

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 6 in the name of Councillor Gallagher to be seconded by Councillor Walsh	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Acting Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: July 24 2019

Standing with the Trans Community

This council notes

- Trans people face significant disadvantage in society - one in four trans people report being discriminated against in work, over a third avoid expressing their gender through physical appearance in fear of being assaulted or harassed, and almost 50% of trans people have attempted suicide at some point in their lives (see https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/trans_stats.pdf)
- The UK government announced a review of the complex and bureaucratic process within the Gender Recognition Act in 2017, including consulting on the principle of self-definition for gender
- The Republic of Ireland adopted legal self-definition for trans people in 2015 without any reported negative impact

This council believes

- Trans men are men, trans women are women, non-binary genders are valid
- There exists a movement who seek to drive trans women out of party politics and out of public life under the guise of 'legitimate concerns' about how self-identification could impact women-only spaces
- Trans people deserve respect and autonomy
- Transphobia has a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of trans individuals
- The moral panic around trans people accessing spaces is reminiscent of the moral panic of 1980s, where gay, lesbian and bisexual people were targeted and harassed and Section 28 was adopted (see <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/04/26/british-newspapers-anti-transgender-moral-panic/>)
- Many tabloid stories used to justify the panic have since been proven to be false and misleading (see <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/02/11/newspaper-retracts-claim-ian-huntley-transgender/>)
- That it is our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open Lewisham to speak out against transphobia and make clear it will not be tolerated under the guise of 'legitimate concerns' over someone's basic humanity

This council resolves

- To urge the mayor and cabinet, as political leaders of this council, to step up and be visible in challenging transphobia in our community

- To support the principle of legal gender self-definition for trans people living in the UK