



Frontline Feminists Scotland

WOMEN'S VOICES MATTER

MAYA FORSTATER RULING

STATEMENT

Frontline Feminists Scotland welcomes the ruling that overturned the decision of an Employment Tribunal that Maya Forstater's right to hold gender critical beliefs were not protected against discrimination. This reasserted protection for those who hold gender-critical beliefs.

We commend Maya in her strength and determination to re-establish women's voices in this debate. For too long women have justifiably been fearful that gender ideology was so supported by the establishment, that speaking out would mean careers, reputations and services being put at risk, particularly in the violence against women's movement.

Violence against women services in Scotland hold a variety of views on gender ideology and although all workers recognise the need for services for the transgender community, we continue to recognise the need for single sex services for women and children who experience male violence and abuse. We believe it is only through debate and discussion that both communities can be appropriately supported. Until such times we see no evidence to suggest the needs of women and children have changed and therefore single sex services, protected under the Equality Act, should continue.

We expect our elected representatives to apply this judgement when reviewing existing and future policy and legislation. Frontline Feminists Scotland believe that violence against women services have been misrepresented by National groups and in effect have been silenced.

We believe that elected representatives would do well to reach into their communities for open discussions with direct service providers. This ruling now provides an atmosphere of openness, reducing the fears of those who wish to protect the direct services that save the lives of women and children.

We end this statement with an acknowledgement to Maya and her team. We commend your strength, we recognise the ongoing battle you have and we stand by you in solidarity.