



HANDS OFF TRANS KIDS

**Cass means
social murder**

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CASS MEANS SOCIAL MURDER

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For Thalia Tamari, 19th November 1998-15th December 2023

Solidarity Forever

Foreword

The articles presented here were all written in the first half of 2024 during the meltdown of the Tory government and a huge intensification of attacks on Trans* people. For ACR this assault which cost Trans* lives was a key reason for mobilising against that government.

With the Tories now decisively defeated in the polls, and Labour in office, the struggle continues for Trans* liberation, as it does around so many other decisive issues for the working class and oppressed. The forms of transphobia we are confronted with from government have shifted but that doesn't make them any less pernicious. We continue to cover these questions on our website and to organise around them in communities, in the Labour movement and on the streets.



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No New Section 28

Trans* people, and in particular trans* children, are under attack. Again. The shared task of socialists is straightforward: trans* humanity must be more than defended but also liberated from the conditions that necessitate that constant, repeated need *for* defence.

The working class rises or falls as one.

At the Conservative Party Conference 1987, then Tory Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, said: “Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have an inalienable right to be gay.” During the Conservative Party Conference 2023, the current Tory Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, said:

“A man is a man and a woman is a woman. That’s just common sense.”

Thatcher’s rhetoric anticipated her introduction of Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988, which in practice, censored the discussion of queer sexualities and genders in schools until 2000 in Scotland and 2003 in England and Wales. This caused untold harm, shaming queer children, limiting their access to life-saving information and severely constraining the support that teachers, including LGBTQIA+ teachers, felt able to provide. And while in law, the Act only applied to local education authorities – and not to private schools at all – the ideological drive behind it undoubtedly hampered the work of other services trying to support queer communities, whether in the public or voluntary sector.

Section 28 was not a naive line of attack. It technically applied only to LEA policies pertaining to sex education or any discussion of relationships. Nothing formally banned discussion of LGBTQIA+ subjects, but many school governing bodies thought otherwise, and the policy acted to encourage self-censorship. Section 28 specifically banned LEAs from “promoting... the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”. LEA Equalities Officers could and did enlighten governing bodies about such technical caveats and encourage schools to adopt better policies – with a sufficiently

supportive LEA. But, the media encouraged the view that it was illegal and many heads and governing bodies acted on this mistaken belief.

While the Labour Party now takes credit for the law's eventual repeal, this happened a staggering six years into a Labour government as a result of grassroots campaigning. History shows that important figures in the Labour leadership were extremely reluctant to confront Tory homophobia or make the repeal of this pernicious legislation a priority. Instead, the Labour leadership supported the broad intent of the legislation with a few minor tweaks and concerned themselves only with the details of words such as "promoting homosexuality" and "the acceptability of homosexuality", conveniently ignoring that heteronormativity has been promoted and accepted by powerful institutions for centuries. Today Sunak's rhetoric takes place in a larger context of anti-trans* marginalisation and discrimination. We have seen an 186% increase in anti-trans* hate crimes in half a decade, the most significant increase of any category during that period. These include, for example, an arson attack on the home of two transgender women and a gay man, and the brutal murder of sixteen-year-old trans* girl Brianna Ghey. This spike in attacks has been linked to the language used by politicians. And it has developed in the context of relentless

moral panic sustained by an endemically transphobic mainstream media – not by any means a coincidence.

Sunak’s rhetoric is part of his government’s consistent hostility to queer life. They have overseen and defended a chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, long haunted by credible accusations of transphobia, who herself meets hate organisations like LGBA – founded to exclude and ostracise trans* people. The selfsame Sunak was recorded “joking” about transgender women’s genitalia, and the current Equalities Minister was caught misgendering trans* women alongside a general history of being hostile to trans* people.

In parliament, the Tories have prevaricated on a conversion therapy ban, performing multiple u-turns, including suggesting wrecking exemptions, excluding transgender people from protections, and even threatening to prohibit trans-affirming healthcare. They took the unprecedented step of using a Section 35 block on Scotland’s devolved parliament after it passed a bill to mildly reform the Gender Recognition Act. They have threatened to reform the Equalities Act to limit protections for trans* people.

