# University of Dundee at centre of bullying claims following Supreme Court gender ruling



# University of Dundee Faces Controversy Over Gender-Critical Views and Bullying Allegations

The University of Dundee is currently navigating a turbulent controversy surrounding allegations of bullying tied to gender-critical views in the aftermath of a landmark UK Supreme Court ruling. An anonymous whistleblower, who claims to be a medical student at the university, has come forward to assert that she has faced intimidation from both fellow students and staff for her beliefs regarding sex and gender.

The Supreme Court's decision, issued on April 16, 2025, defined a "woman" in legal terms as someone who is biologically female, thus reaffirming a strict interpretation of the Equality Act 2010. This ruling has elicited a strong response from various stakeholders, particularly as it impacts the rights of transgender individuals and the availability of single-sex spaces. The student alleges that this ruling has amplified her harassment on campus, stating, “I am too afraid” to formally lodge her complaint due to previous experiences of intimidation.

In her complaint, the student criticises the Dundee University Students’ Association (DUSA) for its reaction to the Supreme Court's decision, claiming the association's solidarity with the trans community is polarised and excludes her perspective. As evidence, she points to DUSA's encouragement of attendance at a protest against the ruling, which had figures like Green MSP Maggie Chapman in attendance, known for her strong opposition to the verdict, labelling it “bigoted.” This divide highlights not only individual grievances but also a wider schism within societal discourse on gender and rights.

The University of Dundee has acknowledged receiving the complaint and is encouraging individuals facing distress to seek support, a statement summarised by a university spokesperson who reaffirmed, “Bullying and harassment is not acceptable in our community.” The institution is poised to review the implications of the Supreme Court's ruling and awaits updated guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) before implementing policy changes.

The implications of the ruling extend beyond university campuses. It has prompted significant policy shifts across institutions and services in the UK. For instance, the England and Wales Cricket Board has enacted an immediate ban on transgender women and girls from participating in women's cricket, marking a definitive response to the ruling that aligns with concerns surrounding fairness in women's sports. Critics, including trans rights groups, have condemned this exclusionary stance as premature and harmful.

Politically, the ruling has drawn varied reactions. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed the decision, framing it as a necessary clarification that may protect single-sex services such as women's refuges and hospital wards. In contrast, advocates for transgender rights warn that this legal framework could lead to increased marginalisation of transgender individuals and legal ambiguity regarding their rights.

This ongoing discourse around the definition of gender and the experiences of those confronting discrimination highlights a complex landscape where both gender-critical and trans rights perspectives struggle for visibility and understanding. The University of Dundee finds itself at the centre of this national conversation, caught between upholding academic freedom while ensuring a respectful and inclusive environment for all students.

As conversations about gender rights and definitions continue to evolve, instances like this underscore the necessity for open dialogue and respectful engagement within educational institutions, where diverse views can be expressed without fear of repercussion.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/5239385/dundee-university-bullying-claim-supreme-court-definition-woman/), [[2]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/5239385/dundee-university-bullying-claim-supreme-court-definition-woman/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/5239385/dundee-university-bullying-claim-supreme-court-definition-woman/), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/d2f2204a498ad3ca1292f2f6f3b8e950)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/5239385/dundee-university-bullying-claim-supreme-court-definition-woman/), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/3aebe32d-10e8-49cd-937e-4aa2555b6ff2)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/pm-starmer-welcomes-uk-top-court-ruling-biological-sex-equality-laws-2025-04-22/), [[6]](https://apnews.com/article/06dd07e6568f086fcb0698cca339666a)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/3aebe32d-10e8-49cd-937e-4aa2555b6ff2), [[7]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-supreme-court-ruling-on-definition-of-woman-branded-abject-humiliation-for-the-snp-5086025)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/5239385/dundee-university-bullying-claim-supreme-court-definition-woman/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/politics/5239385/dundee-university-bullying-claim-supreme-court-definition-woman/> - An anonymous whistleblower, claiming to be a medical student at the University of Dundee, alleges being bullied and intimidated for holding gender-critical views, particularly after the UK Supreme Court's ruling that defines a woman based on biological sex. The student criticizes the Dundee University Students' Association (DUSA) for its response to the ruling and its support for the trans community. The University of Dundee has acknowledged the complaint and encourages individuals facing bullying or harassment to seek support, emphasizing that such behavior is unacceptable within the university community.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/3aebe32d-10e8-49cd-937e-4aa2555b6ff2> - The Financial Times discusses the UK Supreme Court's landmark ruling that defines a 'woman' under equality legislation as someone who is biologically female. This decision has significant political ramifications, with support from gender-critical groups and criticism from trans rights advocates. The ruling is pivotal for institutions managing single-sex spaces, potentially forcing redefinitions of access. Politically, Labour has adopted a mostly silent stance to avoid alienating key voter blocs, while the Conservatives have seized the decision to contrast against Labour.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/pm-starmer-welcomes-uk-top-court-ruling-biological-sex-equality-laws-2025-04-22/> - British Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed a UK Supreme Court ruling that the legal definition of a woman under equality laws is based on biological sex. The April 16 decision clarified that single-sex services, such as women's refuges, hospital wards, and sports, can lawfully exclude trans women, resolving prior legal ambiguities. The ruling has been praised by those concerned about the impact of transgender policies on the rights of biological women. However, trans rights groups criticized the verdict, warning of potential exclusion and legal setbacks for transgender individuals.
5. <https://apnews.com/article/d2f2204a498ad3ca1292f2f6f3b8e950> - On April 16, 2025, the U.K. Supreme Court delivered a landmark ruling, defining a 'woman' under the 2010 Equality Act strictly as someone who is biologically female. The decision excludes transgender women from that legal definition. This ruling came after feminist group For Women Scotland challenged a 2018 Scottish law that included trans women with legal gender recognition in women's representation quotas. The court unanimously ruled that sex-based rights and protections are meant for biologically defined groups, arguing that including transgender individuals would render the Equality Act incoherent.
6. <https://apnews.com/article/06dd07e6568f086fcb0698cca339666a> - The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced a complete ban on transgender women and girls from participating in women's and girls' cricket, effective immediately. This decision follows a recent U.K. Supreme Court ruling that defined a woman, for anti-discrimination laws, as someone biologically female. While transgender individuals are still allowed in open and mixed competitions, this ban extends an earlier restriction that had only applied to elite-level cricket. The ruling and its impacts have sparked division, with support from feminist groups who argue it protects female athletes, and criticism from trans-rights organizations, including Stonewall, who assert the decisions were premature and exclusionary.
7. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-supreme-court-ruling-on-definition-of-woman-branded-abject-humiliation-for-the-snp-5086025> - The UK Supreme Court ruled that the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological sex. This decision has been described as an 'abject humiliation' for the Scottish National Party (SNP), which had previously supported a broader definition of 'woman' that included transgender women. The ruling has significant implications for policies related to single-sex services and spaces, potentially leading to the exclusion of transgender women from certain areas previously considered accessible to them.