

Northern RadFem Network

Mermaids: making a complaint to the Charity Commission

Background

On 10 August 2022 Suella Braverman, the Attorney General, made a speech in which she set out the legal position under the Equality Act which schools should follow in relation to 'trans' children. Mermaids, which is a registered charity, put out a statement on the same day refusing to accept the Attorney General's legal directions.

Mermaids statement <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/news/category/press-statements/>

This is a guide to making a complaint to the Charity Commission about Mermaids' refusal to comply with the law. Please feel free to change this to use your own words or to add other points: please note that the form only allows a limited number of words. The complaint has to be made online at <https://forms.charitycommission.gov.uk/raising-concerns/>

Note: the online form requires evidence to be uploaded, and it will only accept PDFs. You will find relevant PDFs here. If you have any other documents/screenshots you want to use, you will need to convert them to PDFs first.

Screen 1

What do you want to report?

Serious non-compliance in a charity that damages or has the potential to damage its reputation and/or the reputation of charities generally

Screen 2

About your concern

Do you have evidence?

Yes

Please provide a summary of the facts with supporting evidence and attach any copies (750 characters max)

On 10/08/22 the Attorney General made a speech clarifying schools' legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Mermaids publicly disagreed with her guidance.

1. Mermaids should not place their organisation above the law and disregard the AG's guidance. Charities should act in accordance with the law as it is, and not how they wish it to be.
2. If Mermaids are advising schools to disregard the AG's guidance and to effectively act unlawfully, they are opening them up to possible legal consequences.
3. Mermaids offers RSE trans inclusion training to schools. As they promote things like using preferred pronouns and trans children using the toilets of their choice this training will be in direct conflict with the AG's guidance.

List of files to attach

1. Braverman speech schools
2. Mermaids statement
3. Mermaids training

Does this concern relate to a registered charity?

Yes

Charity Number/Name

Mermaids (Charity No. 1160575)

Your name

Your email address

Your telephone number (note: this is not a compulsory field)

Your relationship to the charity/organisation

Member of the public (unless one of the other descriptions applies to you)

Select one of the following statements

These refer to whether you do or don't give consent for the Charity Commission to disclose your identity as the source of the complaint. Choose whichever you want.

Screen 3

Details of your concern

Have you attempted to get the charity to address your concern (if appropriate to do so)?

No

Why have you not attempted to get the charity to address this? Please note the Commission would expect you to approach the charity in the first instance.

Mermaids is well known to be hostile to any disagreement with their views. People asking questions are either ignored or blocked so it would be futile to contact them. Furthermore, there is no complaints procedure on their website.

Please set out any additional facts and information about the serious issue that you wish to report? (250 characters max)

Government guidance Plan Your Relationships, Sex and Health Curriculum says that schools should ensure that outside agencies' teaching RSE complies with the Equality Act 2010.

It is unlikely that Mermaids training complies with this guidance.

Have you had any previous correspondence or contact with the Charity Commission about this?

No

Have you reported this to any other public body?

No

Why not?

The Charity Commission is the body responsible for overseeing the proper governance and legal compliance of charities. I therefore believe that you are the appropriate body to raise these issues with.

Is the issue you wish to report subject to any legal proceedings?

No

Screen 4

Submit