

4th October 2022

Dear Charity Commission,

1. I would like to make the complaint that *The Conversation UK* (1151436) is not doing what it claims to do. In my view, they have failed to investigate politically partisan content, which is unsupported by evidence, and published as part of their website for UK viewers.
2. It is my considered opinion, that their article “Why ‘rapid-onset gender dysphoria’ is bad science”

<https://theconversation.com/why-rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-is-bad-science-92742>

breaks *The Conversation UK*’s charitable goals, “...promoting for the public benefit: the advancement of education” and their charter items, to:

3. “Inform public debate with knowledge-based journalism that is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence.”
4. “Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias”.¹
5. I have attempted to complain to *The Conversation* as an organisation, who issued a two-sentence reply (paragraphs 31, 32 of this complaint) and did not attempt any investigation into whether their charter items had been broken. I then specifically tried to contact *The Conversation UK* who have not answered my complaint.
6. Accordingly, I now address my complaint to the Charity Commission, that *The Conversation UK* has failed to do what they claim to do as a UK charity. I would consider a successful outcome of this complaint as either the article being made inaccessible for a UK audience, or the article removed.
7. Please could you also refer to my previous complaint on this topic, with reference number CRM:0467599, as it contains further background information to the points I raise.
8. It is incidental to my main complaint, but I draw attention to the final paragraphs of the article in question, published in 2018:

Gender-affirmative therapy’s motto is: “Follow the child.” If that means following them to social transition and, in due time, medical transition, then so be it. But only if that’s what they truly want.

Transgender children [sic] are in good hands. Therapists aren’t acting hastily in ignorance of scientific evidence. On the contrary, their approach is one that’s been built over decades of research and of following trans children.

9. We are now in the situation in 2022 where the GIDS has been closed, and Dr Hilary Cass, the chair of the independent review into gender identity services for young people, writes about the reality of the situation:

¹ <https://theconversation.com/uk/charter>

Primary and secondary care clinicians have reported to the Review that they are nervous about seeing children and young people with gender-related distress because of lack of evidence and guidance about appropriate management, and the toxicity of the societal debates.

Some clinicians also reported feeling unable to undertake the process of assessment and differential diagnosis that would be the norm in their clinical practice because they perceived that there is an expectation of an unquestioning affirmative approach. They felt that this was at odds with a more open and holistic evaluation of the factors underpinning the young person's presentation, and consideration of the full range of possible support and treatment options.²

10. This is the harm that is created through the publishing politically partisan and misleading content around this issue.
11. The main subject of my complaint is that the following lines, labelled under a) and b) are untrue, and break *The Conversation UK's* charter and charitable objectives to publish content that is "supported by evidence", "free ... of political bias":
12. a) "Blanchard's theory [of autogynephilia] has since been put to rest by careful analyses and scientific studies. Despite being discredited, the theory remains popular among opponents of transgender rights."
13. b) "It [Rapid-onset gender dysphoria theory] conveniently pulls on heartstrings by calling us to defend our children, much as Blanchard's work appealed to our sexual puritanism. It distinguishes "good," true transgender people from "bad," fake trans people, allowing proponents to claim that they have nothing against trans people — well, at least the real ones."
14. *The Conversation UK* does not make a geographical distinction for its content, and a UK reader searching for the term "autogynephilia" on the address

<https://theconversation.com/uk/search?q=autogynephilia>

will receive the misinformation in the article. I note that at the time of accessing the article, it is accompanied with the advertisement, "Don't let yourself be misled, understand issues with help from experts".

Regarding lines a) it is untrue that the two-type theory of male transsexualism: of autogynephilic and homosexual³ has been "discredited". The authors might dispute the two-type theory, but to present it as "discredited" to the UK public is misleading.

