

Trans Youth Manifesto



a collection of demands and needs of transgender young people
for the upcoming general election

This project aimed to analyse the needs of transgender children and young people across the UK, and understand their demands from a future UK government ahead of the general election.

Changes to policy by the Conservative government have created an increasingly hostile environment for transgender people in the UK. At the heart of conversations about transgender rights are transgender children and young people, yet their voices are frequently ignored and their views disregarded.

An upcoming general election poses the opportunity for transgender children and young people to demand that policy makers consider their lived experiences and needs before making decisions that affect them. As such, Mermaids has taken vital steps to clearly understand what transgender children and young people want from their government.

Introduction

This research was modelled around two questions:



**What kind of future do
transgender young people in the
UK want to live in?**



**What do transgender young
people in the UK want and need
from current and future
lawmakers?**



We also asked our Instagram followers two questions:

Describe a perfect future for trans people in 3 words

If you could ask the government to change one thing, what would it be?

Respondents were directed to the questionnaire should they wish to go into more detail than the Instagram function would allow.



Participants repeatedly raised that, in a 'trans utopia', they would be recognised for all aspects of their identities; they would not be reduced to their transness. Not only would they be celebrated for their personal qualities (creativity, intelligence, and empathy), but any discrimination or hardship they experienced due to other areas of their identity, such as racialisation, socio-economic status, and disability, would be alleviated.

“I'd ask them to recognise that my gender identity is part of me, but not a whole, and that I still go throughout my day to day life as they would.”

“A true trans utopia would be a place where transgender identity is normalised. A society would recognise that each and every human being goes through transitions in order to find themselves. Sometimes, this relates to our gender.”

This was especially important to participants in their experience as trans young people, who explained that their autonomy was often taken from them due to both their youth and gender. They highlighted that, in a 'trans utopia', those in power would understand that young people deserve to have their names, pronouns, and gender expression respected by those around them. The existence of transgender children and young people would not be denied, nor taboo

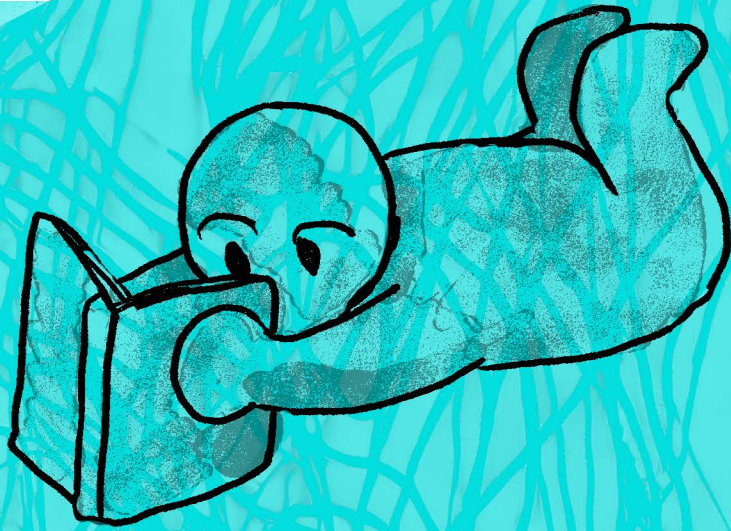
Many participants expressed frustration and feelings of hopelessness as a result of constant waiting: waiting to access gender affirming care, waiting to change names or pronouns, waiting for permission to change hair or clothing. These restrictions often made young people feel as though their life, future, and dreams were on pause until they could live in environments that support their transition.



“I wouldn’t have to wait for the approval of a doctor to start living my life”



In a ‘trans utopia’, participants envisioned that gender affirming care would be affordable, accessible, and timely. The current endless waitlists would be a thing of the past, and trans people would no longer have to fundraise for private care to simply access healthcare. Gender affirming care for young people would not be taboo or a source of moral panic.