From Thatcher to Sunak, reactionary British leaders showcase how anti-queer moral panics are a staple of British politicians. They have, like far-right politicians internationally, systematically spewed their bigotry over children and young people, which is their current focus.

New draft guidance on transgender pupils deserves the comparison to Section 28; it is a flagrant attempt to harm a group of children who are already facing an unbearable situation, in the context of the recent murder of a trans* child.

While the guidance is not backed by changes to the law, it will likely have a chilling effect on the position of trans* youth. It will be something schools can and likely sometimes will cite to back often ill-informed decisions where transphobic interests are pitted against those of a trans* child. This will lend credibility to anti-trans* bigotry.

The advice makes no secret of its intent. It has a general presumption against gender transitioning, against respecting a child's chosen pronouns, against not deadnaming them, etc. It excludes trans* children from gender-appropriate spaces and sports, despite the historic pretext of sports exclusions being generally poorly-evidenced claimed advantages conferred to trans* women by *puberty* in some *professional* sports.

This essentially mandates the institutionalised bullying of queer children. As well as taking every opportunity to delimit and restrict trans life, it deploys anti-trans* language such as “gender identity ideology” that could only generously be called a dog whistle. In stressing the supposed “problem” of social contagion, it gestures at

the pseudoscientific anti-trans* theory of rapid-onset gender dysphoria – a nonsense idea of gender identity as a dangerous youth trend that has been comprehensively [rubbished](#). It repeats the old homophobic notion that queer sexuality is contagious, now in the context of anti-trans* bigotry.

Worse, the guidance refuses to recognise trans* children as even trans, on the circular basis that they are not eligible for Gender Recognition Certificates (GRCs) that can only be applied for at eighteen. This has no legal relevance to being trans* as a protected characteristic in the Equality Act, but it does grimly outline the kind of changes they would like to make to that Act if given free enough reign. If being trans* is synonymous with having a GRC, this not only erases trans* people under eighteen but all nonbinary people (who are also not eligible).

While the guidance does back down from an earlier threat to always inform parents when a child socially transitions (a threat that would undoubtedly be illegal on various grounds), it still ignores safeguarding practices. The government suggests an overwhelming presumption in favour of informing parents of any change in a child's gender, despite evidence that trans* children all too often face severe threats from family members. This presumption of informing parents will almost certainly cost lives.

Lawyers, including the government's own, have [warned](#) that the advice might leave schools open to [litigation](#) as it violates existing protections for trans* children. It is more than plausible that this is an outcome the government finds acceptable. Indeed, that would follow a general pattern that they have adopted in other areas of the culture war.

They develop a controversial position ([see](#) the Rwanda policy) that contradicts the law, the courts rule against them, and this becomes the basis: a. for justifying changes to the law more aligned with their reactionary beliefs; and b. to mobilise and agitate their base against the false perception of a “woke” establishment.

So the Conservative Party might be setting up schools for a fall so that they can make overhauling the Equality Act a key General Election battleground. Because Keir Starmer is trying to appeal to reactionary voters, this is perceived as a lose-lose for Labour, who would either have to upset their progressive base or fight the Tories over the culture war. In truth, Labour *should* robustly fight the Tories on the culture war, and given the weakness of the Tories arguments, they *could* win, but the Labour leadership is opportunistic, unreflective and parochial, and so the Tory perception of weakness might be accurate.

The government are consulting over the draft guidance until March 12. Their press release states: “Parents, teachers, and school leaders are encouraged to respond to the 12-week consultation”, while a Guardian article on the subject quotes the same sentence and then concludes, ‘It does not extend the same invitation to children, or trans* people’.

Looking at the consultation itself, there does not seem to be any formal limitation on who can respond. ‘Student’ is listed as a specific category, and so is ‘other’. Organisations of all types are allowed to submit, with ‘trade unions’ in particular listed alongside mainly educational institutions – but trans* and LGBTQIA+ organisations are not.