15. The Charity Commission's own judgement from my previous complaint CRM:0467599, which also deals with this topic, characterises the discussion as the following:

² "Review of gender identity services for children and young people", Cass, H. M. D. *BMJ* 2022: 376 <<https://www.bmj.com/content/376/bmj.o629>>

³ "The Classification and labelling of nonhomosexual gender dysphorias". Blanchard, R., Ph. D. *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 18(4) 315-334 p. 324.

We note the evidence you have put forward from various professionals but it seems to the Commission that the issues raised are matters that are unsettled and are subject to debate, interpretation and disagreement.

16. I would rather characterise this issue as part of documented attempt of activists to suppress research.⁴ However it is enough for the purposes of my complaint against the *The Conversation UK*, that if the Commission can see that this issue is “subject to debate, interpretation and disagreement” then it must come to the position that the article is partisan, and that *The Conversation UK* is failing in their charitable goals to present the full story around this matter, “free ... of political bias”, instead falsely characterising the matter as settled: “put to rest” ; “discredited”.
17. The sentence links to two studies, “Autogynephilia in Women”⁵ and “The Case against Autogynephilia”⁶ to justify the comment that it “put the theory to rest”, despite rebuttals being freely available.⁷ I think were *The Conversation UK* to have attempted to look into my complaint, they would see that what they are publishing is not appropriate for an organisation that models its content on university research. Asserting an opinion with a source that agrees with that opinion, and presenting that opinion to the public as fact, ignoring all other sources, is not “...promoting for the public benefit: the advancement of education”. It is the opposite.
18. Regarding lines b), I am a layperson, but I am able to read research myself, and I can see that the sentences “Blanchard’s work appealed to our sexual puritanism. It distinguishes “good,” true transgender people from “bad,” fake trans people” are untrue. In fact, Blanchard says the opposite:

The implications of the present findings and those summarized above remain to be considered. Surgical outcome studies have shown that “trans-vestitic” or “secondary” transsexuals may profit as well from sex reassignment as the idealized “true” or “primary” transsexual (Bentler, 1976; Laub and Fisk, 1974). The implications of the above findings, therefore, are for etiological research rather than clinical management.⁸

19. Blanchard does not see that recognising there are two types of male transsexual means they should be treated differently from a clinical perspective; certainly not that there are “good” and “bad”. The authors assertions are unsupported by evidence, breaking *The Conversation UK*’s charter item that says it journalism “is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence”.
20. But why does understanding the truth behind the etiology of male gender dysphoria matter? Because the situation we are in now, is that in order to deny the truth behind the etiology, and in many cases, their own condition, activists have promoted and established the fantasy of gender dysphoria as somehow being related to a “trapped gender identity”,⁹ and while this

4 *Galileo’s Middle Finger*, Dreger, A., (Penguin, 2015) pp. 65-66.

5 “Autogynephilia in Women”. Moser, C. *Journal of Homosexuality* 56(5) 539-47

6 “The Case Against Autogynephilia” Serano, J. *International Journal of Transgenderism* 12(3) 176-187.

7 “Something Resembling Autogynephilia in Women: Comment on Moser”, Lawrence, A. Ph. D., *Journal of Homosexuality* 57(1) 1-4.

8 “Typology of male-to-female transsexualism”, Blanchard, R. Ph. D., *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 14, 247-261. 1985. p. 257.

9 *Galileo’s Middle Finger*, Dreger, A., (Penguin, 2015) pp. 65-66.

fantasy is attractive to activists, it is a fantasy that is proving harmful to children, especially girls.

21. In 2010-11, the number of referrals of children to the GIDS was 134 in England, by 2020-21 the number of referrals was at 2,242, with the number of girls being referred nearly double that of boys.¹⁰ My complaint CRM:0467599 details the way in which the fantasy of “gender identity” is harmful to children.
22. I was disappointed with the outcome of complaint CRM:0467599, but the issue has not disappeared. I hope that the Charity Commission can grasp the issues that I raise, and raise the issue with *The Conversation UK* so that this article can be removed, or be made inaccessible to a UK audience.

