

We, the National Education Union LGBT+ Organising Forum and other signatories, stand strongly against the message of support of FiLiA shared publicly by our joint General Secretary Kevin Courtney on the 13th July 2022.

On this date, at 4:56 pm BST, Kevin Courtney tweeted the following:

I've just become a friend of Filia.

*"FiLiA runs the largest annual grassroots feminist conference in Europe. We are a Women-led Volunteer organisation and part of the Women's Liberation Movement."*¹

This tweet was posted from his official account [@cyclingkev](#), where his affiliation to the National Education Union is made clear in his twitter handle (name), profile photo and cover photo, and his NEU job title is openly shared in the description at the top of his page². Therefore, it is clear that tweets from this account are made in a Union capacity rather than in a personal capacity.

FiLiA is a charity which does some great work for women's rights across the world. However, as part of their campaigning, they also work to diminish the rights and recognition of trans women. Their website describes gender identity as "a patriarchal mechanism to justify the subjugation of women in order to benefit the domination of men"³. They believe that the idea that people have a gender identity is "to hold women and girls responsible for our own oppression"⁴. To be clear, denying the existence of gender identity is to negate the existence of trans and non-binary identities - which FiLiA describe as "invented labels"⁵. FiLiA claim that trans rights are "demands"⁶, and they campaign against and deride the work of both *Amnesty International* and *Liberty* in calling for the safety and protection of trans people⁷.

NEU policy, as voted on democratically by the National Education Union Annual Conference, is in support of the full and equal rights of trans and non-binary people in society. In line with the passing of Motion 22: Pride in our Union at the 2021 Annual Conference, the NEU "supports and endorses trans and non-binary identities", and this motion instructs the executive to "use the Union's presence in the media to challenge transphobia, in line with Union policy, and to support trans and non-binary identities."⁸ Commenting on the passing of Motion 22: Pride in our Union at the 2021 Annual Conference, Kevin Courtney himself said "In the last few years, it's become more widely understood how commonly trans workers face discrimination at work and harassment in public spaces"⁹ He further commented, to which we wholeheartedly agree, that "we've got to assert that...transphobic discrimination doesn't go unnoticed or unchallenged."¹⁰

¹ <https://twitter.com/cyclingkev/status/1547248535422353409>

² <https://twitter.com/cyclingkev>

³ <https://www.filia.org.uk/topics>

⁴ <https://www.filia.org.uk/topics>

⁵ <https://www.filia.org.uk/latest-news/2022/01/04/how-to-fight-an-almost-impossible-war>

⁶ <https://www.filia.org.uk/latest-news/2020/5/16/protected-lets-talk-about-trans-rights?rq=demands>

⁷ <https://www.filia.org.uk/latest-news/2020/5/16/protected-lets-talk-about-trans-rights?rq=demands>

⁸ Report of Second Annual Conference Held Online 7 to 9 April 2021, p.35

<https://neu.org.uk/annual-conference-2022-information>

⁹ <https://neu.org.uk/press-releases/pride-our-union>

¹⁰ <https://neu.org.uk/press-releases/pride-our-union>

It is becoming increasingly clear that repeated actions by certain officers in the Union—such as the actions of the Officers Steering Group in voting for Debbie Hayton in the TUC LGBT+ elections 2020, without consultation with either the conference delegation, or wider LGBT+ members—are affecting the reputation of the Union. Recently, Trans Pride Brighton were reluctant to allow the NEU to participate and hold a stall due to concerns that the Union are institutionally transphobic. LGBT+ Organising Forum members are met with suspicion and disdain in TUC spaces due to NEU having the reputation as a transphobic union. At TUC LGBT+ Conference 2022, NEU delegates fought hard to change this reputation, with our overwhelming support—in line with NEU policy—of all the trans-inclusive motions: our submitted motion calling for the support of trans and non-binary workers included a call on the TUC to “continue to publicly challenge organisations that seek to create hostility for trans and non-binary rights in the UK”, and was selected by ballot to go forward to TUC Congress¹¹. However, we fear that this tweet will be a step backwards due to the hypocrisy of an elected official openly supporting organisations such as FiLiA.

It is in breach of union policy and wholly unacceptable for an elected official to use their Union platform to share views which support or champion an organisation that contributes to the harassment of trans and non-binary members of the Union.

We call on Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary of the National Education Union, to delete the tweet referenced above and associated retweet made at 4:58 pm on Jul 13 2022, and to no longer use his Union affiliated account to post in support of FiLiA, or any other transphobic organisations. We also ask that he publishes a statement clarifying the Union’s position of support for its trans and non-binary members.