The largest education union, the NEU, have already produced a brief statement on the guidance and indicated that they will have more to say in the New Year. The NASUWT has also made a brief statement. It is essential that all unions act to defend education workers who themselves act in the interests of trans* children and young people. Children, especially trans* children (whose existence is now being denied by the government, despite being simultaneously legally recognised in legislation) and most trans* people, in general, are key stakeholders. To imply otherwise is deeply prejudiced. The slogan of the disability movement, nothing about us without us, is directly

relevant here, and the bias of the government press release, as well as of the draft guidance itself, is something that should be pointed out by all those replying to the consultation.

Talking to supportive people from the LGBTQIA+ charity sector, they suggest that they will be encouraging everyone to reply, and to do so in earnest from early January. Several organisations are likely to issue guidance on filling it out, and there may also be legal challenges ahead of its full implementation.

Stonewall, Galop, Mermaids, and Gendered Intelligence have condemned the guidance. *The Guardian*, despite its own extensive and shameful record of transphobia, has published the brave response of a young trans* boy, Newton Carey, who is powerfully succinct in summarising the injustice of the draft. The words of trans* children must be centred by cisgender people (here is a list of LGBTQIA+ terms, including “cisgender”) participating in the fightback against this document. Carey writes:

Transphobic bullying is rampant and I think 100% this guidance only fuels that fire. If I'd been able to exist in my school as a trans kid from the beginning, nobody would have complained because I wasn't asking for anything special. The only reason other kids saw the difference was because it was pointed out to them.*

But cis people absolutely must still also join the fightback. A*CR comrades have written in the past about models of solidarity for trans* liberation and will continue to update and refine this work. As a besieged minority, attacked from all corners, trans* people are nonetheless also a part of the broader movements of the exploited for whom solidarity is both its means and end.

Without that mass solidarity, the situation is hopeless. As if to demonstrate this point, once again, the Labour Party, the same party that oversaw more than half a decade of Section 28, rushed to welcome the Tory Party's anti-trans* school guidance. We cannot expect much from the opposition, most of the media, and courts and indeed, can only expect unrestrained sadism from the government itself. Trans* people certainly cannot afford to wait six years into a potential Starmer government before seeing improvements.

It would be a mistake to see this attack as a merely top-down problem – as if it emanates solely from Sunak and his desperate band of hard-right authoritarians in response to lousy polling and weak electoral coalitions. This is the poisoned fruit of years of highly organised and well-funded anti-trans* agitation, and however much that relies on astroturfing and influential backers to gain traction, it also only finds a social basis it can appeal to within a society rife with organic suspicions against queer life.

Overcoming this does not just require a change in the personnel of the state, but a change in society itself, in how our work and social lives are organised, and therefore in ourselves, too, as participants in that change. Trans* people represent no threat to cisgender humanity, but their insistence on their own humanity *is* a threat to the inhuman systems that also exploit, violate and marginalise cis people. The gender binary is part of what holds women responsible for social reproduction and which also brutalises men. Together, cis and trans*, we can be a threat to an inhuman world, and make a human one.



Cass Means Social Murder

Writing for **Trans* Mission** and **Anti-Capitalist Resistance**, Rowan Fortune responds to the recent Cass Review and unequivocally condemns this assault on trans* youth and trans* people in general. We loudly insist that every socialist, every member of a left-wing political party, every union member become involved in the fightback for trans* liberation, making bold demands in the struggle shoulder-to-shoulder with our trans* sisters, brothers and siblings.

We demand:

- The complete repudiation of the Cass Review
- Full healthcare access for trans* youth and adults on a co-productive basis
- Trans* inclusive ban on conversion therapy that acknowledges that transition care is not conversion therapy, and that conversion therapy includes all excessive waits for this healthcare and any form of medical gatekeeping, i.e. making care dependent on diagnoses of gender dysphoria
- CAMHS to receive emergency funding to bring it up to standards befitting its role, and to be reformed also on a co-productive basis

- Nonbinary inclusive, universal, non-medical self-ID

The final report of the Cass Review was published on 10 April 2024. If you paid attention only to most of the British media and Westminster, it was an uncontroversial assessment of healthcare for trans* youth. Unfortunately, treacherous responses from Stonewall and Mermaids lend credibility to this fiction, as they needlessly conceded ground and compromised trans* safety to this concerted attack.