Yours,
AA

Mar 15, 2021

Dear The Conversation,


23. I would like to point out that the article

<https://theconversation.com/why-rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-is-bad-science-92742>

24. Does not follow the following charter items:
25. - Inform public debate with knowledge-based journalism that is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence.
26. - Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias.
27. Specifically the following paragraph has no basis in research and is partisan: “Blanchard’s theory [of autogynephilia] has since been put to rest by careful analyses and scientific studies. Despite being discredited, the theory remains popular among opponents of transgender rights.”
28. The theory of autogynephilia has in no way been “discredited”. Since Blanchard's original research, Anne Lawrence, herself a self-described autogynephilic transsexual, covered autogynephilia extensively using primary accounts of males with autogynephilia in “Men Trapped in Men's Bodies”.
29. The “scientific studies” cited points to a questionnaire conducted by Charles Moser, who was subsequently criticised by Anne Lawrence. You simply cannot read “Men Trapped in Men's Bodies” and come to the conclusion that this is a phenomenon also experienced by women.

30. 

¹⁰ Referrals to GIDS, financial years 2010-11 to 2020-21. <<https://gids.nhs.uk/number-referrals>>



Yours sincerely,
Autogynephilia Anonymous.

March 22, 2021

Dear Autogynephiliaanonymous,

31. Research studies are often criticized, updated and built upon over time, and, as you point out, researchers can have differing perspectives on the same topic.
32. We encourage our readers to leave comments that meet our community guidelines.

March 23, 2021

Dear H 

33. This is not a case of having a differing opinion, it is a case of an article breaking your charter items:
34. - Inform public debate with knowledge-based journalism that is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence.
35. - Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias.
36. The article says that Blanchard's theory has been “put to rest by careful analysis” ... “Despite being discredited”. This is untrue.
37. The definition of “autogynephilia” remains in the DSM-5, it has not been “discredited”. The concept has been built upon by Anne Lawrence's, with the book “Men Trapped in Men's Bodies” (2003), which covers many primary accounts of males with autogynephilia.

38. 

39. The article does not inform, but intends to mislead the public regarding the concept of autogynephilia. It is not free of political bias.

Kind regards,
Autogynephilia Anonymous

April 7, 2021.

Dear H  support team,

40. It has been two weeks since I contacted you.

41. Please could you escalate this issue, as I haven't received a reply.

Kind regards
Autogynephilia Anonymous.

April 23, 2021 ([REDACTED]@theconversation.com)

Dear S [REDACTED]

42. A month ago, I contacted the support team at The Conversation, to point out that your have published an article that does not follow your charter.
43. I was advised that I could write a comment on the article, but I don't think this is an adequate response to something that, according to your charter, should not have been published.
44. I asked the Support team to escalate my concern, however have not received a response. So I am forwarding you, as the Executive Editor, the original email I sent to the support team.
45. I hope you can help, as this issue is currently of high social relevance, and accordingly requires impartial information to be available to the public.

May 6, 2021

Dear S [REDACTED]

46. I contacted you a few weeks ago, saying that your article
47. <https://theconversation.com/why-rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-is-bad-science-92742>
48. does not follow your charter items:
49. - Inform public debate with knowledge-based journalism that is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence.
50. - Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias.
51. Please could you investigate this. Why does The Conversation post charter items, if you don't hold by them? Why not just run a blog? There needs to be accurate evidence around this issue, as the stakes couldn't be higher.
52. Recently Sweden ended the use of puberty blockers for children with gender dysphoria [1], as there was a lack of evidence. There is an issue regarding accurate evidence around this topic, and as far as I can see, your website is part of the issue.
53. [1] https://segm.org/Sweden_ends_use_of_Dutch_protocol

54. **May 11, 2021 (uk-editorial@theconversation.com)**

Dear UK Editorial Team of The Conversation,

55. I have been trying to contact you to bring to your attention that the following article does not follow your charter items:

56. <https://theconversation.com/why-rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-is-bad-science-92742>

Specifically:

57. - Inform public debate with knowledge-based journalism that is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence.

58. - Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias.

59. Please could you respond, that you are investigating this issue.

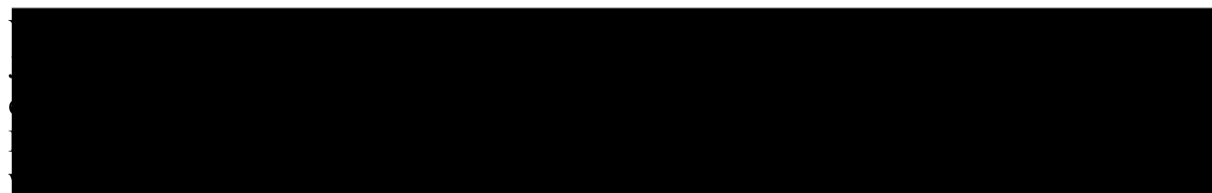
60. My original email is as follows:

61. The following paragraph has no basis in research and is partisan: “Blanchard’s theory [of autogynephilia] has since been put to rest by careful analyses and scientific studies. Despite being discredited, the theory remains popular among opponents of transgender rights.”

62. The theory of autogynephilia has in no way been “discredited”. Since Blanchard's original research, Anne Lawrence, herself a self-described autogynephilic transsexual, covered autogynephilia extensively using primary accounts of males with autogynephilia in “Men Trapped in Men's Bodies”.

63. The “scientific studies” cited points to a questionnaire conducted by Charles Moser, who was subsequently criticised by Anne Lawrence. You simply cannot read "Men Trapped in Men's Bodies" and come to the conclusion that this is a phenomenon also experienced by women.

64.



May 27, 2021

Dear Complaints Team,

65. I would like to say how disappointed that you have completely ignored my complaint that your content is not following your charter.

66. I believe your charter wasn't designed to protect easily-to-defend opinions. It was designed to defend the truth.

67. I think you've failed in this respect, and around a very important social issue.

September 27, 2022 (uk-complaints@theconversation.com)

Dear Conversation UK,

68. I am contacting you regarding the following article:

69. <https://theconversation.com/why-rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-is-bad-science-92742>

70. It is available under your UK site, searching on the subject of “autogynephilia”.

71. <https://theconversation.com/uk/search?q=autogynephilia>

72. I am complaining as a UK citizen, so accordingly would like my complaint to be handled in your capacity as a UK charity, overseen by the Charity Commission.

73. The article as a partisan piece, which breaks your editorial charter items:

74. "Inform public debate with knowledge-based journalism that is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence."

75. "Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias."

76. The article is partisan, particularly the following sentence “Blanchard’s theory has since been put to rest by careful analyses and scientific studies. Despite being discredited, the theory remains popular among opponents of transgender rights.”

77. Please see my attached fully referenced complaint.

[Complaint included at the end of this document]

September 28, 2022

78. Thank you for your email. This complaint would go to The Conversation Canada which published the article and is copied in here.

September 28, 2022

Dear J [REDACTED]

79. I am complaining to you as a UK Charity, as such, please could you handle my complaint in the UK.

80. I mentioned this in my original complaint.

81. I am following the Charity Commission's advice to complain to the charity first.

Yours,

AA

September 29, 2022

Dear AA,

82. Each Conversation edition is administered independently and we would always refer the article to The Conversation edition where it was published, which we have done and they will look at this.
83. Please also provide your real name so they can take this forward.