(to sign, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/zcTYgXSbFLdfjZF7>)

Signed by

LGBT+ Organising Forum

1. Kacey de Groot (Coventry) - NEU Exec LGBT+ Seat
2. Hiten Shah (Hertfordshire)
3. Katie Reynolds (Durham)
4. Pauly Etheraads (Hastings)
5. Kerry Goldsmith (Milton Keynes)
6. Kelcie Atkins (City of Derby)
7. Rebecca Sheffield (Birmingham)
8. Mairi Bell (Manchester)
9. Vanessa Nelson (Bury)
10. Nyika Suttie (North Somerset)
11. Ben Dolata (Bury)
12. Melissa Hind (Kensington and Chelsea)
13. Michael Dance (Redbridge)
14. Kathryn Barnes (Birmingham)

¹¹ <https://prospect.org.uk/news/recapping-tuc-lgbt-conference>

15. Vonni Hardman (Durham)
16. Adam Mclvor (Walsall)
17. Melanie Bouyer (Plymouth)

Groups

- NEU LGBT+ Trans and Non-Binary Network
- NEU LGBT+ Black Educators Network
- NEU LGBT+ Womens' Network
- NEU London LGBT+ Network

NEU Members

18. Denise Henry (Lambeth) - NEU Exec Black Seat
19. Jo Morgan (South East)
20. Jacob Hurt (South East)
21. Michael-Israel Jarvis (Norfolk)
22. Victoria Cleary-Symonds (Croydon)
23. Nathaniel Threlfall Searsom (City of Leicester)
24. Desmond Moffatt (Eastern) - Rep
25. Jane Bassett (Hackney) - Officer
26. Sarah Byrne (London)
27. Pablo Phillips (Waltham Forest) - Joint District Secretary
28. Jack Elliot (Newham)
29. Kate Mayer (Leeds)
30. Vik Chechi-Ribeiro (Manchester) - District President
31. Daniel James Coletta (Bolton)
32. Inbar Tamari (Hackney) - District President
33. Chris Denson (Coventry)
34. Karen (Birmingham)
35. Nicky Downes (Coventry) - Joint District and Branch Secretary,
Executive member
36. Tomasz Guzowski (Westminster)
37. Amit Ratnaparkhi (Barking)
38. Martin Ross (Portsmouth) - Workplace Rep
39. Gabrielle Taylor-Wills (East Hertfordshire) - District LGBT+ Officer
40. Chloe James (Hertfordshire)
41. Debs Gwynn (Halton) - National Exec
42. Mark McCarthy (Milton Keynes)
43. Paul McGarr (Tower Hamlets) - Local Officer and Workplace Rep
44. Carly Slingsby (Hackney)
45. Kayleigh Cassidy (Hillingdon)
46. Kristin Connell (Buckinghamshire)
47. Emma Lock (Birmingham)
48. Jordan Bonner (London)
49. Neil Dhanda (Redbridge) - Workplace Rep
50. Tamara Ingamells (Oxfordshire)
51. Sara Ann Hope (Hounslow) - District LGBT+ Officer and Vice
President
52. Zoë Tweddle (Yorkshire and Humber)

53. Cecilia Astolfi (South Essex)
54. Gaël Sauvajon (Lambeth)
55. Marthe Broadhurst (South West)
56. Rebecca Leather (Manchester)
57. Sally Kincaid (Wakefield) - Joint District Secretary
58. Robert Young (Birmingham)
59. Christopher Hartland (Calderdale)
60. Peter Roberts (North East Hampshire)
61. Benjamin Guy (Sheffield) - District Treasurer
62. Gavin Terry (Brent)
63. Nusrat Sultana (West Midlands)
64. John Stephens (Waltham Forest) - Workplace Rep and District Campaigns Officer
65. Caleb Anderson (Sefton / Merseyside)
66. Imogen Paternoster (Coventry)
67. Alex Mees (Lewisham) - Workplace Rep
68. Abbie Sedgeman (Tower Hamlets)
69. James Kerr (Lewisham) - Assistant District Secretary
70. Murray Sackwild (West Essex) - Secretary Essex Branch & West Essex District, NEC District 9
71. Duncan Morrison (Lewisham) - Joint Branch Secretary
72. Silvia Barber (Lewisham) - National Exec Member
73. Chloe Scaling (Liverpool)
74. Stefanie Feltwell (Lewisham) - District Health and Safety Rep
75. Leo Nikolaidis (South Gloucestershire) - School Rep, International Solidarity Officer
76. Saffron Law (South West)
77. Andrew Moore (Newham) - Workplace Rep
78. Teresa Clark (Lewisham) - Committee Member
79. Will Yates (Hillingdon)
80. Neha Shah (Haringey) - Black Members Committee
81. Katie Robinson (Nottinghamshire)
82. Sheila Caffrey (Bristol) - National Executive Member
83. Andrew North (Birmingham)
84. Despina Mavrou (Islington)
85. Louise Lewis (Kirklees) - National Executive Member
86. Keren Townsend (North Somerset) - SEND Organising Forum Member
87. Sheena Wheatley (Nottingham) - Exec member + Joint Branch District Sec
88. Edward Squire (Sheffield) - School Health and Safety Representative
89. Theo Whitworth (Southwark) - District President
90. Jane Nellist (Coventry) - Health and Safety Organising Forum
91. Natalie Baron (St Helens)
92. Thomas E-J (Leicestershire)
93. Noelle Dallas (Bristol) - South West NPYW representative and Bristol NPYW officer
94. Cormac Kelly (Kirklees)