Stray an inch from this anti-trans* bubble, another picture emerges. Many organisations have raised deep concerns, including Trans Safety Network (who called alarm bells on this report long before its publication), TransActual, Amnesty and Liberty, the UCU Women's Standing Committee, Neurodiverse Connection, Therapists Against Conversion Therapy and Transphobia, Equality Australia, and The Professional Association for Transgender Health Aotearoa (New Zealand).

These global charities, professional bodies and unions are joined by campaigning groups and trans* voices like Growing Up Transgender, Trans+ Solidarity Alliance, Transgender Action Block, and The Dyke Project, which have spoken out with the just rage of trans* people and friends.

Services for trans* youth have always been plagued by chillingly unacceptable waits and appalling standards of care, worsened by the closure of the lamentable Tavistock gender identity clinic for children and the withdrawal of puberty blockers following the earlier publication of the Cass Interim Report, a callous act that has now been cemented.

Going forward, access to life-saving gender-affirming treatments will be even more severely restricted. If they exist at all, they will depend on children submitting to unethical studies that coerce participation at the threat of withdrawing healthcare – no basis for any research. And the private sector also comes under scrutiny, closing off all alternatives to desperate trans* youth. Moreover, this decimation of inadequate provision could be extended to people as old as 25. Or older, as the NHS has menacingly pledged a follow-up review on adult transition.

The problems with the Cass Review are legion. Trans* people were excluded from its research oversight board, reminding us of the Disabled People’s Movement slogan, ‘Nothing about us, without us’ and its wider value for the oppressed. This unacceptable exclusion, under the pretext of moving from a “social justice” approach to an “evidence-based” one, then plays through in the report’s explicit biases against trans* existence and flourishing.

Some of those involved in the Review have lobbied against trans-affirmative healthcare or for conversion therapy. These are the so-called experts on whom Cass draws. There are also allegations Cass collaborated on a similar anti-trans* review developed by hardline far-right US governor and anti-trans* politician Ron DeSantis in Florida, as well as communicated with the Catholic Medical Association member Patrick Hunter as he worked on the discredited Florida Review.

At the core of Cass's work is a blanket dismissal of the quality and efficacy of evidence in favour of gender-affirming care. This is based on controversial standards not applied to other fields of paediatric medicine. Conversely, against such impossibly high tests, hearsay and anecdotes become enough to justify any and every anti-trans* viewpoint.

For example, detransitioning is raised as a concern, but this is not even backed by the review's evidentiary research, which found a mere 10 detransitioners in a sample of over 3000 patients.

At one point, Cass strays far from her typical appearance of credibility and makes the appalling and poorly evidenced argument that gendered toy preferences might have a biological basis. Such crude essentialism must worry anyone who considers themselves a feminist and rejects the reactionary belief that biology is destiny.

In typically circular reasoning, Cass cites people becoming trans* adults after puberty blockers as evidence that the blockers made them trans*. Likewise, she claims being trans* is linked to mental health conditions, an idea rejected by relevant bodies in psychology. She speculatively delegitimises neurodiverse trans* people's agency, again based on concerns and correlations. And resurrects, albeit unnamed, the long-discredited pseudo-scientific idea that trans* identities are a social contagion (i.e. Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria). It is on such shoddy grounds that Cass is willing to recommend extraordinary attacks on the autonomy of trans* youth. She goes so far as to suggest medicalising social transition, implying that children might need a doctor's approval to go by a new name, adopt new pronouns, or wear specific gendered clothing.

But, the problems in the Cass Review are only secondarily methodological. These faults have a prior basis in transphobia. At the core of the Cass Review is the notion that being trans* is inherently undesirable and that the worst outcome for a trans* child is to become a trans* adult.

