



Awards 2008

Hypocrisy or Ignorance?

Iris Robinson	Julie Bindel
Said gay people could be 'cured' with talking therapy	Said trans people could be 'cured' with talking therapy
Said homosexuality was an 'abomination'	Said sex change surgery was 'mutilation'
Nominated for Stonewall 'Bigot of the Year 2008'	Nominated for Stonewall 'Journalist of the Year 2008'

We are a group of trans people and allies who wish to protest about Stonewall's nomination of Guardian journalist, Julie Bindel, in the "Journalist of the Year" category. Ms Bindel has used her access to national media to pursue an agenda of intolerance towards trans people, caricaturing us with hurtful and inaccurate stereotypes. Adopting a position which many of us feel allies her with the "ex-gay", reparative therapy movement, she has argued that the medical assistance which many of us desperately need to align our physical bodies with our gender identities "should not be available", and that instead, we should be offered "talking therapies" aimed at persuading us to live in a way we feel denies our identities.

We are saddened that Stonewall, an LGB rights organisation, chooses to honour someone with an award nomination whose writings meet Stonewall's own definition of transphobia. In doing so, we feel that Stonewall has shown it is willing to promote part of the LGBT community at the expense of another. A large proportion of trans people are also lesbian, gay or bisexual, yet Stonewall turns a blind eye towards those who would oppress us.

Stonewall styles itself a "champion of diversity", yet it is apparently unwilling to require that those nominated for one of its prestigious awards show even a basic commitment to diversity. Julie Bindel has issued a limited apology for the language used in one of the more extreme articles, where she likened trans people to the cast of the film, "Grease", but remains unrepentant on the transphobia of her core message.

Julie Bindel on medical treatment for trans people

“Sex change surgery should not be available ... We can offer talking therapies to people who identify as transgender/transsexual” - BBC “Hecklers” Debate, 2007

“Is it really a human right to have irreversible hormone treatment?” - “Hecklers”

“[surgery] is now becoming more and more acceptable as a solution to a problem that could well be fixed by talking therapies, but we’re not doing enough of it.” - “Hecklers”

Julie Bindel on the supposed reasons people transition

“If you are tired of being stared at for snogging your same-sex partner in the street, have a sex change” - Julie Bindel, *apparently unaware that lots, if not most transsexual people identify as GLB after transition, in the Guardian Weekend Magazine, 2004*

Julie Bindel on the Stonewall Awards

“It is an honour to be nominated by such a prestigious organisation ... I deserve the nomination for my writing about lesbian issues, so I will NOT be refusing the nomination” - “Facebook”, 29 October, 2008

“... the Mail on Sunday, arguably the most racist, homophobic and anti-asylum-seeker publication in the UK, was nominated for the [Stonewall] award for newspaper of the year two years ago ... I could cite other examples of hypocrisy” - “Facebook”, 30 October, 2008

Independent, TLS and Time Out Journalist, co-founder of Feminists Against Censorship and former vice-chair of Liberty, Roz Kaveney on Julie Bindel’s attitude towards trans people

“... the utter disrespect with which Julie Bindel feels it appropriate to discuss our lives; she is advocating talking therapies for trans people in a way that almost entirely parallels the advocacy of talking therapies by the Christian right as a way of extirpating all LGBT people. If she does not understand that, as a lesbian, she is a turkey advocating Christmas for turkeys in an adjacent bit of the farmyard, then she is being obtuse; what she is doing is betraying not only the trans community but the entire LGBT community, and it is wrong to honour her for her other work when there is this colossal stain on her career.” - Roz Kaveney on her blog, November 2008