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Rishi Sunak backs author's right to free speech after she throws down challenge with series of posts labelling trans women as men

# ARREST ME! Defiance of JK Rowling as she dares police over new Scottish hate crime law



Critic: JK Rowling issued a series of tweets yesterday

**RISHI Sunak last night backed JK Rowling after she dared police to arrest her under controversial new hate crime laws.**

As the legislation came into

By **Dan Barker**  
and **David Churchill**

force in Scotland, the Harry Potter author issued a flurry of social media posts declaring that a string of trans women were men.

The SNP's Hate Crime Act has been

widely condemned amid fears it could be used for political purposes.

It introduces offences for threatening or abusive behaviour intended to stir up hatred, which in Scotland previously applied only to race, and includes a possible seven-year jail sentence. Ms Rowling, a prominent gen-

der-identity critic, included trans campaigners and other individuals in her tweets, referring to them as women.

But she ended the thread by saying: 'April Fools! Only kidding. Obviously, the people mentioned in the above tweets aren't women at all, but men,

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