This assumption is pervasive, insidious, and dangerous. Trans* existence must be celebrated if trans* people are to be safe. Mere tolerance, always half-hearted, has brought us to this grim point. Tolerance is not only insufficient; it is poison. We remember Jason

Pulman, Charlie Millers, Alice Litman and others who have died while receiving inadequate, dehumanising treatment on the NHS.

Trans* life needs to be embraced and welcomed, not begrudgingly accommodated. Transition should give joy to our society, not be met by mourning as though someone had died. Trans* flourishing should be perceived as necessary for cis flourishing, not as a challenge.

The source of trans* suffering is not being trans* but being oppressed. A trans* member of A*CR testified to the reality of this suffering: “We suffer a lot. Our rates of depression, suicidality, and more general mental illness are a measure of our shared trauma at how we are abused, not who we are.”

The Cass review recommends treating the symptoms of transphobia while perpetuating transphobia. It does so knowing that this treatment is unavailable in the current context of the wider mental health crisis, and especially the appalling state of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). This rubs salt into the wounds of trans* people.

The premise of Cass’s approach is to treat the prevalence of mental health problems among trans* people (especially but not exclusively young trans* people) not as an indication of trans* collective trauma due to oppression but as evidence that being trans* is a pathology.

We are back to the days when homosexuality was considered a mental health problem – trans* edition. Through this report, Cass has become the single most dangerous transphobe in this country.

Without a concerted fightback, her nakedly trans-hostile approach will completely undermine youth access to healthcare and other support. It also has negative ramifications for all trans* people across Britain – and indeed beyond.

A*CR calls for this review to be repudiated in its entirety. We demand complete healthcare access for trans* youth and adults on a co-productive basis that stresses queer bodily autonomy.

We make demands on this government through motions from campaigning organisations and labour movement bodies. We also note that it is shameful that the Labour Party, increasingly portraying themselves as a government in waiting, has prematurely accepted Cass's findings.

It will be essential to get health unions – but also education unions – to take up this fight and adapt the general principles here to their particular circumstances. Every education worker is aware of the precarity of the lives of trans* young people – and of the disastrous state of CAMHS. And all workers in both sectors know that the impact of the years of austerity means the services they want to deliver, are employed to deliver, are at breaking point. Many are

deeply frustrated at the failure of Labour in opposition to commit either resources or vision to change this situation.

Cass means the choice of cis society to tolerate and even encourage trans* death, whether through malice or apathy. Cass means that trans* lives cannot be said to matter in contemporary Britain. Cass denies bodily autonomy to trans* people in parallel to the way that women’s bodily autonomy is denied, particularly through attacks on their reproductive choices. Cass means the social murder of trans* people.

Our alternative – to rewrite another tried and tested slogan, this time of the Women’s Liberation movement – No trans* liberation without socialist revolution! – No socialist revolution without trans* liberation!



Trans* young people are dying and the NHS is covering it up

NJ Catchpole writes about the spike in trans* youth suicide in the wake of cruel changes to trans* healthcare in the UK.

A UK healthcare scandal is emerging that deserves to be headline news. Thanks to the dogged efforts of Jo Maugham's Good Law Project, we now know this: the withdrawal of access to gender-affirming healthcare is killing trans* young people, and the NHS and Hilary Cass (author of the transphobic Cass Review) have obfuscated the facts.

In the seven years before 2020, one young person died while on the waiting list for Gender Identity Development Services (GIDS). In 2020, the outcome of the landmark *Bell v. Tavistock* case led to the NHS freezing prescriptions of puberty blockers to children under the age of sixteen. Since then, at least sixteen young people on the waiting list have died.

