

COUNCIL
26 FEBRUARY 2026

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following motion has been submitted, due notice of which has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

Support for Trans Rights

To be moved by Councillor Sadie Billing and seconded by Councillor David Chalmers:

Council notes that:

The Supreme Court, in the case of *Women Scotland v the Scottish Ministers*, ruled that the terms “man”, “woman” and “sex” in the Equality Act 2010 refer to “biological sex”. This judgement does not remove legal protection from trans people, as gender reassignment remains a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998. The law requiring respect for trans rights has not changed.

However, the judgement, and the subsequent interim (now withdrawn) guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, has caused significant anxiety, uncertainty, and fear for the trans community. A recent Gallup survey found that two thirds of LGBTQ+ respondents had experienced anti LGBTQ+ violence or abuse, with abuse particularly severe for trans people. The LGBTQ+ community is more likely to experience disproportionately poor health outcomes, workplace conflict, homelessness, and barriers to accessing public services.

Council believes that:

1. Everyone should be safe and free to be themselves, without fear of hostility, violence, or discrimination.
2. Nobody’s life chances should be limited or determined because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. Everyone deserves clarity and reassurance on how their rights will be protected.
4. The erosion of trans rights threatens everyone’s rights.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

1. **Affirm our support for trans, non-binary, and gender diverse residents and our commitment to defending their rights and dignity.**
2. **Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Women and Equalities to:**
 - a. **Express that the position of this Council is to support trans rights.**

