

What Happens when you Misdiagnose Transgender Conditions?

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Abstract

Recently the United Kingdom Girl Guides Association and the Women's Institute have decided with regret; after some four decades of successful inclusion, to exclude transgender girls and women from their membership because of the new draft EHRC (United Kingdom Equalities and Human Rights Commission) advice; and the recent Supreme Court ruling, which now requires transgender people to use spaces and services, and to join clubs and associations conforming to the gender assigned to them at birth, instead of the gender they identify with in everyday life. Two key issues are tested in this paper. The first asks if transgender conditions are the result of a search for a coherence of identity, or if they are the outcomes of desires for a role or the attractions of sex. And the second asks if the expression of transgender conditions is given by permission or is it a human right? This creates strong and intense disputes; between those who consider it to be a perversion, paraphilia or disruption of the gender role, driven by desires for a role or the attractions of sex: so that fear is created; with consequent threats. Against those who consider transgender conditions to be personality variations; so that gender is a core element of the identity and personality, which is expressed as a coherence of identity with no harm to others and fulfilment of life: Transgender identities are also incongruences; and human rights, since development starts in a variant direction from the outset and no disruption occurs. Many on both sides believe they are right: And, when the motives, timescales and the methods of management for each differ so greatly; it is essential to get the diagnosis correct: Including what happens when populist governments reject key expertise; to pursue "common sense values", and a "woke" approach

My concern over these matters led me from 2011 to conduct an examination into early development, which concentrates on the period from birth to the ages of three to four years. It begins by using the work of René Girard; an anthropologist, in the 1950s and Richard Dawkins; an evolutionary biologist, in the 1970s. Another major influence in the 1990s, is Vittorio Gallese, a neurologist. And the work of many others, including Schore, Dennett, Garrels, Hood, Mitchell, Wrangham, Fordor, and Goldman. Girard based his understanding on the process of imitation, but this is not just the desire to imitate: It is the result of an innate overwhelming force, which dominates from birth and gradually comes under control as the powers of cognition come into increasing effect. By using the processes of possessive imitation, empathy, and inhibition: Girard argues that development proceeds through the interlinking of initially independent and disorganized strands of thought, into more complex components of identity: by which core elements of personality may be formed. In 1976 Richard Dawkins defined a meme as a unit of culture that replicates and spreads from person to person through imitation, teaching, and other forms of communication. Those that are useful replicate strongly and those which are not, diminish: or die out. Individual memes also group together to form larger complexes, where; languages, traditions, scientific theories, or religions can be formed. Gallese confirmed the physiological bases for empathy, imitation and inhibition depends on the action of fundamental, powerful, and innate neural forces, involving "mirror neurons", possessive imitation, empathy, and the like. These are not passive processes. Girard argued that the drive is so strong that only minor influences or variations from very early in life, can trigger the direction of development takes: Where no knowledge of the trigger appears. And these features form the basis of a self-reinforcing process; where it has been said that "*the major challenge to be faced is, not to ask how development proceeds, it is instead to ask how these processes can be held in check*". Freud also recognised the existence of this strong innate force, but because he relied on cognition for his explanation, he had to delay consideration of its impact to between the ages of three to five years. My own studies show how these processes create patterns of neural development, which; from birth, form strong and stable core elements of personality and identity. Where transgender identities are as strongly held as those whose identity aligns with biological sex. Which can last until physical brain injury or dementia destroys the neural structures that give them effect. And because these take place before conscious awareness exists they are also hidden from sight.

In any independent examination it is essential that a comprehensive and impartial study is undertaken. But that does not happen. The actions of the present and former UK Governments, the EHRC and the Supreme Court are examined in this paper. I do not find any serious attempt at an impartial review. And the sole reliance on a gender-critical ideology; which justifies an approach in which sexual motives and cognition alone drive development forward; must also ignore the advances in clinical, medical, scientific and experiential understanding; and the massive changes in neural and cognitive development patterns in the first three years of life. Therefore, it sets the clock back by some 60 years: Instead of identifying transgender conditions as searches for coherence of identity, it identifies them with drives of sex, and instead of identifying transgender behaviour as a personality variation, and a human right, the Supreme Court reduces this to a permission, and motives of sex. In place of an approach which for the last 16 years has sought without problems to maximise the inclusion of transgender people in everyday life, it has moved to one of caution and exclusion instead. After decades of inclusion, Girlguiding, the Women's Institute and many others have felt forced to move to exclusion as well. But perhaps the major concern is that: once again, these changes attribute motives to transgender people that sit alongside those of sexual predators, instead of allies of women in all such fights: And that reversion is taking us back to the long histories of scapegoating and attacks.