"The withdrawal of access to gender-affirming healthcare is killing tran young people, and the NHS and Hilary Cass (author of the transphobic Cass Review) have obfuscated the facts."*

In a thread on X, Jo Maugham reports that a verified NHS whistleblower wrote to both Cass and a director of the Tavistock gender clinic, alerting them to this alarming increase in deaths. Their entreaties were roundly ignored. A second whistleblower has revealed that when staff at the Tavistock planned an open letter expressing their concerns about patient deaths and the ongoing risks, managers threatened them with disciplinary procedures.

“Since 2020, at least sixteen young people on the waiting list for Gender Identity Development Services (GIDS) have died, a stark increase from the single death recorded in the seven years prior.”

In his thread, Maugham provides detailed evidence that the reporting of deaths by suicide in the Tavistock’s board meeting minutes became less clear and precise after 2021, which means it is likely that there have been more than the sixteen that he can identify with confidence. He also notes that this count does not include attempted suicides.

We have previously noted the transphobic bias and murderous negligence of the Cass Review. In the government-commissioned review, Dr Hilary Cass – who has no professional experience of working in trans* healthcare – used a biased selection of evidence to do a hatchet job on every form of care and support for trans* youth that doesn’t effectively amount to conversion therapy.

Among other things, she wrote that there is ‘an extremely narrow window’ for the safe and worthwhile prescription of puberty blockers in young people, even though they have been confidently prescribed to children for decades as a treatment for precocious puberty.

The Good Law Project asked Cass for comment on the spike in suicide rates after the withdrawal of access to puberty blockers, and the apparent cover-up. Cass’s team responded by highlighting paragraph 5.65 of the Review:

5.65 *The Review met with The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust to discuss deaths of patients (where known) who had been referred to or were currently or previously under the care of GIDS. The patients who died by suicide between 2018 and 2023 were described as presenting with multiple comorbidities and/or complex backgrounds. [...]*

While this paragraph acknowledges that young people have died by suicide while on waiting lists, it does not mention the withdrawal of access to puberty blockers, and implies that ‘multiple comorbidities and/or complex backgrounds’ were responsible for the suicides. In other words, this throwaway mention of the deaths of children and young people does not come close to addressing the negligence of the state and the NHS, or the impact of continuing on the current path.

Those of us who are trans* or who move in queer circles know in our bones that waiting lists destroy lives. All of us have seen friends and loved ones crushed by the grinding gears of NHS bureaucracy, by the interminable delays, the faceless gatekeepers, the suspicion and disbelief that permeate the route to essential care. We know that trans* people face insurmountable obstacles to treatments that are routinely offered to cis people.

They are subject to a degree of condescension and dismissal that would not be tolerated in any other area of medicine. When they do manage to clear the initial barriers and access a care pathway, the system treats them as less than human, holding them at arm's length while simultaneously scrutinizing and violating them, body and mind. For children and young people, these hurdles and violations are only part of the suffering being meted out by this cruel system. Without access to puberty blockers, many trans* youth are forced to go through changes to their bodies that they know could lead to needing more drastic medical interventions when they are older. Imagine watching your body change irreversibly in ways you don't want, while being denied access to safe, effective drugs that could slow these changes and give you time to make decisions that will impact the rest of your life. Imagine going through this while trying to manage the emotional and cognitive turbulence that accompanies

every teenager's journey through puberty. Imagine that very distress being used as evidence that you don't know what's best for you. Horror and heartbreak are natural responses to the confirmation that trans* youth suicides have spiked as a result of the withdrawal of access to puberty blockers – but it comes as no surprise. The NHS's attempt to hide and obfuscate the link between withdrawal of services and trans* deaths is disgusting and infuriating – but it is also wholly predictable, given the contempt and disregard for trans* people that decision-makers have repeatedly shown.

“The NHS's attempt to hide and obfuscate the link between withdrawal of services and trans deaths is disgusting and infuriating – but it is also wholly predictable, given the contempt and disregard for trans* people that decision-makers have repeatedly shown.”*

After all, despite the Court of Appeal overturning *Bell v. Tavistock* in 2021, the NHS never reversed its ban on prescribing puberty blockers to under-sixteens. And since the final Cass Review was published in April this year, the government has doubled down on its suppression of care for trans* youth: in May, the health secretary Victoria Atkins banned UK young people from accessing puberty blockers from legitimate prescribers elsewhere in Europe. With no other option remaining, many of these young people will consider buying unregulated drugs online – or, in desperation, ending their own lives.

