

Good evening

We have been made aware that a discussion and vote took place at your committee meeting on 21 January 2025 as to whether WRN should be able to provide oral evidence to this Inquiry. Reference was made by the Chair to an invite sent to us to give evidence which we had not responded to.

With apologies, we have been able to establish that this email was sent to our central group email and was not passed on to us at the time. As stressed below, we are volunteer-led and rely on the goodwill and (limited) resource of our members to organise.

We are grateful that the opportunity to provide written evidence is still open to us and will be availing of it. May we also ask that this WRN NI email address, [ni\\_wrn@womensrights.network](mailto:ni_wrn@womensrights.network) be added to your stakeholder list.

Thank you to the Chair for directing committee members to consider the contents of our email below, in the interim.

We will provide our briefing as soon as possible.

Please note that the release of the WRN NI Report on Approaches to Decisions Regarding Gender Decisions Regarding Distressed or Questioning Children and Young People in Schools has unfortunately been delayed, but will also be shared as soon as possible.

**Kind regards,**

**Women's Rights Network Northern Ireland**

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*Representing women from all over Northern Ireland*



On 2025-01-15 01:20, [ni\\_wrn@womensrights.network](mailto:ni_wrn@womensrights.network) wrote:

Good morning

We understand that you will be discussing the effectiveness, inclusivity and alignment of current Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) teaching in schools at Committee today.

Our apologies that this is arriving so close to the session but we only became aware of this consultation very recently, and wanted to ensure that we had provided some of our insight ahead of this briefing session.

Whilst this is not a formal submission of evidence, we will shortly be launching the WRN NI Report on Approaches to Decisions Regarding Gender Decisions Regarding Distressed or Questioning Children and Young People in Schools. We will send this to you as soon as this is finalised, which will be before the end of next week.

If there is the opportunity, we would also be happy to provide written and oral evidence to the Committee.

In the interim, we thought it would be useful (although we appreciate extensive) background material to consider.

## **Gender Ideology**

When considering education on gender identity, we would direct you to the following resources, although this list is not exhaustive:

- [Safe Schools Alliance](#): Safe Schools Alliance UK is a grassroots organisation which campaigns to uphold child safeguarding in schools.
- [Transgender Trend](#): a UK organisation advocating for an evidence-based social and clinical approach towards children who self-identify as transgender, and science-based teaching in schools.
- [Cass Review](#): Independent Review of gender identity services for children and young people. When families/carers are making decisions about social transition of pre-pubertal children, services should ensure that they can be seen as early as possible by a clinical professional with relevant experience.
- Note should also be taken of the [implications for schools and colleges of the Cass Review](#)
- [Asleep at the Wheel](#): Policy Exchange Examination of Gender and Safeguarding in School
- [Project Stark](#): a blog casingt a spotlight on instances of indoctrination to help put a stop to it.
- [Genspect](#): an international, non-partisan, interdisciplinary organization committed to promoting a healthy, evidence-based approach to sex and gender. [This article specifically](#) is of import.

## **Porn**

[Culture Framed](#) is an excellent resource on the dangers of porn, including such articles as [this one](#) on Pornified Media on Youth. Of particular note is the [porn-critical sex education curriculum](#) which is completely free and contains teaching modules, lesson plans, and digital media literacy sessions.

A particular concern we would highlight is on the teaching of any "safe" strangulation in RSE programs. Culture Framed has been culminating research on the rise of this dangerous behavior among teens and have published articles and factsheets for your review. Porn encourages strangulation and promotes "choking," which is considered "non-fatal strangulation" in the medical profession. The neurological consequences can include unconsciousness, brain injury, seizure, motor and speech disorders, memory loss, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

[This article](#) is useful in understanding the degree of free choice women and girls in particular feel about engaging in these practices.

Any guidance to school children which attempts to inform how to "safely" engage in this or any other violent sexual practices is directly akin to recommending "safely" using illegal applications for controlled substances.

## **Sex Work**

For absolute completeness, and mainly because [some universities have published student sex work toolkits](#), RSE material should not glamorise or normalise prostitution, or any of the [gateways to it such as Only Fans](#). This article is useful in explaining why [sex work is not work](#).

## **ABOUT WRN NI**

The women of [WRN](#) - a nationwide network of cross community, grassroots groups - are committed to free speech and to putting the sex based needs of women and girls first.

We started out in Northern Ireland in 2022 as a small group of volunteers who were concerned that the reality of biology was not consistently prioritised in Northern Irish policy, legislation and practice. This was despite being fortunate enough to have a vast network of organisations in NI with the same overriding aims and goals – protecting women and women's rights, and with huge successes already under their belt.

As a volunteer-led grassroots network with limited resources we will strive to make ourselves available to engage in future consultation on this, or any other policy changes which affect women and girls (of whichever age, ethnic origin, disability, religion, social background and sexual orientation).

**Kind regards,**

**Women's Rights Network Northern Ireland**

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