States was questioned by President Trump, who asked AOC, along with three other women of color of the squad, to "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime-infested places from which they came." Focusing only on AOC's sex and ignoring the intersection of sex and race will disregard white privilege as well as class privilege many women enjoy as they express solidarity with AOC and engage in sisterhood resisting abhorrent sexism. Overlooking the intersectional intricacies will also reinforce the problematic tendency of addressing the "women problem" by merely adding on women without challenging intersecting systems of oppression. For example, after the AOC incident, in response to the reporters' question about whether the Republican party has a "women problem," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R.-Calif)—who argued Yoho's "apology" was enough—suggested that the Republican Party now have more women than ever running for Congress.

Also, let's not forget that the dispute between AOC and Yoho started over the past comments of AOC as she suggested that the rising crime in New York City did not necessarily stem from the lack of policing but was fueled by unprecedented economic disparities, unemployment, and poverty during the global Covid-19 pandemic. To establish that he is equally mindful of a class analysis like AOC, Yoho sought resort to his personal experience of doing what he called "odd jobs" at a young age and being on food stamps and claimed his familiarity with the face of poverty. His white privileged linear personal progress narrative of a hardworking, law-abiding American citizen totally ignored how intersecting structures of racism, classism, capitalism, and other systems of oppression do not create a level-playing field for everyone, thereby making some communities more vulnerable than others.

In her speech, AOC referred to her working-class background and experience of being racially targeted by President Trump. I wish she directly used the word "race" in her speech and more explicitly highlighted the intersectional struggles of women of color. The language of sisterhood and solidarity with white women

and white liberal circles are critical in the Trump era, but we need to make sure this inadvertent or strategic move should not eclipse unique racialized and classed struggles of women of color as they fight against heteropatriarchy on a day-to-day basis.

### **Nafisa Tanjeem**



Nafisa Tanjeem is an Assistant Professor of Global Studies and Gender, Race, and Sexuality Studies at Lesley University.

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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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# Inverness or Bust: Britain's forgotten trans history told in new documentary

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Fox Fisher with 'Nemo', the trans man who was one of the group of friends who went on the trailblazing road trip in 1975. (Instagram/My Genderation)

An untold story from Britain's transgender history will form the basis for *Inverness Or Bust*, a new documentary by the trans-led, award-winning non-profit film project My Genderation.

*Inverness Or Bust* is a story about friendship, allyship and trans Pride in 1970s Britain, focusing on a roadtrip in 1975 that saw 12 friends travel to Scotland to visit a sympathetic doctor.

The group, who came from across the UK and travelled to Scotland in two cars,

had been told that Dr Martin Whittet, then-head of the Craig Dunain Mental Hospital, was willing to try to provide healthcare for transgender people.

This was at a time in Britain's history when stigma and discrimination against transgender people was at severe levels – and Whittet faced heavy opposition from within his own hospital for being open to treating trans patients.

Stephen Whittle, one of the group and later part of Press For Change, the trans activist group that helped bring in the 2004 Gender Recognition Act, said that Whittet was remarkable because he “treated us like ordinary people“.

Fox Fisher and Owl, the filmmakers who lead My Genderation, are crowdfunding to make the documentary and hope to also turn the story into a feature-length film, as Fox told *PinkNews*.

**How did you come across the story of *Inverness Or Bust*, and this group of people who went on a road trip to meet a doctor in Scotland in the 70s?**

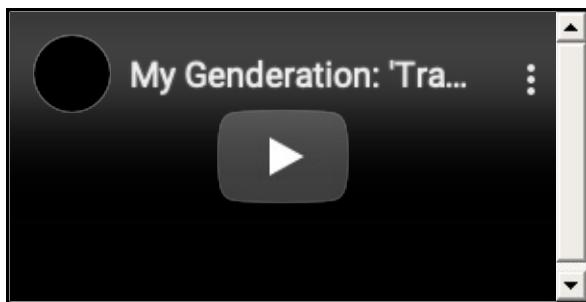
**Fox Fisher:** After I took part in a 2011 documentary called *My Transsexual Summer*, it opened a dialogue with the nation about transgender people. Millions of people watched the series and many reached out, and one of those people was Nemo, an older trans man (his name has been changed for privacy reasons).



After meeting him for the first time, it was clear that Nemo was incredibly isolated; he was living as stealth and his best friend Alice (aged 83), a trans woman, had just passed away, in his living room. We began meeting on a regular basis for lunch, and he would tell me the most incredible stories of coming out as trans aged 14.

Nemo told me about a horrible doctor that still haunts him today, and he also told me about a very kind medical professional, Dr Whittet, who was the head of an asylum in Inverness. His best friend Alice was who Dr Whittet originally made contact with, and she was one of the drivers on a special road trip to meet the doctor. A core group went from Manchester to Inverness.

