

# FEMINISTS ARE IN THE CROSSHAIRS.



**"We may think we are engaged on a single-issue basis with these groups, especially when they appropriate secular, even feminist language, but we are also in their crosshairs.**

**Gender identity is a wedge issue against the whole package of what is known, in terms of international law, as 'SOGI - sexual orientation and gender identity - and against everything represented by the left, including anti-racism and feminism."**

"Women and the Religious Right" by Jayne Egerton

## **Examples of SOGI protections the right-wing wants to end**

- Housing/renter's rights for same-sex couples
- Protections against employment discrimination like homophobic harassment, firing, & promotion denial on the basis of sexual orientation/gender nonconformity
- The right to public accommodation (being lesbian/gay in public!)
- The right to an education or jobs in education
- Marriage equality
- Child custody rights for lesbians and gay men

# A FEW WHYS

**If the right-wing cares about the well-being of girls, then why are they...**

- aggressively removing abortion access & reproductive rights for girls?
- silent about the widespread sexual abuse of girls in their churches, private schools, & other institutions?
- repealing child labor laws?
- complacent about child marriage, which is only banned in 10 states?
- unconcerned about non-transition-related cosmetic surgeries for minors, including breast implants & labiaplasty?

**If the right-wing cares about women's sports, then why focus solely on males invading, but ignore...**

- the lack of equal media coverage?
- the absence of equal pay for female athletes?
- penalties related to pregnancy?
- unhealthy weight expectations?
- sexual, physical, and emotional abuse of women & girls in pro athlete circles?
- sexist uniform requirements?
- women being under-represented in coaching?
- racist & sexist human rights abuses against intersex women athletes?

*AreYouAskingWhy Collective, July 2023*



**We are a group of detransitioned and reidentified women who have been doing grassroots organizing since 2013.**

**We oppose collusion with the right-wing. We do not consent to our stories being co-opted by an anti-LGBT and anti-woman agenda.**

## **Always ask who benefits.**

**You may agree with the point that the right-wing is making on certain issues - but do you know why they're making it?**

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**IF WE CARE ABOUT WOMEN & GIRLS, WE SHOULDN'T BE ARMING THEIR ENEMIES.**

**"BUT LIBERALS DON'T CARE! WE HAVE NO CHOICE!"**

Feminists have **never** enjoyed broad acceptance from male-dominated political organizations on any end of the spectrum, nor news outlets. The **feminist response** has always been to build our own or to act in creative ways that demand coverage. If you are putting out a message that is easily digestible and acceptable to male-dominated organizations and media, you can bet that it is not advancing a **feminist agenda**. If Tucker Carlson likes it, or Matt Walsh is advertising it, it's not going to **liberate women** or advance our interests.

## **SO WHAT'S THEIR GAME PLAN?**

**"The conservative Christian lobby always needs something they can really get their constituents riled up about, willing to give money and willing to vote.**

## **What can really get people riled up?"**

- Yvette Cantu Schneider, former ex-gay organizer with Exodus International and Family Research Council

# **A THREAT, NOT OUR ALLY.**

**The right's aim is totalitarian control.**

Whether by engineering poverty, controlling women's reproductive and other labor, reducing personal freedom and privacy, targeting vulnerable groups, or eradicating workers' rights, these white owning class men want to control everyone else.

**That's why** they want to eliminate public school education, ban books, close libraries, enshrine legal discrimination against gays & lesbians as well as trans-identifying people, end no-fault divorce, destroy unions, etc.

**So they use wedge issues**, like raising alarm about "LGBTQ+ indoctrination" & "CRT" in schools to weaken public education; or riling up lesbians about trans issues when their political solution will be to lump us together & erode all of our rights.

**Their fear-mongering** social media & news strategy is meant to keep us enraged and desperate. They encourage us to compromise our values & shift the Overton window of what we'll accept.

**Are you asking why organizations claiming to advocate for women's rights are going along with this program?**

# **LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE IN DANGER**

"While we believe it protects the well-being of all patients for negligent medical providers to be held accountable, any relationship formed with [far-right organizations] assists them in their agenda of eroding the autonomy of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified and gender non-conforming youth [and adults] by legitimizing conversion therapy based on Christian fundamentalism."

- Statement adapted from "Detransitioned Women Resist the ADF"

## **WE CAN SPEAK FOR OURSELVES BETTER THAN THEY CAN**

"You may have seen detransition as a topic in the news. Distorted and sensationalized, our existence as detransitioned women is either presented as the ultimate tragedy or decried as a conservative myth, depending on what political agenda needs furthering that day. ... Being treated as ideologically inconvenient aberrations who are mistaken about the meaning of our experiences by liberal allies is not comparable to the incredibly well-funded, ongoing attacks on our basic civil rights (as women and, for many of us, as lesbians) by conservatives."

- Detransition: Beyond Before & After by Max Robinson