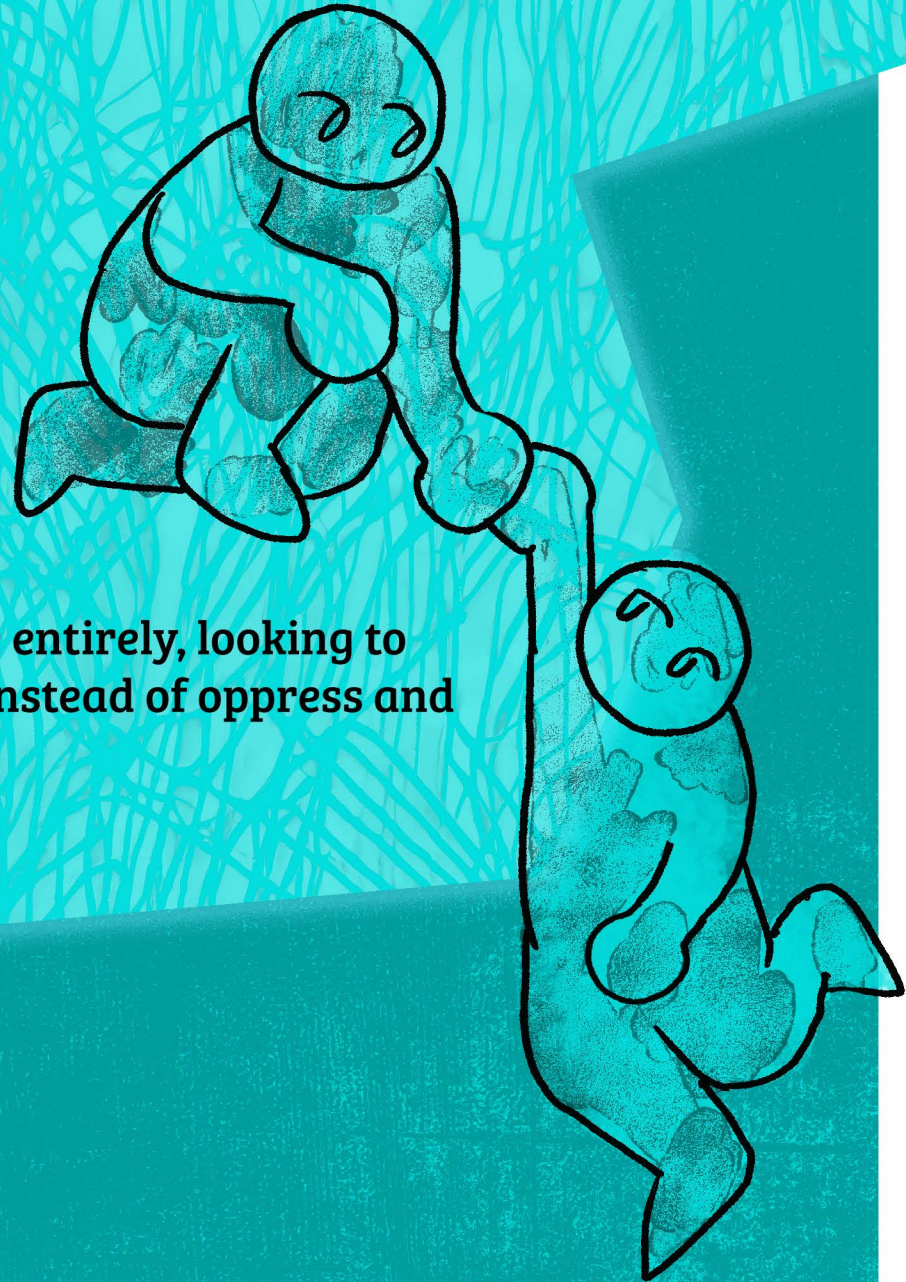


“safety for trans youth in education. No abhorrent guidance that is a violation of safeguarding. Outing trans students doesn’t make them less trans, just less safe.”