It is right to grieve, because children and young people have died. It is also right to be enraged, because their deaths are the result of deliberate choices made by the state and the NHS. The state's way of managing trans* healthcare – indeed, of responding to trans* people's very existence – is violence. This violence manifests in myriad ways: the indifferent denial of life-saving healthcare, the aggressive suppression of trans* protest, and the brutal policing of trans* lives.

The Cass Review sanctions the continuation and escalation of this violence against trans* children. Let me say it again: *the Cass Review sanctions violence against children*. It is, as Rowan Fortune so aptly writes, social murder underwritten by the state, and we are seeing the consequences of this permission playing out in our health service and in the lives – and deaths – of trans* youth. So as much as we are grieving, it is time to harness our rage.

The Fight For Trans* Liberation

A statement unanimously adopted at Anti-Capitalist Resistance conference June 2024

Transphobia is endemic in Britain. Gender is mercilessly policed to ensure compliance with the needs of capitalism and to enforce traditional so-called values.

The Conservative Party and the reactionary press lead the charge, in alliance with religious reactionaries and some ‘feminist’ groups who see trans* people as a threat to their views on gender. They whip up hatred and fear of trans* people, something that has already led to pain and murder. Trans* hate crimes reached record levels in 2023. Sixteen-year-old Brianna Ghey was murdered that year. An 18-year-old trans* woman was stabbed repeatedly in February 2024 at a birthday party by four other teenagers.

The hate and violence have to stop, and we need an organised mass movement to show that there is enormous solidarity with the trans* community.

Sadly, Labour is retreating on its commitments around trans* rights and has accepted the findings of the recent transphobic Cass Review despite the report’s credentials being rubbished internationally.

Fears in the community grow that a Labour government led by Keir

Starmer will be no friend to the trans* community and will only continue or even deepen some of the attacks. Recent news that Anneliese Dodd met with LGB Alliance, an aggressive transphobic hate group, is deeply concerning.

A*CR is committed to trans* liberation. This is crucial to any project for a socialist revolution seeking to free all of humanity so that each man, woman and nonbinary person can flourish and develop on their terms in an ecosocialist future of human abundance that nourishes individuality rather than seeks to crush and deny it.

We support people living as they wish and having the medical, social, and psychological care they need to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

We not only welcome trans* voices into the movement that can dream and realise the future but demand their voices be front and centre in the fight for their liberation.

We will be loud advocates of trans* liberation within trade unions, community groups, the Labour Party, and any other forums where we are present.

Those who seek to silence and harm our trans* siblings – including those misguided people also within the left who advocate transphobic views – must be challenged clearly and openly.

We fight for

- The complete repudiation of the Cass Review
- Full healthcare access for trans* youth and adults on a co-productive basis
- The end of all nonconsensual and unnecessary medical interventions on intersex people and their full participation, whether trans* or cis, in the co-production of their healthcare
- Trans* inclusive ban on conversion therapy that acknowledges that transition care is not conversion therapy, and that conversion therapy includes all excessive waits for this healthcare and any form of medical gatekeeping, i.e. making care dependent on diagnoses of gender dysphoria
- CAMHS to receive emergency funding to bring it up to standards befitting its role, and to be reformed also on a co-productive basis
- Nonbinary inclusive, universal, non-medical self-ID.

We wrote these articles in the first half of 2024. The Tory government was in meltdown, and attacks on Trans* people were intensifying: an ongoing assault that was costing Trans* lives.

Following the Tories' decisive electoral defeat and with Labour now in office, the struggle continues for Trans* liberation. Transphobia may have a different slant under Labour, but it is just as pernicious.

We continue to cover the threat to Trans* lives on our website, as we organise against that threat in our communities, in the labour movement and on the streets.

anticapitalistresistance.org

