

Hon Mark Mitchell  
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Tēnā koe Minister Mitchell

### RE: Police 'hate crime' and 'hate speech' training

1. Speak Up for Women (SUFW) is an advocacy group seeking to ensure sex-based rights for women and girls in New Zealand. We believe that women should be able to gather and speak freely about issues that concern them. Our group and our supporters are generally described as Gender Critical (GC) or TERFs.
2. The 'hate speech' and 'hate crime' training includes cartoon images of people holding protest signs - one is the female symbol and another is a sign saying "THERE ARE ONLY TWO GENDERS". These signs could be considered typical of signs used by GC women at events.
3. There are many examples of highly unpleasant protest signs directed at gender critical women; why were they not included in the training?



4. The 2021 High Court ruling on the cancellation of an event by SUFW [Whitmore vs Palmerston North City Council](#). SUFW were successful in their application and Justice Nason said in his ruling that ***"There is sufficient evidence before me at this stage to be clear that SUFW cannot rationally be described as a "hate group"***.

5. The 2021 ruling by the [Advertising Standards Authority](#) on the placement of a billboard saying “women, noun, adult human female” - ***“In accordance with the majority the Complaints Board said taking into account context, medium, audience and product, the advertisement did not reach the threshold to cause harm, or serious or widespread offence, did not cause fear or distress without justification, was not misleading and was socially responsible.”***
6. Gender critical people hold the evidence and fact-based position that sex is observed at birth and is immutable. That Police view that this position could amount to “hate speech” or a “hate crime” is indicative of an organisation that has allowed an ideological concept to dictate how they uphold the Bill of Rights.
7. We question the need for police training on “crimes” that are not included in legislation. If the Police are intending to act on their subjective ideas of what constitutes a criminal offence, our expectation is that the general public would be made aware of the Police’ notions of illegal activities and the consequences of any breaches.
8. SUFW is concerned that training of this nature sends a clear message to police personnel that despite there being no actual “hate crimes” in New Zealand legislation, women are to be considered perpetrators of these non crimes merely by stating fact or opinion that has been flagged (by Police) as problematic.
9. SUFW is concerned that this training sends a message to Police personnel and the general public, that women (and indeed men) who express these facts and opinions in a public forum or event are not deserving of police protection.
10. We call on Police to engage with SUFW and other GC groups in relation to recognising and upholding our rights under the Bill of Rights - ***the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form.***

Ngā mihi

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Speak Up for Women