“Scrap the new guidance for trans students in schools - this was never about caring for trans youth, it was only a political move to push transphobic rhetoric. If you cared about trans youth, you’d listen to us and give us a voice, instead of silencing us and mocking us.

Participants described their perfect future as one that prioritises inclusive education that challenges prejudice and celebrates difference. They hope that this future education would allow their peers to better understand their experiences, and would empower more young people to approach any situation with an open mind and willingness to learn from others.

“There would be adequate support for trans youths who can’t yet access gender affirming care. There would be proper education in schools so that society as a whole wouldn’t see trans people as abnormal or weird, just people.”



“rewrite the schools guidance entirely, looking to protect and uplift trans kids instead of oppress and silence them”

Participants identified that current political leaders contribute to the prejudice currently directed towards trans people. In a 'trans utopia', robust legal protections against discriminatory hate would be in place to ensure freedom from hatred currently imposed by peers, government, and the media.

The government would respect the existence and humanity of trans people, and diverse role models and decision makers would hold power.

“Where our prime minister wouldn't say openly bigoted things - and feel comfortable to do so in a place of 'respect' and 'dignity' like parliament.”

Young trans people want the government to listen to the lived experience of trans people with the intention of learning and creating positive change, rather than listening to the voices that deny trans existence.

“stop being transphobic, stop using kids as a scapegoat”



Anthology of Creations

Creative submissions from trans young people

I want to live without fear.
I want to be safe to express my
identity in all environments.
I want all trans people to be able
to live without judgement and
discrimination.

equality

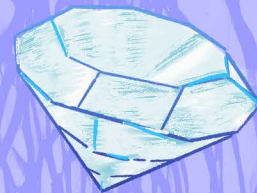


Safe

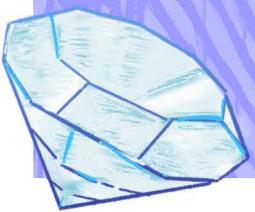
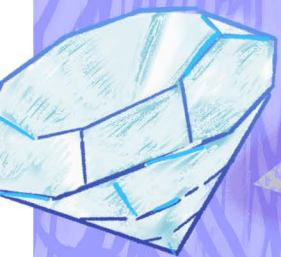
Welcome

Protected

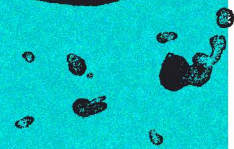
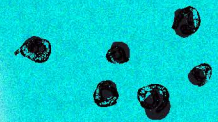
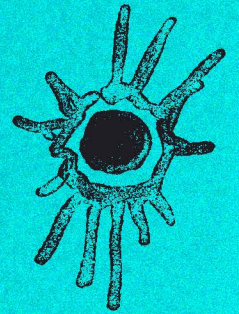
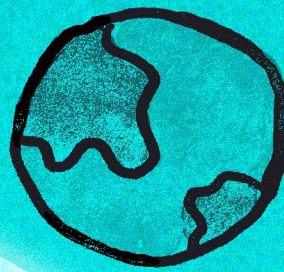
The future
I guess the future is unknown
Not to me it ain't
Being trans is scary
In the future tho it won't be
There will be peace
There will be joy
There won't be fear
There won't be judgment
Those under the trans umbrella
Are all welcomed
Transitioning fully
Only half
Or even only changing name
ALL WILL BE VALID
Young or old
It doesn't matter
FOR BEING TRANS IS A
EXPERIENCE
WORTH FIGHTING FOR



A world where I'd feel alright.
A world where I could walk down the street
and not fear strangers eyes.
A world where my existence isn't being debated over dinner.
A world where people like me aren't "society's demise"
People like me are brave, strong beings.
Diamonds are made under extreme heat and pressure.
Don't let them hurt your feelings.
Shine on and know you are no lesser.