Kind regards,

J [REDACTED]

September 29, 2022

Dear J [REDACTED]

84. Your article is available searching under <https://theconversation.com/uk>
85. The Conversation does not make a distinction based on regional content: a person from the UK searching for “autogynephilia” will find, and as I argue, be misled, by content directly available from the Conversation UK.
86. The Conversation UK is a registered charity in the United Kingdom, accordingly, I would like your UK editorial team to investigate my complaint.
87. I would also like to remain anonymous, as my complaint involves my private life. I have, however, cited primary resources, which can easily be used to verify what I am saying.

Yours,

AA

September 29, 2022

To whom it may concern,

88. We responded to you about this article last March and have no further information to provide.

Regards,

Scott

Scott White

CEO Editor-in-Chief, The Conversation Canada

Dear Conversation UK,

1. The article available on the UK version of your website “Why ‘rapid-onset gender dysphoria’ is bad science” breaks the following of your charter items:
2. “Inform public debate with knowledge-based journalism that is responsible, ethical and supported by evidence.”
3. “Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias.”
4. The following sentence, in particular, is by no means true, and I think is such an obvious example of a partisan viewpoint, that it brings the editorial standards of the Conversation UK into disrepute:
5. “Blanchard’s theory has since been put to rest by careful analyses and scientific studies. Despite being discredited, the theory remains popular among opponents of transgender rights.”
6. This is by no means true, despite what the authors may assert. It does not inform public debate. The piece is in fact a continuation of the long history of the conflict between [REDACTED] The fact remains, that for males, gender identity disorder is connected to atypical sexual orientation,¹ being primarily either:
 7. homosexuality; attraction to the same sex. In this case, the story is usually that a remarkably feminine boy will identify as a girl from an early age, whereupon at the onset of puberty this will usually desist,² and puberty will be accompanied by homosexual attraction;³ in a minority of cases, this identification will persist into adulthood;
 8. or “autogynephilia”, a Greek neologism coined by researcher Professor Ray Blanchard, that means “attraction to the concept of oneself as a woman”,⁴ which is “is basically a sexual orientation”,⁵ however unlike typical male heterosexuality, it is not directed outwards, but inwards, and that it can vary in degree, from coexisting with outward heterosexuality, to nullifying it.⁶ Although the word itself is new, the phenomenon can be seen in much earlier research by Dr Magnus Hirschfeld from the early 1900s.⁷
9. I know this, as at the onset of puberty, around two decades ago, 13/14,⁸ I found out that I had autogynephilia, after trying to find out the answers to what I was feeling: the strange

1 “Typology of male-to-female transsexualism”, Blanchard, R. Ph. D., *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 14, 247-261. 1985.

2 “Boys clinic-referred for gender identity concerns in childhood had a high rate of desistance and a high rate of a biphilic/androphilic sexual orientation.” “A follow-up study of boys with gender identity disorder”, Singh, D. Bradley, S. J., Zucker, K. *Frontiers in Psychiatry* 12 2021.

3 See the story of Danny in *The Man who would be Queen*, Bailey, J. M. B., Ph. D. (Joseph Henry Press, 2003).

4 “Early History of the Concept of Autogynephilia”, Blanchard, R. Ph. D., *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 34(4): 439-46. September 2005.

5 “Gender dysphoria is not one thing” Bailey, J. M., Ph.D and Blanchard, R., Ph.D., *4th Wave Now: A community of people who question the medicalization of gender-atypical youth* <<https://4thwavenow.com/2017/12/07/gender-dysphoria-is-not-one-thing>>

6 “The Classification and labelling of nonhomosexual gender dysphorias”. Blanchard, R., Ph. D. *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 18(4) 315-334 p. 324.

7 *Die Transvestiten*, Hirschfeld, M. M.D.. (1910).

phenomenon of not only being attracted to women, but also the concept of myself as a woman. I can quite believe would have manifested in a gender identity disorder, had I not found the research by Professor Ray Blanchard, Professor J. Michael Bailey, and their contemporaries.