It was a story that I felt was so powerful and really needed to be told, so I got in touch with the others, and from there we've been able to piece together the story.



### **Why do you think their story has never been told before?**

They simply haven't had the platform or ability to tell it. Back in the day there was such stigma and discrimination against transgender people, and the media was incredibly negative.

Even today the UK media is notoriously bad and most stories about transgender people are told by people who aren't trans. The conversations are always focused on the alleged problems transgender people cause, as opposed to the actual stories of how transgender people have been treated or are being treated in UK society.

Many of them haven't until recently felt able to tell this story, and we are so happy we get to be a part of this and help elevate their voices to give us some insight into trans history in the UK.

### **Why is it so important to tell this story now?**

Trans people's stories are so rarely told, especially in a historical context. Trans people have been around since forever, but we rarely hear their stories as often they have not been recorded or even destroyed and hidden.

The UK barely has any recorded trans history and we feel that this story is an important part of preserving that history before it's too late to tell it, or it gets forgotten. Most of the people who went on this trip have either passed away or are in their late 70s and we feel such an obligation to give them the platform to tell this story, as we believe it's a powerful way of showing people how trans people have been treated in UK society, and the challenges they faced.

A post shared by My Generation (@mygeneration) on Jul 30, 2020 at  
3:01am PDT

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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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# Sam Smith Burna Boy collab sparks debate about Nigerian homophobia

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Sam Smith is dropping a new single, “My Oasis”, with Nigerian superstar Burna Boy, which has prompted a mixed reaction from queer citizens of the west African nation.

The British singer released a teaser for the track, the first to be released since they postponed their third studio album, originally named *To Die For*, and announced it would be retitled.

“My Oasis” will be released Thursday evening (July 30) and is set to feature Burna Boy, who became the first Afrobeats singer to sell out Wembley Arena after the release of his acclaimed fourth album last year, and has previously collaborated with Beyoncé and Stormzy.

But the announcement prompted passionate debate among queer Nigerians, who

had conflicting feelings about the team-up.

Uhm Sam I think I speak for the Nigerian queers when I say we don't know  
how to feel about this     <https://t.co/gvhzJgUzOP>  
— TOMIDE † (@heli0si) July 29, 2020

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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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# The Umbrella Academy season 2: Klaus actor Robert Sheehan teases plot

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As *The Umbrella Academy* gears up to return for season two, Robert Sheehan (Klaus Hargreeves) has teased how the new episodes tackle homophobia and racism in the 1960s.

The pansexual Klaus' relationship with Dave struck a chord with queer fans in season one – until he was shot dead in battle during the Vietnam War.

The Netflix original returns with a new run of episodes Friday (31 July), and this time the Hargreeves siblings have travelled back in time to the early 1960s – before Dave's death.

Though details of *The Umbrella Academy*'s season two plot are being kept tightly under wraps, fans are hopeful that the new setting will pave the way for a reunion.

But of course, the '60s wasn't exactly a welcoming time for queer folk.

Without giving much away, Sheehan alluded that the season two will tackle the various forms of discrimination – such as homophobia, racism and xenophobia – that were present in the decade, while taking a sly swipe at shows that wear their politics on their sleeves.

"It's tricky because there are shows out there that are performatively virtue signalling an agenda," he told Metro.

"The intelligence of *The Umbrella Academy* is to deal with those issues from sort of a character perspective, that doesn't feel like the show was making a political statement.

"It's about the characters who are experiencing this stuff, which retrospectively is quite interesting because the actual execution of it cannot be through a political prism because I think that sort of broadcasts itself very much as virtue signalling.

"That's the stuff that I would want to avoid like plague."

Sheehan identifies as straight, but said that he "had a couple of experiences when I was younger with dudes, where I tried it, experimented, to see if it did anything for me".

Sadly for gay fans, "it didn't".

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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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# **Women's Equality Party officer booted out for views on race and disability**

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A Women's Equality Party (WEP) officer who declared her support for JK Rowling and tried to stop trans women playing sports has been “kicked out” over comments on race and disability.

Hilary Baxter was the co-leader of the Oxford brand of the WEP until last week. She wrote on Twitter on Tuesday, 28 July: “I was a founding member of the Women’s Equality Party and chair of the Oxford branch until last week.

“I posted #IStandWithJKRowling and IOC [International Olympic Committee]

petition on WEP Oxford FB.

“WEP called these ‘offensive’ and kicked me out. WEP don’t support sex based rights.”

The petition Baxter shared was against International Olympic Committee, demanding that they ban trans women from competing against cis women.

I was a Founding Member of the Women’s Equality Party and Chair of the Oxford Branch until last week. I posted #IStandWithJKRowling and IOC petition on WEP Oxford Fb. WEP called these “offensive” & kicked me out. WEP don’t support sex based rights.

— hilarybaxter (@rtwhilary) July 28, 2020

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