In a world of hate and terror
Where trans kids are killed
And heads don't turn
The dream for kids and teens alike
Is simply to be loved
We aren't here to hate
Or force ourselves onto you
But only, and just only to live without fear.
We are not a threat, and we just want to be loved.
A trans utopia shouldn't be needed.
The world as it is should love us
For why do they think to fear us
When we are just living our lives.
A trans utopia is where there are no stupid rules
Or hate
Or murder
Or anything against anything
Our world as a whole should be safe.
Safe for anyone and everyone
To live their life without fear.
For without fear we can show who we are
Without fear we can tell more people
We can talk, freely, without worry.
People wouldn't judge us
Or hate us
Or kill us
Just because they can.
For me, I want to live in peace.
In a world where 'trans issues' aren't a thing
A world where people can just be people,
And no matter who you are you'll be accepted
There will be no right and wrong,
No hate
Just acceptance
For love and safety is all we want.
My trans utopia is to live.



TRANS
RIGHTS
ARE

HUMAN
RIGHTS



transutopia' -

I've always imagined 'utopia' as an Ancient Greek like world, lounging around, smelling flowers and writing poetry in your spare time whilst eating figs. There would be nothing but a gentle breeze & the feeling of the sun on your skin. The skin that the sun would touch would be utterly your own and of your making. The scars that cross your chest would be regarded as the most beautiful and the ones across your arms would be proof of your resilience and strength. You would be worshiped, as any other should, because you are human.

I am no longer "The Issue"

I am a feisty little sibling, an astronomer, a dreamer

My future expansive, our children's all the more so

They will not know the hurt of being caged by their own bones "Welcome home" I say, it's a humble abode

But here you will not live unloved, or die unknown.

Our youngest happily scribbles away on the back of an envelope

Crayon in their left hand

Juice box in their right

Unafraid to colour outside the lines

"This world has always dreamt in Technicolour" you say, unfastening the polarised sunglasses that gnawed at you so

And tonight, under pale moon, as you spin me in your arms

I finally feel like my dancing shoes

Are on the right feet.

Acceptance is the first step to a world that is freeing and one full of culture, diversity and love. A trans utopia would allow for trans people to have access to life saving medical care, reduce the risk of homelessness in trans young people and be a place where all are willing to be respectful and sympathetic to one's situation. I do not ask anyone to fully understand who I am because they cannot, just let me live long enough to prove that this isn't a "phase" or "false science" like you deem me to be. Let me thrive. Let young trans people thrive. A trans utopia will allow everyone to thrive.

WHO EVEN
CARES
ABOUT MY
IDENTITY.
I'M TTYL.
ME.



There would be so much support for not just trans people but for every one including lgbtqia+, people of colour, women's rights, animal rights etc and everyone would support us for who we are and we would all still have the same chances.

There was blood in the water
And poison in our veins
But on the backs of our martyrs
It's all washed away
We're not afraid of the dark
Or of the white, pink and blue
We can all be ourselves
And you can be you
We've all still got vices
Things have gone wrong
But we'll never be divided
When we sing the same song
Now the taxes they take
And our lives that they sell
Are our next Goliath
Trans world order, give 'em hell

Building a bridge
towards people
instead of away



I want to live
Just the same
As the guy next door
Just as lame
As the teenagers in school
Or just as cool
Or just as stupid
Not a tool
For a political game
I want to live
Free from fear
Take safety for granted
Not hold it dear
Not feel my rights slip away
With every bleary passing day
I want my voice to be heard
Say what I want to say
But I'm not welcome here
I want to live
The same as you
Worry about things
Like we all do
But not my life
Or my dying rights
I want to breathe
This British air too
I don't want to wait
For things to change
As they push new acts
Attack in packs
There were talks and rumours
Now they debate if I'm human
And it makes me want to fall
asleep
And wake up when the dawn
breaks
To a new Britain, air fresh anew
A country where I can breathe
A country where I can live
Just like you safe and free. that's literally all
it takes
Freedom, acceptance,
euphoria, understanding,
love
'equality'
'Building a bridge towards people
instead of away'
'WHO EVEN CARES ABOUT
MY IDENTITY - IM ME'

A trans utopia is a world where we are all equal, a world where we no longer have to live in fear, a world where gender affirming healthcare is available to all and we're no longer afraid to be ourselves because no one cares about how we label ourselves because we are authentically us.