10. As mentioned, the article is part of an ongoing effort to suppress the inconvenient truth that gender identity disorder is connected to sexual orientation; it does not aim to inform the public regarding the truth about this issue. Alice Dreger, known for her work as a campaigner for the rights of people born with Disorders of Sex Development (DSDs) describes the issue:

Therein lay a real problem, one that explains why the transgender activists who went after Bailey were able to garner fairly widespread help from other transgender people, at least at first. Before Bailey, many trans advocates had spent a long time working to *desexualize* and *depathologize* their public representations in an effort to reduce stigma, improve access to care, and establish basic human rights for trans people. The move to talking about *transgender* instead of *transsex* was motivated in part by a desire to shift public attention away from an issue of sexual orientation (sexuality always being contentious) to an issue of gender. This is similar to how gay rights advocates have desexualized homosexuality in the quest for marriage rights, portraying themselves in living rooms and kitchens instead of bedrooms, in order to calm fearful heterosexuals... The shame and derision accorded trans women like Juanita and Cher doesn't disappear just because a few scientists may be *personally* fine with the idea that men might become women primarily because of reasons of sexuality, not "trapped" gender identity... the trans women who attacked Bailey for his book understood that the world would probably not agree... They wanted the whole business of Blanchard's taxonomic division shot down. Transsexuality should appear only as the public could stomach it, as one simple story of gender, a tale of "true" females tragically born into male bodies, rescued by medical and surgical reassignment. And there should be absolutely no mention of autogynephilia or any other sexual desires that might make trans women look to the sexually sheltered like the perverts they were historically assumed to be.⁹

11. I am not naive to the fact that autogynephilic transsexual activists [REDACTED] are probably right, in that suppressing this research probably does make for an easier conversation with the public. However I think it is now important for the public to understand the truth about the matter, as the trapped "gender identity" narrative that activists are promoting is harming people, children in particular.
12. I hope the Conversation UK looks into this issue, as the public should know that issues around gender identity in males are directly connected to atypical sexual orientation: homosexuality or autogynephilia. In my view it is clear that this is a situation where bad information is causing harm, especially to children.

Yours faithfully,
Autogynephilia Anonymous

8 For further primary accounts of males talking about their experience with autogynephilia as boys, men and transsexuals, see *Men Trapped in Men's Bodies*, Lawrence A. M.D.. (Springer, 2012). See also the recent grassroots website <<https://www.autogynephilia.life/our-stories>>

9 *Galileo's Middle Finger*, Dreger, A., (Penguin, 2015) pp. 65-66.

3rd November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

THE CONVERSATION TRUST (UK) LIMITED : 1151436

1. Thank you for your email dated 4th October 2022.
2. You have raised a concern about a news article published by The Conversation in Canada in 2018.
3. When a concern is raised with the Commission about a charity, we assess all of the information available to decide what steps to take, the issues you have raised have been considered against the [Charity Commission Regulatory and Risk Framework](#).
4. When making our decisions, we consider the issue, the risk involved to the charity, its beneficiaries and/or assets and those who come into contact with the Charity. We also consider the likely impact of our involvement and we take action in a fair and balanced way.
5. On this occasion, having assessed the information you have sent to us, we will not be contacting the charity regarding the issues raised. In our opinion, the information provided does not demonstrate misconduct by the charity's trustees or suggest that they are not acting in the charity's best interests.
6. We will, however, ensure that your concerns remain on the charity's record and will inform future decisions should further information be received. If new information emerges please follow the guidance on [Raising Concerns](#) on our website.
7. We would like to thank you for the time you have taken to contact us on this matter.
8. Please note that our Contact Centre cannot review or comment further on this assessment.

Yours sincerely,

M [REDACTED]

3rd November 2023

Dear M [REDACTED]

9. Please could you enter my complaint into the second stage review process.

Yours,
AA



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Sent by email only to:
autogynephiliaanonymous@protonmail.com

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Your ref:
Our ref: KW/1151436/C-067442

Date: 8 December 2022

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Conversation Trust (UK) Limited

Thank you for your email received on 3 November.

