

DISRUPTING ANTI-TRANSGENDER FEMINISM

PLATFORMING

Anti-transgender feminists are seeking platforms with conservative media outlets and spokespeople. Tucker Carlson is the far-right founder of the Daily Caller now with Fox News who continues to give sympathetic interviews to anti-transgender so-called feminists, including Julia Beck, a lesbian who was invited by House Republicans to testify against the Violence Against Women Act and the LGBT-supportive Equality Act.



ANTI-TRANS SLOGANS

Anti-transgender feminists manufacture outrage by sharing innocuous slogans like "woman: adult human female" and "biology isn't bigotry," which dehumanize transgender people. Innocuous phrases like these easily slip by those not monitoring the movements and messages of anti-trans feminists, and are therefore a perfect rallying cry around which anti-trans advocates can manufacture outrage when asked to take their messages down.



RESOURCES



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Christian Right organizations such as the Alliance Defending Freedom, the Heritage Foundation, and the Family Policy Alliance are deliberately partnering with anti-trans feminist activists. United by a shared investment in gender essentialism, these seemingly unlikely allies are working to give anti-transgender advocacy the appearance of a broader consensus across the political spectrum. The alliance makes perfect sense: Christian Right organizations and right-wing media organizations give anti-transgender feminist activists a larger platform to spread dangerous lies about transgender people, allowing the Christian Right organizations and spokespeople to further their advocacy against rights and liberties for transgender people.

SO HOW DO WE COMBAT THIS DANGEROUS RHETORIC?

When we disrupt anti-trans feminism with intersectional feminism, we can choose from various methods: factual, humorous, logical, rhetorical. Don't forget we can also always choose to ignore anti-trans feminism if the arguments are made in bad faith, or if the arguments are particularly vile.

LET'S PRACTICE

THEY SAY:
"Women need their own spaces to be safe!"

YOU SAY:
Women's spaces have never been safe for all women, especially poor women, women of color, women with disabilities, and others. Safety is aspirational. We should aspire to make spaces safe for those who need them the most.

THEY SAY:
"Trans people will dominate at sports!"

YOU SAY:
Fourteen states prohibit discrimination in education on the basis of gender identity, including in sports. The Olympics have permitted transgender athletes to compete since 2004, and the NCAA since 2011. The myth that trans athletes will dominate is just that: a myth.

THEY SAY:
"We need to focus on real women!"

YOU SAY:
"Real" is a harmful construct. Not all women menstruate. Not all women can get pregnant, or want to. Not all women were socialized the same.

THEY SAY:
"Biology isn't Bigotry!"

YOU SAY:
Biology has been used to justify bigotry for hundreds of years: genocide, colonialism, slavery, and more. Science shows us that human gender and sexual orientation are infinitely diverse and that gender and gender identity are real concepts.