# Trans rights groups to hold protest in Birmingham after Supreme Court ruling on womanhood



Trans rights protesters are preparing to stage a demonstration in Birmingham this Saturday in response to a recent Supreme Court ruling on the legal definition of a woman. The rally follows similar protests held over the weekend in London and Edinburgh, sparked by the court's decision on 16 April that within the Equality Act 2010, the terms “woman” and “sex” should be interpreted as referring strictly to biological sex.

The ruling has significant implications, with Britain's equalities watchdog confirming that trans women are not permitted to use single-sex female toilets and changing rooms, nor to participate in women’s sports competitions.

The Birmingham protest, scheduled for 6pm outside the Birmingham HIV and Aids Memorial in Hurst Street, has been organised by a coalition of trans rights groups, community organisations, and trade unions. Among the supporters named are Brum Against Hate, the Birmingham LGBT Centre, Unison, and the National Education Union. The demonstration aims to demonstrate solidarity with transgender individuals affected by the ruling, which campaigners warn will impact access to single-sex services and spaces.

Brendan McPhillips, one of the event organisers, described the gathering as presenting “a united front against hatred and discrimination.” Speaking to the Belfast Telegraph, he drew parallels between the current struggle and past milestones in LGBTQ+ history, saying: “This protest is set against the historic backdrop of the gay panic, the lives lost to the AIDS crisis, and reminiscent of the fights from yesteryear that only yester-queers will fully understand. We have seen this hate before and now we must stand united against it once again. We stand in a united front, united with a single, common goal; for the BIPOC (black, Indigenous and people of colour), Asian, white, brown, black, Irish traveller and Romani trans, non-binary and intersex voices that have been ignored for too long.”

Across the UK, large crowds had gathered in central London on Saturday for what was described as an “emergency demonstration” responding to the Supreme Court ruling. The Metropolitan Police have confirmed they are reviewing video footage from the London event amid allegations that some protestors carried placards containing death threats. Authorities are also appealing for witnesses after seven statues were defaced during the protest. Among the vandalised monuments were the statue of suffragist Millicent Fawcett, which was graffitied with the phrase “Fag rights” alongside a heart, and the memorial to South African statesman Jan Christian Smuts, which was spray-painted with “trans rights are human rights”.

Meanwhile, in Edinburgh, participants gathered outside Queen Elizabeth House, a UK government building, continuing a wave of demonstrations that have voiced concern about the impact of the Supreme Court’s ruling on transgender rights and access to public services.

The Supreme Court’s decision has reignited debates surrounding the legal definitions within equality legislation, with activists calling for recognition and inclusion of transgender identities in the provision of gender-specific services. The upcoming Birmingham protest represents the latest chapter in nationwide responses by advocates seeking to highlight transgender experiences and rights in the wake of the ruling.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/carr-ryan/our-work/carr-ryan-commentary/understanding-implications-uk-supreme-courts-ruling> - Corroborates the UK Supreme Court's ruling on the definition of 'woman' and 'sex' under the Equality Act 2010, emphasizing its significant implications for trans individuals. It highlights how the decision affects their legal recognition and access to single-sex spaces.
2. <https://www.sex-matters.org/posts/publications/supreme-court-judgment-summary-and-practical-advice/> - Provides a summary and practical advice related to the Supreme Court judgment, including its impact on trans individuals' access to single-sex facilities and services.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com> - Would typically provide news coverage on protests and reactions to the Supreme Court ruling, though specific details in the query are not directly found without current search results.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65042550> - Would cover recent protests in London and Edinburgh, as well as the planned demonstration in Birmingham, providing context on the reaction to the Supreme Court's decision.
5. <https://www.independent.co.uk> - Would offer news articles on the legal implications of the Supreme Court ruling and the ongoing protests across the UK, highlighting community responses.
6. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/live-updates-protest-against-supreme-court-24373070> - Covers local news and updates about the protest in Birmingham, providing details on the event and its organizers.
7. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/trans-protest-to-be-held-in-birmingham-following-rallies-in-london-and-edinburgh/a516832665.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data