

Email 1 to library re Proposed Transphobic Event 14th March 2023

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I am writing to express concerns about an event which is being put on at Portobello library. Although described as a community meeting the goal of this event is to spread transphobic misinformation and to encourage members of the community to take action that will endanger the safety of trans and gender-nonconforming children and young people. Given the recent murder of a transgender teenager, this is cynically timed.

The individual organising the event has targeted the local school, standing at the school gates to distribute highly offensive leaflets despite being told this isn't welcome or acceptable behaviour in school grounds. Local police were involved. Leaflets are being distributed in local businesses without permission or awareness from business owners. This is aggressive and troubling behaviour that targets children and families. Inciting hatred against a group of individuals with protected characteristics is also a hate crime under new regulations due to come into effect shortly.

The organiser, Marie Mamulova is a known gender critic who has been targeting families of 'highly sensitive children' (autistic) for some time. The invited speaker, Maggie Mellon is another known gender critic who uses her social media to spread hate such as retweets from Posie Parker, whose rallies have recently included the reading of passages from Mein Kampf.

The event is being publicised with a public library as the venue, alongside inflammatory transphobic language, and I have concerns about the safety of families attending the library. Now that The Times have run an inflammatory piece about the event, I am worried a great deal about library staff being placed in such a position, particularly those who are part of the LGBT+ community. This doesn't in any way seem like an equal or respectful conversation.

The same event has already been pulled from another local venue and is not welcome in Portobello.

Thank you for your consideration of keeping our community safe.

[Include borrower number if you have one]