A trans utopia is a world where my friends are happily themselves and their families accept them as such, and we live out our best lives together being our truest selves.

A trans utopia is a world where the government respects us, and sees us as equals to them and we are no longer fearful of how our lives will be dictated.

A trans utopia is a world where I feel most confident and I'm no longer anxious about my identity and how I present.

Unfortunately this world is far from reality, perhaps a parallel universe is where this utopia resides, but it's waiting for us to enter and live our fullest lives.





I would feel unjudged by those eyes

-

the millions of eyes that seem to
stare

at my chest, at my face, at my hair
And I would be heard but unheard;

my opinions voiced
but not patronised

and my voice would sound deeper.

I would be written.

My name, sacred to me,
scribed with care on paper,
its letters pillars of strength.

And perhaps above all

I would still be different,

still unrecognised,

still an outlier,

starting conversations

unintentionally

and ending them abruptly

Whatever might happen, or not -

whatever heaven I can dream,

whatever hell I can run from,

I am who I am.

I will not change of how our lives will

be dictated.

A trans utopia is a world where I feel most confident

and I'm no longer

anxious about my identity and how I present.

Unfortunately this world is far from reality, perhaps a

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enter and live our

fullest lives.

In the land of Trans utopia fair,
Where hearts are free, without a care,
A world of love, acceptance, and grace,
A realm where all find their rightful place.

Here, in this haven of rainbow hue,
Trans souls thrive, their dreams anew.

No judgment, prejudice, or strife,
Just a celebration of each unique life.

In Trans utopia, the dawn awakes,
With the promise of love that never forsakes.

Embraced by a community strong and true,
Every journey honored, every story valued too.

Gardens bloom with flowers diverse,
Reflecting the beauty of every verse,

Each petal whispers tales untold,
Of courage, resilience, and hearts bold.

In this utopia, gender is a song,
A spectrum wide, where all belong.

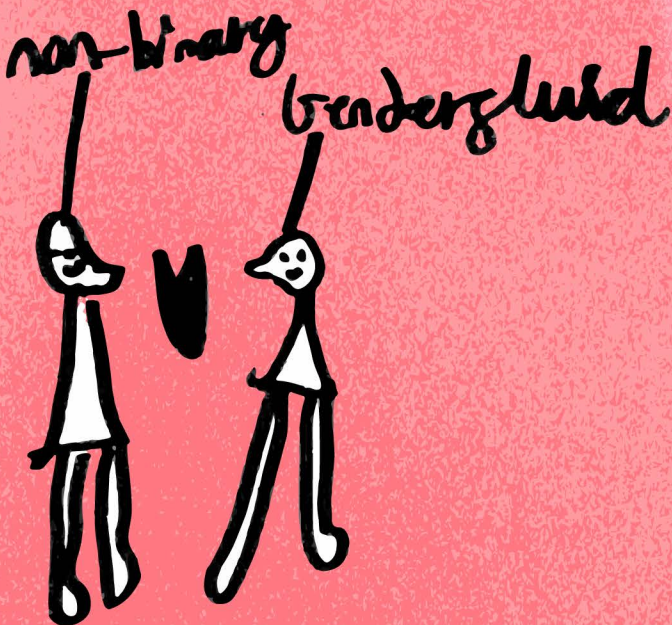
No boundaries bind, no limits confine,
Just the freedom to be, to truly shine.

Trans utopia, a beacon bright,
Guiding all with its radiant light.

Here, love is the law, and love prevails,
In this perfect world where every soul sails.

So let us dream of this wondrous place,
And work to create it, with love and grace.

For every trans heart, a home to find,
In the embrace of a world so kind





**Thank you to everyone who
contributed to this manifesto.**

**Please, share this manifesto and
help us move toward a world where
trans youth are celebrated.**

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Charity Number: 1160575