# Police Scotland accused of Nazi slur in document linking gender-critical feminists to extremism



Police Scotland has ignited a significant controversy following the circulation of a document linking feminist campaigners who oppose transgender policies to Nazi ideology. The document, reportedly authored by a police officer or civilian staff member tasked with liaising with LGBTQ+ communities, described 'gender binary'—the belief in the existence of only two genders—as a “key feature” of Nazi beliefs. This alarming comparison has attracted fierce criticism, particularly from politicians and gender-critical activists.

Scottish Conservative MSP Murdo Fraser expressed outrage, stating, “It’s unbelievable that such outrageous language made it into an official Police Scotland document. This is a deeply offensive comparison—people with concerns about the SNP’s flawed gender self-ID plans shouldn’t be vilified for standing up for common sense.” Fraser's sentiments reflect a wider discontent regarding how issues of gender identity are being handled by authorities, particularly in light of the police's recent engagement with the ongoing debate surrounding Scotland's gender self-identification policies.

The contentious wording was part of a description of “Trans+ History Week,” which aims to celebrate the history of trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse communities. The document also noted that this week was deliberately timed to coincide with the 1933 Nazi raid on the world’s first trans clinic, which resulted in the destruction of much of the clinic's resources, including the burning of books. As Police Scotland prepares to host a roundtable with various community groups and stakeholders to discuss recent Supreme Court rulings regarding transgender rights, the implications of this document have spurred calls for reflection and change within the organisation.

In the wake of the document's emergence, Police Scotland has announced it will withdraw the material and provide guidance on appropriate language. A spokesman stated, “The content does not reflect the views of Police Scotland and has been removed,” highlighting the organisation’s attempts at rectifying the situation. However, criticism from former officers like Martin Gallagher underscores longstanding concerns regarding police neutrality and the agency's involvement in divisive political issues.

Dr Lucy Hunter Blackburn of the gender-critical think-tank Murray Blackburn Mackenzie commended the police’s recognition of the document but cautioned that it must signal a broader transformation within the force's approach to gender. She called for a reevaluation of various policies that may inadvertently endorse perceptions of gender identity over biological sex, especially in light of recent Supreme Court clarifications stating that 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 refer distinctly to biological definitions.

The controversy surrounding Police Scotland is not an isolated incident. In a recent event involving hate crime training, attendees were presented with scenarios depicting characters resembling prominent gender-critical figures, such as author J.K. Rowling. Critics of the training have asserted that this could be interpreted as a parody, further entrenching harmful stereotypes linking gender-critical beliefs to extremism. Over 200 women have signed an open letter expressing their concerns regarding this portrayal, stressing the need for police officers who enforce hate crime laws to remain politically neutral.

The backdrop to these controversies includes the Scottish National Party’s (SNP) own admission that under Scotland's new hate crime legislation, individuals expressing gender-critical views could indeed find themselves targeted. This adds layers to an already fraught environment where issues of free expression and perceived extremism collide with evolving standards of gender identity.

Police Scotland's recent actions have reignited debates about the role of law enforcement in politically sensitive issues. Many assert that the police should maintain neutrality and avoid speech that could inadvertently perpetuate division among communities. As the force continues to review its guidelines in light of these events, there exists a pressing need for clarity in communication and policy that respects diverse opinions while navigating complex social dynamics.

The combination of historical references, criticisms of policy implementation, and the immediate response from both the police and community members illustrate a need for measured dialogue in an increasingly polarized context. The focus now rests not only on the repercussions of this document but on the essential balance between respecting individual identities and ensuring the integrity of public discourse.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14758737/Police-accused-Nazi-slur-against-feminist-campaigners-new-trans-row.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14758737/Police-accused-Nazi-slur-against-feminist-campaigners-new-trans-row.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/20/police-accused-of-attacking-jk-rowling-at-lgbt-event/), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/21/snp-admits-jk-rowling-could-be-targeted-new-hate-laws/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/26/police-scotland-parody-jk-rowling-open-letter-harry-potter/), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/25/murdo-fraser-sue-police-scotland-tweet-non-binary-hate/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14758737/Police-accused-Nazi-slur-against-feminist-campaigners-new-trans-row.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/07/police-scotland-sent-out-guide-listing-extinction-rebellion-with-neo-nazis)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/apr/06/gender-critical-activists-and-pro-transgender-groups-clash-in-edinburgh), [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/20/police-accused-of-attacking-jk-rowling-at-lgbt-event/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14758737/Police-accused-Nazi-slur-against-feminist-campaigners-new-trans-row.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/20/police-accused-of-attacking-jk-rowling-at-lgbt-event/> - In March 2024, Police Scotland faced criticism for allegedly targeting author J.K. Rowling during an official hate crime event. Attendees were presented with a scenario involving a character named 'Jo', who shares views similar to Rowling's gender-critical stance. Critics argued that this portrayal was a thinly veiled parody of Rowling, potentially linking gender-critical beliefs to Nazism. The incident sparked debates about the police's role in addressing hate speech and the boundaries of free expression.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/26/police-scotland-parody-jk-rowling-open-letter-harry-potter/> - Over 200 women signed an open letter expressing concern over Police Scotland's creation of a fictional character named 'Jo' in hate crime training sessions. The character, described as a passionate gender-critical campaigner, was perceived by signatories as a parody of J.K. Rowling. They argued that this portrayal reinforced offensive stereotypes linking gender-critical women to far-right ideologies and called for the officers involved to be removed from enforcing new hate crime laws.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/25/murdo-fraser-sue-police-scotland-tweet-non-binary-hate/> - Scottish Conservative MSP Murdo Fraser announced plans to sue Police Scotland after discovering that a tweet he posted, comparing non-binary people to those identifying as cats, was recorded as a non-crime hate incident without his knowledge. Fraser argued that this action infringed upon his free speech rights and data protection laws, highlighting concerns over the application of Scotland's new hate crime legislation.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/21/snp-admits-jk-rowling-could-be-targeted-new-hate-laws/> - The Scottish National Party (SNP) acknowledged that author J.K. Rowling could be targeted under Scotland's new hate crime laws. The legislation, which broadens hate crime prohibitions to include gender identity, has sparked controversy and fears of misuse. Critics, including Rowling, have expressed concerns about potential implications for free speech and the targeting of individuals with gender-critical views.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/07/police-scotland-sent-out-guide-listing-extinction-rebellion-with-neo-nazis> - In 2020, Police Scotland circulated a guide listing various groups, including Extinction Rebellion, alongside neo-Nazi organizations like National Action and the National Front. The document, intended to help officers identify symbols associated with extremist groups, faced criticism for equating environmental activists with far-right extremists. Police Scotland clarified that the guide aimed to assist in recognizing symbols and did not equate all listed groups with terrorism.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/apr/06/gender-critical-activists-and-pro-transgender-groups-clash-in-edinburgh> - In April 2024, gender-critical activists and pro-transgender groups clashed in Edinburgh over Scotland's new hate crime legislation. The gender-critical group, led by activist Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull, aimed to test the law by chanting slogans that could be considered hate speech. They were met by counter-protests from pro-transgender groups. Both events remained peaceful, with no arrests made, according to Police Scotland.