95. Calvin Cumiskey (Brighton and Hove)
96. Graham White (West Suffolk)
97. Bethany Aldridge (Manchester)
98. Eric Bateson (North Somerset) - District Treasurer
99. Gill Goodswen (Kirklees) - Past President 2010-2011 of the NUT
100. Adam Mosley (West Midlands)
101. Annette Pryce (Oxfordshire) - Former LGBT+ Exec Member
102. Daniel Peake (Kingston) - International Solidarity Officer, School Rep
103. Claire Thomas (Sheffield)
104. Hannah Markham (Southwark)
105. Lucy Harding (North West)
106. Chay Brown (Greenwich)
107. Dennis Charman (Hammersmith and Fulham) - District International Solidarity Officer
108. Jodie Mallier-Ridley (Coventry) - District Officer
109. Chris Ptohides (Southwark)
110. Kristabelle Williams (Lewisham)
111. Danielle Kirton (South Yorkshire)
112. Tom Bolton (Bristol) - Joint Branch and District Secretary
113. Miriam Scharf (Newham) - District International Solidarity Officer
114. Georgia Lennon (Sheffield) - Workplace Rep
115. Sue Wedlock (Shropshire)
116. Melissa Jane (Cambridge) - Workplace Rep
117. Martin Powell-Davies (Lancaster and Morecambe) - Supply Teachers' Organising Forum
118. Emma Gaylor (Coventry)
119. Cel Smith (Lambeth)
120. Michael Holland (Lambeth) - District Assistant Secretary
121. John Whitney (London)
122. Stefan Shanker (Lambeth)
123. Laura Paine (Kingston Upon Thames)
124. Joe Bengé (Islington)
125. Kirstie Paton (Southwark) - District Membership Secretary
126. Rose Cappello (Haringey)
127. Ben Egan (London)
128. Adam Robertson (Sheffield)
129. Emma (London)
130. Kieran Picken (Derby City)
131. Mary Cave (Durham)
132. Louisa McCabe (Devon) - District LGBT+ Rep
133. Richard Woffenden (Kirklees)
134. Doug Morgan (Birmingham) - District Assistant Secretary
135. Heather Ball (Wakefield)
136. Nick Mineiro (Newham)
137. Alyssa Kidger (Leicester)
138. Terri-Ceres de Roche-Puckerin (Camden)
139. Flo Avery (South Glos) - SEND Organising Forum Representative

- 140. Jess Edwards (Lambeth) - National Executive
- 141. Sian (Lewisham)
- 142. Judy Cox (Tower Hamlets and City) - School Rep
- 143. David Anderson (Hammersmith and Fulham) - Joint District Secretary
- 144. Ashiqa Khemchand (Enfield)
- 145. Sayyada Dharsee (Haringey)
- 146. Ciara Ansley (Bromley)
- 147. Samantha Hughes (Islington)
- 148. Donna Summerson (Durham) - Disabled Members Organising Forum and District Disabled Members Officer
- 149. Emma Davis (Sheffield) - Incoming Vice President
- 150. Emma Anderson (Hammersmith and Fulham) - Branch Vice President and District Equalities (LGBT+) Officer
- 151. Stefan Simms (Ealing) - District & Branch Secretary & National Executive
- 152. Leigh Seedhouse (Oxfordshire) - District Secretary
- 153. Stuart Robinson (Oxfordshire) - Joint District and Branch secretary
- 154. Shaun Doherty (Oxfordshire) - Committee Member
- 155. Elizabeth Bates (Wandsworth) - School Rep and Wandsworth Committee Member
- 156. Cat Ward (Hertfordshire)
- 157. Mary (Worcestershire)
- 158. Robert Nixon (Oxfordshire) - Oxfordshire District Member for Young Teachers
- 159. Phoebe Savage (Tower Hamlets)
- 160. George Hardy (West Essex)
- 161. Raya Cave (East Kent)
- 162. Naoise McGeer-Letson (London East)
- 163. Bob Sulatycki (Hammersmith and Fulham) - Committee
- 164. Clare Maloney (Hammersmith & Fulham) - Retired Teachers Officer
- 165. Amira (LBHF)
- 166. Jeremy Atkinson (Bury)
- 167. Mireille Glossop (Hammersmith and Fulham)
- 168. Kieran Dodds (Lewisham)
- 169. Nathan Cardwell (Hammersmith and Fulham)
- 170. Sean Marsh (Luton)
- 171. Tabitha McIntosh (Harrow)
- 172. Jessica Bartholomew-Smythe (West Kent)
- 173. Sue sanders (South East)
- 174. Emily Jones (South West)
- 175. Jon White (Wiltshire)
- 176. Jennifer Bhambri-Lyte (North Somerset) - Chair of CLF branch
- 177. Ted Powell (North Somerset) - Vice President of North Somerset
- 178. Michaela Wilde (Bristol) - District President, CLF Branch Sec, SSNC,

