

W O M E N

holding the line

♀ **WOMEN-ONLY** ♀ **NO MEN BEYOND THIS POINT** ♀

29th July 2024

Womenhtl@gmail.com

Dear KLPA and City of London Corporation,

Yesterday we held a peaceful protest at the gates of Kenwood Ladies Pond "Women Hold The Line – No Men Beyond This Point". We provided two and a half hours of protected women only space for Kenwood Ladies Pond users.

The aim of this action was to draw attention to your policy of allowing men who self-identify as women to swim in the ladies' pond.

Many of the pond users entering the pond on the day thanked us, and told us this was a much-needed action. They explained the pond is a "sacred space for women" and must be protected. A large number of women we spoke with outside had no idea about the self ID policy and were outraged when we explained it to them. Several women intending to swim joined our protest on the day.

Women who are regular pond users told us of their experiences within the pond. Some examples include:

- "I have not felt safer in years, knowing you were out here"
- "I was showering naked and there was a man wearing a long wig waiting by the shower cubicle looking at me– I felt violated and trapped. I could not leave the shower area to retrieve my towel"
- "Thank you" (many women said this)
- "I questioned the presence of a very obvious male and was told "she" is a transwoman and had every right to be here"
- "My wife no longer swims at the pond due to the presence of men – she will be delighted seeing this action"
- At least 3 women on the day told us they no longer take their daughters to the pond – 1 explained she will take her but not allow her to the toilet or shower areas alone

- Women have told us they have experienced men peeping through the fence, and women do not understand why the very same men are legitimately allowed into the pond. On the day of our action one of our female security team spotted a man in the bushes looking at women bathing through the fence on the field side. In this instance the police were on site and they dealt with the man, on any ordinary Sunday the police would not have been there and this man would have gotten away with the crime of peeping. Why do you now allow these men to invade the women only space inside the pond?

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KLPA

- Conduct a survey of **ALL** pond users in an open forum to get their thoughts on the inclusion of men in the women-only pond and meadow
- Ensuring the fenced on the field side is completely covered with foliage and well maintained at all times to prevent passersby viewing women and girls in the pond
- The lack of phone signal in the pond area is also a concern for women and girls' safety. As explained above women have needed to contact the police to report instances of peeping toms and men invading their shower areas. Women have been unable to do so. It is KLPA's responsibility to ensure WIFI is provided to allow this type of emergency call
- Training for staff and volunteers so they are fully aware of the law which can be found on the Sex Matters website [WORKPLACE](#) resources. As per the [Forstater judgement \(2022\)](#), your staff members are legally allowed to hold gender critical views and need to be made aware of this. This training would ensure staff are using sex-based language as opposed to gender ideological language when dealing with pond users, meaning that potential victims aren't being gaslit when raising complaints
- Under the Equality Act (2010) Self-ID of gender is not law in England. Schedule 3 of the EQA2010 where "the service is provided for, or is likely to be used by, two or more persons at the same time, and the circumstances are such that a person of one sex might reasonably object to the presence of a person of the opposite sex". Therefore, a woman who reasonably objects to the presence of a man can just as reasonably object to the presence of a man who thinks he is a woman, whether he has a government certificate or not. See [Sex Matters Website](#) for more detail around this law. We demand that you uphold this exception for Kenwood Ladies Pond Users.

Yours Sincerely

Angela and Michelle