I have considered your email under the Commission's stage one review procedure.

This is the first step in our [complaints process](#). The aim is to try to resolve complaints about the Commission's case handling locally, as close as possible to the point of dissatisfaction, so that if we have made any errors we can put them right quickly.

Commission's Regulatory Role

The Commission conducts its casework in accordance with our statutory objectives and duties which are set out in the [Charities Act 2011](#) ('the Act'), and in line with the [Commission's Regulatory Risk Framework](#).

We are a risk-led regulator and consider every concern about a charity that we receive. However, in doing so we must ensure, that we use our resources in the most efficient, effective, and economic way. We must also have regard to the principles of best regulatory practice ensuring our actions are proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent, and targeted.

In order to consider your complaint fully, I have reviewed your original correspondence dated 4 and 14 October and our response sent on 3 November.

On track to meet your deadline?

Visit www.gov.uk/charity-commission for help on filing your annual return and accounts

t: 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)

w: www.gov.uk/charity-commission

Findings

You have raised concerns regarding a specific article published on the charity's website.

Having reviewed this matter, I agree with the previous assessment. I do not consider there is any evidence that the charity has either acted outside its educational purposes, or has breached guidance on political activity by charities, in publishing this article.

In summary, I am satisfied that the Commission has acted appropriately in this case, in accordance with our role as the regulator of charities for England and Wales. I therefore do not uphold your complaint about the Commission's handling of your concerns.

Next steps

This letter concludes my consideration of your complaint. Whilst I appreciate that this may be disappointing to you, I hope that you have found my explanations helpful.

If you are dissatisfied with the standard of service you have received, then please email the Data Protection and Information Rights team (DPIR) within one month of the date of this letter, at DPIR@charitycommission.gov.uk and a member of the team will assess whether your complaint has been handled fairly. Please note that substantive complaint issues will not be re-visited at this stage, though if it is found that an issue within your complaint has not been handled in an appropriate manner, then it may be referred for further review.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Intelligence and Risk

9th December 2022

Dear Charity Commission,

10. Your response to my evidence regarding autogynephilia in CRM:0467599 was the following:
11. *We note the evidence you have put forward from various professionals but it seems to the Commission that the issues raised are matters that are unsettled and are subject to debate, interpretation and disagreement.*
12. The article says:
13. *Blanchard's theory has since been put to rest by careful analyses and scientific studies. Despite being discredited, the theory remains popular among opponents of transgender rights.*
14. I don't see how the Commission can come to the impartial judgement that "matters ... are unsettled and are subject to debate, interpretation and disagreement", whilst continuing to see no problem with that partisan statement, "put to rest...discredited" for a charity that says that it:

"Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias"
15. In the comments, another user also notices the bias:
16. *The articles starts right off with an irrelevant rabbit hole regarding Blanchard It's an irrelevant false canard used to colour the rest of the story.*
17. *There was no attempt to invalidate the research moreover the link, provided as 'de facto' valid was a reference to the blog of a technical writer not a Scientific researcher or someone who has any real credibility to refute scientific research.*
18. *There may very well be problems with the research, but we should take the world of the Scientists over arbitrary bloggers and writers with an agenda,.*
19. I do not consider the Commission has made the right decision, to take no action. I think it needs to take a closer look at my complaint, as children, especially girls, are being harmed by the "gender identity" fantasy, whilst research regarding gender dysphoria in males is being hidden, which undermines the concept of a "gender identity".
20. In addition, feminine boys are being harmed by not recognising the difference between their early-onset gender dysphoria (likely to resolve at the onset of puberty with homosexuality) and late-onset gender dysphoria (autogynephilia) occurring at the start of puberty. Confusing the two under one "gender identity" gives a greater impression that early-onset gender dysphoria is unlikely to resolve.

