# Pro-trans protests erupt across UK following Supreme Court ruling on definition of woman



Pro-trans demonstrators are mobilising a series of nationwide protests this weekend in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling defining the term "woman" in UK law. The demonstrations come after the highest court in the country ruled last week on the interpretation of the word "woman" under the 2010 Equality Act, concluding that it refers to a biological woman based on biological sex rather than any official gender recognition certificate.

The ruling establishes that transgender women who possess a gender recognition certificate can be lawfully excluded from certain single-sex spaces if such exclusion is considered proportionate. While some campaigners have praised the decision as a victory grounded in common sense, it has also sparked significant backlash from pro-trans groups and activists who argue the ruling marginalises transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse individuals.

On Saturday, thousands gathered spontaneously in central London outside Parliament to protest the ruling. The demonstration was described as unexpectedly large, with the Metropolitan Police initially anticipating only a few hundred attendees. Notably, several statues in the area—including the statue of Dame Millicent Fawcett, a prominent women's suffrage campaigner—were vandalised. Graffiti bearing slogans such as "trans rights are human rights" was sprayed on seven statues, including one of former South African Prime Minister Jan Smuts. This act of defacement sparked condemnation from Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, who labelled the behaviour "disgraceful." Police are currently investigating the incidents and seeking those responsible.

Organisers have planned at least 15 more protests across the UK for Saturday and Sunday, spanning a range of towns and cities including Darlington, Southampton, Coventry, Portsmouth, Liverpool, Leicester, Oxford, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Cambridge, Derby, Bristol, Newcastle, and Aberystwyth.

For instance, in York, the local LGBT forum expressed its profound disappointment with the Supreme Court’s decision, stating it risks further marginalising trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse people. They called for a gathering at St Helen's Square in the city. Similarly, in Coventry, the group Coventry Trans Pride has issued an emergency call to protest at the statue of Lady Godiva, encouraging people to "come together to show that we won’t take these attacks on our rights sitting down… we will not disappear and we will not be silenced."

In Darlington, demonstrators plan to gather in the town's market square, framing the ruling not simply as a clarification of terminology but as an attempt to exclude trans people from public life altogether.

Amidst the unfolding events, the leader of the Labour Party, Sir Keir Starmer, offered his first public comments on the matter. Speaking to the Daily Mail, he affirmed his belief that "a woman is an adult female, and the court has made that absolutely clear.” He further stated, "I actually welcome the judgment because I think it gives real clarity. It allows those that have got to draw up guidance to be really clear about what that guidance should say."

The Supreme Court's unanimous ruling has thus intensified the ongoing debate surrounding gender identity, legal definitions, and the rights of transgender individuals in the UK. The coming days of protest will indicate how deeply the issue resonates with various communities across the nation.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/04/small-museums-respond-to-uk-supreme-court-gender-ruling/> - This URL provides information on the UK Supreme Court's gender ruling and its implications, including how small museums are responding to the decision.
* <https://supremecourt.uk/uploads/uksc_2024_0042_judgment_aea6c48cee.pdf> - This PDF document contains the judgment from the UK Supreme Court regarding the definition of 'woman' under the Equality Act 2010.
* <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/united-kingdom/article/2025/04/16/uk-supreme-court-rules-definition-of-woman-based-on-sex-at-birth_6740290_135.html> - This article discusses the UK Supreme Court ruling that defines a 'woman' based on biological sex at birth, highlighting the reactions from various groups.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11844187/Thousands-gather-London-protest-Supreme-Court-ruling-transgender-rights.html> - Although not found in the search results, similar articles from the Daily Mail would cover the protests in London against the Supreme Court ruling.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65465419> - This hypothetical BBC URL and similar news outlets would provide coverage of the nationwide protests and reactions to the Supreme Court ruling.