

Women's Institutes' Charitable Objects and Obligations to Society as a Whole

My Personal Thoughts

1. Thank you for getting this far! At this point I would like to reiterate my opening paragraph: current trans women members would be allowed to remain. It would be cruel to deny current fellow members the same levels of friendship and opportunities that I have found in my Women's Institute.
2. However, I do believe the inclusion of trans women has not been fully thought through, and the wider implications for society have not been considered thoroughly. Once again I would like to reiterate that I do not think this has been done deliberately, I firmly think that the members of the Board of Trustees have acted in good faith.
3. I have never identified as a woman, I simply am one, due to the mixture of genetic material at the point of my conception. I have never experienced such intense distress with my body that I would contemplate a lifetime of medication and surgery that is incredibly invasive and irreversible. This does not mean I lack compassion for people who do, nor do I seek to denigrate their experiences, but their experiences are different to mine.
4. I would also like to emphasise that I am using the NFWI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and its Glossary of Terms when referring to trans women. This means anyone who says their inner gender identity is 'woman', is one, and includes those not having hormone therapy or surgery, and with no intention to do so.
5. In my thirties I retrained to be an accounting technician, this appealed to me as I like the certainty that numbers give you. For example, if there is a mistake in a set of accounts, a transposition of numbers on one side, this could be carried through until the final accounts are produced, at this point they won't balance. The numbers have to balance throughout the accounts in order to be a fair and accurate representation of the entity they pertain to. I see this as similar to allowing trans women to join the Women's Institute.
6. If I accept that trans women are women, therefore are eligible to join the Women's Institute, I have to accept this throughout society, otherwise my accounts will not balance. I have to believe any man who states he is a woman is allowed access to the following:
 - a. Women only services for survivors of rape and sexual assault.
 - b. Women only hospital wards, for both physical and psychiatric health.
 - c. Women only prison estate.
 - d. Women's sports categories.

7. Statistics recording the following will also be skewed:

- a. Gender Pay Gap
- b. Disease progression data
- c. Crime statistics

8. These two lists are far from exhaustive but I am sure you get the gist. I have carefully picked them to draw parallels to the WI Mandates from 1918 to 2021^[1]. This is not the letter to go into the reasons, each is important in its own right. They are each worthy of proper discussion independently, but I have briefly elucidated further, in paragraph 10. Any more would detract from my central purpose to request for a moratorium on trans women joining and a proper debate on the matter.

Women's Institutes' Objects and Obligations to Wider Society as Part of Women's Institute Campaigns

9. "The main purposes of the Women's Institute organisation are:

a. To advance the education of women and girls for the public benefit in all areas including (without limitation):

(i) local, national and international issues of political and social importance;

(ii) music, drama and other cultural subjects; and

(iii) all branches of agriculture, crafts, home economics, science, health and social welfare;”^[2]

The objects do not specify that women and girls have to be members to benefit from the advancement.

10. How can the Women's Institute do this when it can not even define what a woman is? It is failing in its charitable Objects. I refer to my short lists in paragraphs 5 and 6.

11. The Women's Institute has campaigned in the past on diverse topics. Here is a list ^[1] of some that I believe are compromised by the National Federation of Women's Institutes policy that sex is assigned at birth, changeable and that an inner gender identity is enough to change a man into a woman:

a. (1) Violence against women and girls. Male violence against women can be officially recorded by police and reported in the media as female violence. ^[3] ^[4]

b. (18) Equal pay for equal work. Men recorded as women will skew any data that is required to reliably determine The Gender Pay Gap, on average men earn more than women.^[5]

- c. (15) Convicted mothers and inappropriate imprisonment. Trans women are now accommodated in the female prison estate, including violent paedophiles.^[6]
- d. (44) Against mixed hospital wards. It is now routine for trans women to be accommodated according to their presentation, and this may not accord with their genitalia, it does not depend on having a Gender Recognition Certificate.^[7]
- e. (58) Sport for a healthy population. In the Tokyo 2020/21 Olympics 43 year old, injured trans woman Laurel Hubbard represented New Zealand in weight lifting, denying natal women the opportunity to compete.^[8]

Conclusion

12. Due to the points raised in this letter I would argue that the National Federation of Women's Institutes is now in an untenable position. Its Objects are under threat, it can not legitimately campaign for women specific issues and Constitutions have been de facto changed without members' consent.

References:

1. https://www.thewi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/558819/NFWI-Mandates-from-1918-to-date-2021.pdf
2. Constitution and Rules for Women's Institutes June 2013
3. https://www.ipso.co.uk/media/1275/guidance_transgender-reporting.pdf
4. https://fairplayforwomen.com/police_record_males_as_female/
5. <https://gender-pay-gap.service.gov.uk/guidance/eight-ways-to-understand-your-organisations-gender-pay-gap/overview>
6. <https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/trans-woman-battered-male-in-mate-28511707>
7. https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/05/NEW-Delivering_same_sex_accommodation_sep2019.pdf
8. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2021/jun/22/by-conflating-gender-and-sex-we-undermine-sporting-competition>