AA



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

By e-mail:
Autogynephiliaanonymous@protonmail.com

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Our ref: 1151436/C-070951-K7V2

Date: 24 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

THE CONVERSATION TRUST (UK) LIMITED : 1151436 ('the Charity')

Thank you for your email which was received at the Commission on 9 December 2022.

This correspondence has been dealt with under our stage 2 complaints process in line with our complaints procedure which can be found on our website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission/about/complaints-procedure>

I am an Assistant Director here at the Commission with no previous knowledge of the Charity, or involvement in the original case or stage one complaint response sent to you by Ms W [REDACTED] December 2022.

This is the final stage of our complaints process, and the parameters of my consideration have been to determine whether Ms W [REDACTED]

- addressed the issues of your complaint
- dealt with any shortfalls in our service
- conveyed the outcome clearly
- was thorough and fair

The substantive issues of your complaint have **not** been revisited.

1. Findings

I note your dissatisfaction with Ms W [REDACTED] response, and that you: "...do not consider the Commission has made the right decision, to take no action."

On track to meet your deadline?

Visit www.gov.uk/charity-commission for help on filing your annual return and accounts

t: 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)

w: www.gov.uk/charity-commission

As explained to you by Ms W [REDACTED] letter of 8 December 2022 the original assessment was reviewed by her, and she concurred with that assessment.

It was further explained that Ms W [REDACTED] did not consider that there was any evidence that the charity had either acted outside its educational purposes, or had breached guidance on political activity by charities, in publishing this article. Further information regarding this can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/political-activity-and-campaigning-by-charities>

I note your view that: "...feminine boys are being harmed..." this is your personal view and not a matter for the Commission to comment/act upon.

Whilst you may not agree with the decision that the Commission took in the handling of your concerns, as explained to you this was decided having assessed your concerns in line with our Regulatory and Risk Framework: this includes complying with the principles of best regulatory practice that require us (as a statutory duty under section 16(4) Charities Act 2011) to ensure that our regulatory activities are:

- Proportionate
- Accountable
- Consistent
- Transparent
- Targeted only at cases in which action is needed

I find that Ms W [REDACTED] was thorough and fair, and considered the issues you had raised. The letter of 8 December 2022 was sufficiently detailed and clear in terms of explaining the actions the Commission took and why. Your complaint is **not upheld**.

2. Conclusion

This concludes my consideration of your complaint at stage 2 of the Commission's complaints process. There are no further routes for you to take within the Commission for consideration of your complaint. Should you remain dissatisfied with the service you have received, you may wish to approach the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO).

The PHSO considers certain complaints about the service provided by a range of bodies including the Commission. Further information is available from the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QP, telephone number 0345 015 4033 (www.ombudsman.org.uk/make-a-complaint).

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

D [Redacted name]

[Redacted title] Planning, Performance and Risk

24th January 2023

Dear D [REDACTED]

21. In response to your letter ref: 1151436/C-070951-K7V2.
22. Regarding you citation of "Political Activity and Campaigning by Charities"
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/political-activity-and-campaigning-by-charities>
23. It says "You can engage in political activity, but this must support the delivery of your charity's purpose."
24. The purpose of The Conversation in their charter is to "Provide a fact-based and editorially independent forum, free of commercial or political bias". As such, presenting politically partisan articles as neutral ones, does not support the delivery of their purpose. This is the subject of my original complaint.
25. You write that "I note your view that: "...feminine boys are being harmed..." this is your personal view and not a matter for the Commission to comment/act upon."
26. I see my view as rather drawing attention to a risk, coming under the heading 3.1 in the document "Regulatory and Risk Framework": [1] "complaints from the public or public sources".
27. The Charity Commission does have a responsibility to "identify what action is right against identified risks of harm". I think in this case, you have failed to identify the risk I have brought to the Commission's attention and have neglected to take the right action.

Yours

AA

28. [1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/risk-framework-charity-commission/regulatory-and-risk-framework>

[No response]