Access the full paper at: Gilchrist, S. (2025): "What Happens when you Misdiagnose Transgender Conditions?" <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-WhatHappens.pdf> (Text: 13 pages).

This abstract is available at: Gilchrist, S. (2025): "What Happens when you Misdiagnose Transgender Conditions?: Abstract" <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-WhatHappensAbstract> (Text 1 page) © Susan Gilchrist 2025

Supporting Information: See Also:

Gilchrist, S. (2025): "Transgender Misdiagnoses and Human Rights": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransRights.pdf> (Fully referenced document)

Gilchrist, S: (2025) "Actions of the United Kingdom Supreme Court and the Diagnosis of Transgender Conditions": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransActions.pdf> (Fully referenced document)

Resource Documents

This is one of a series of documents: These are:

Full references and cross references to original sources are given in many of these documents

Gilchrist, S. (2024): "What is a Woman?": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/255P-WhatIsAWoman.pdf> . (Text: 15 pages). This is a document I prepared for intervention in advance of the Supreme Court hearing.

Gilchrist, S. (2025): "What Happens when you Misdiagnose Transgender Conditions?" <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-WhatHappens.pdf> (Text:13 pages).

Gilchrist, S. (2025): "What Happens when you Misdiagnose Transgender Conditions: Abstract" <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-WhatHappensAbstract.pdf> (Text 1 page)

Gilchrist, S. (2025): "Transgender Diagnoses and Issues" www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransgenderIssues (4 pages)

Gilchrist, S: (2025) "A Challenge the Supreme Court Decision and the Revised EHRC Guidance for Transgender Access to Spaces and Services": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransDamage.pdf> (Text 1 page)

Gilchrist, S. (2025) "Why the Supreme Court is Mistaken in its Understanding of Transgender Conditions": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransMisdiagnosis.pdf> (Text 2 pages)

Gilchrist, S: (2025) "Why You should Contest the Supreme Court Decision and the Revised EHRC Guidance for Transgender Access to Spaces and Services": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransContest.pdf> (Text 2 pages)

Gilchrist, S: (2025) "Actions of the United Kingdom Supreme Court and the Diagnosis of Transgender Conditions": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransActions.pdf>. (Text 20 pages)

Gilchrist, S: (2025) "Judgement of the United Kingdom Supreme Court and the Diagnosis of Transgender Conditions": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransJudgement.pdf> . (Text 31 pages: Draft)

Gilchrist, S. (2025): "The Misdiagnosis of Transgender Conditions by the Supreme Court": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransDevelopment.pdf> (Text 3 pages)

Gilchrist, S. (2025) "Transgender Misdiagnoses and Human Rights: Overview" <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransRightsIntro.pdf> (Text 1 page)

Gilchrist, S. (2025) "Transgender Misdiagnoses and Human Rights: Introduction" <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransRightsIntro.pdf> (Text 9 pages)

Gilchrist, S. (2025): "Transgender Misdiagnoses and Human Rights": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransRights.pdf> (Text 14 pages)

The following two documents were submitted to The Parliamentary Women and Equalities Select Committee, and the joint Committee of the House of Commons and the House of Lords on Human Rights in June 2025.

Gilchrist, S: (2025) "Verdict of the United Kingdom Supreme Court: Overview of the Effects of Misdiagnoses and the Independence of the Cass and Sullivan Reports": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransVerdictOverview.pdf> . (2 pages)

Gilchrist, S: (2025) "Verdict of the United Kingdom Supreme Court: The Consequences of Misdiagnoses and the Independence of the United Kingdom Cass and Sullivan Reports": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/256P-TransVerdict.pdf> (50 pages. Draft)

Gilchrist, S. (2022): "No Blacks, No Irish, No Homosexuals, No Transgender People": <https://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/252P-NoBlacks.pdf>

Not all of these documents have been completed: But all have been taken as far as necessary for this study
My full bibliography is available at www.tgdr.co.uk Contact at: sgen4144@gmail.com © Susan Gilchrist 2025