- 179. Sam Lewin (Somerset) - LGBTQ+ District Officer
- 180. Jon Reddiford (North Somerset) - National executive, district secretary, school rep
- 181. Duncan Little (Hammersmith) - District Treasurer
- 182. Richard Woffenden (Kirklees) - District Treasurer
- 183. Lauren Boal (Brighton & Hove)
- 184. Donna Jackson (Lambeth)
- 185. Amy Warner Challis (South West)
- 186. Rachel Jones (Hammersmith and Fulham)
- 187. Amanda Bentham (Tower Hamlets and the City) - Workplace Rep
- 188. Wilinton Garzón (Lambeth) - Workplace Rep
- 189. Nimerta Virdee (Gateshead) - Northern Region Black Members
OF
- 190. Hannah Elvidge (Leeds)
- 191. Samantha Luck (Lewisham)
- 192. Foo Wah Wong (Croydon)
- 193. Lisa Hostick (Waltham Forest) - Lay rep
- 194. Max Toynbee (Lambeth)
- 195. Colleen Johnson (Worcestershire) - NEU Exec Disabled Members
Seat Holder
- 196. Michael Barnes (Birmingham)
- 197. Julia Neal (Devon) - National Executive , TUC LGBTQ+ Committee.
- 198. Samantha Budrik (Sandwell)
- 199. Mary Kerr (East Kent) - Joint District Equalities Officer
- 200. Claire Lynch (Isle of Wight)
- 201. Claire Boardman (Lambeth)
- 202. Rachael Whitehouse (Croydon)
- 203. Alexandra Summerson (Durham) - District Disabled Member's
Officer
- 204. Tom Oberst (Croydon)
- 205. Simon O'Hara (Warwickshire) - District treasurer
- 206. Andrea Croce (Hounslow) - Chair of Professional Unity
- 207. Cameron Lane (Medway) - School Rep
- 208. Georgina Edwards (Warwickshire)
- 209. Mike Gurney (Devin) - District Officer, Branch President
- 210. Emily Goatman (Devon)
- 211. John Sawyer (Redbridge) - Primary rep branch committee
- 212. Simon Murch (Sheffield) - Joint Secretary, Sheffield NEU &
National Executive
- 213. Pippa Dowswell (Islington) - Assistant Secretary
- 214. Robert Bowden (Islington)
- 215. Claire Stubbs (Coventry)
- 216. Ryan Terri (Hammersmith & Fulham) - District Membership Officer
- 217. Zuzana Rodak-Drapalova (North West)
- 218. Lea Baynes (Kent)
- 219. Claire Hawk (Warwickshire)
- 220. David Fox (South East)

221. Charlotte Lawrence (Portsmouth) - Joint Branch and District Secretary
222. Roger King (Birmingham) - Joint District Treasurer and a member of Birmingham District Local Committee.
223. Niall Murray (Brighton and Hove)
224. Rebecca Cann (Staffordshire) - District and branch secretary elect
225. Sara Tomlinson (Lambeth) - District Secretary
226. Alasdair Smith (Haringey) - Assistant District Secretary Haringey NEU
227. Simon Murch (Sheffield) - Joint Secretary Sheffield NEU & National Executive
228. Paul Topley (Havering)
229. Julie Chase (West Essex) - SEND

Non-NEU Allies

230. Lucy Quinn
231. Floyd Codlin
232. Jaz Sakura-Rose
233. Chris Porter - Young Person's Advisory Service- GYRO- LGBTQ+ Youth
234. Katy Montgomerie
235. L Viner
236. Tristan Harvey
237. Gee-Laurie Havers
238. Bobbi King - Trans Central
239. Lili Harvey - No More Exclusions
240. Ian Brown
241. Vanessa Barber-Miller
242. Laura Leigh
243. Jennifer Clifford
244. Andrea Maynard - Trans Radio UK