

House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW

13 January 2022

To all members of the House of Lords

**Re: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill**

We are writing as LGBT+ people and representatives from across the LGBT+ human rights, diversity and equality sectors to urgently ask that you attend the Report Stage debate on Part 3 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill on 17 January 2022. We urge you to stand against the protest provisions, support amendments that would mitigate some of the provisions' worst harms, and to vote against Government amendments that will make the proposals more oppressive, particularly for those most marginalised within the LGBT+ community.

Pride is a protest. From the very first brick thrown at the famous Stonewall Inn, to the annual parades held during the UK's warmest months, pride reminds everyone everywhere that LGBT+ people's existence is political, and that we've had to fight to be visible, have our needs taken seriously, and be treated equally.

For many, our means of advocating for our rights have caused them unease, distress, and discomfort. From protest kiss-ins with our loved ones, to filing wedding licence applications to demand equal marriage; from staging die-ins to campaign against the Government's inaction around HIV and AIDS, to merely existing as out and proud LGBT+ people, were it not for the tireless campaigning of LGBT+ activists who took part in visible and vocal actions, many of us would not be able to stand today as free and equal members of society.

Yet, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill that is currently making its way through the House of Lords could roll back the tide of the hard won rights we've been so successful in securing. The Bill seeks to give police the powers to restrict processions and assemblies that cause unease, and allows them to prevent protests from going ahead that cause too much noise. Were the Bill in place when we were campaigning for those rights, we have no doubt that these powers would have been used to silence our pleas for justice and equality, and our work as campaigners, continuing to demand justice for LGBT+ communities throughout this country, would have been stifled.

And while we may be able to look back at those who stood against us then and say with confidence that the repugnance of our opposition has, for the most part, dissipated, or at least become socially unacceptable, we are deeply concerned that these powers may be used to justify any future restrictions on our demands for diversity, inclusion and equal treatment.

The UK has a proud record of speaking against injustices in countries for their oppressive treatment of LGBT+ communities across the globe. We are concerned that proposals to limit where protest can take place will mean we can no longer protest outside Embassies and High Commissions and hold some of the most dictatorial regimes to account. Indeed, we fear that this Bill welcomes these anti-democratic measures, such is the extent to which the Policing Bill will have a profound impact on the right to protest.

In the Government's 2018 [LGBT Action Plan](#), the UK committed itself to taking 'bold action' on LGBT+ equality. It stated:

*Everyone in this country should feel safe and happy to be who they are, and to love who they love, without judgement or fear.*

*We will defend, extend and promote the rights and freedoms of LGBT people here and abroad.*

Pride marches, and other protests for our rights, are one of the few ways we can proclaim our equal and deserving membership of society, express ourselves, and love out loud. Yet, the Policing Bill drastically undermines our ability to say to LGBT+ people everywhere that they are welcome, safe here, and that their rights will be protected.

For the ways in which the Policing bill raises significant barriers to LGBT+ people's participation in a core pillar of our democracy, to the ways in which the Bill may further sanction homophobia, violence and abuse, and for the ways in which it undermines the UK's record in advancing equality for LGBT+ people everywhere, we call on Parliamentarians to call for the removal of Part 3 of the Bill entirely. In addition, we ask you to:

- vote for amendments which remove the noise restrictions on protests
- change the 'ought to know' provisions around participation in protest
- reduce the sentences proposed in the Bill for those breaching protest law, and
- oppose the new Government amendments that would make protest more dangerous for the most marginalised in society including by introducing new Protest Banning Orders and expanding police powers of stop and search

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter.

Yours sincerely,

**Grey Collier**, Advocacy Director, Liberty

**Phyll Opoku-Gyimah**, aka Lady Phyll, Executive Director and Co-Founder, UK Black Pride

**Nancy Kelley**, Chief Executive, Stonewall

**Munroe Bergdorf**, Activist

**Katy Jon Went**, Founder, GenderAgenda

**Peter Tatchell**, Director, Peter Tatchell Foundation

**Bobbi Pickard**, CEO, Trans in the City

**Linda Riley**, Publisher, DIVA Magazine

**Dame Sara Llewellyn**, Chief Executive, Barrow Cadbury Trust

**Jake Radwell**, Community Officer and Founder, People's Pride Southampton

**Lisa Power**, Stonewall Founder

**Jay Stewart**, CEO, Gendered Intelligence

**Susie Green**, CEO, Mermaids

**Lucy Kamper**, Business Development Manager, MindOut LGBTQ Mental Health Service

**Katie Vincent**, CEO at Allsorts Youth Project

**Leila Zadeh**, Executive Director, Rainbow Migration

**Nuno Ferreira**, Co-director of the Sussex Centre for Human Rights Research, University of Sussex

**Kip Webb-Heller**, Mental Health Project Worker & **Cerys Evans**, Administrator, MindOut

**Mike Podmore**, Director, STOPAIDS

**Maria Federica Moscati**, Co-Director of Centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Health and Technologies, University of Sussex  
**Kyle Taylor**, Founder and Director, Fair Vote UK  
**Pamela Kea**, Reader in Anthropology, University of Sussex  
**Harry Gay, Nik Hann & Seren John-Wood**, Co-Directors, Queer House Party  
**Liv Wynter**, Artist and Community Organiser  
**Avril Clark & Lucy Clark**, Co-Founders, Trans Radio UK  
**Fox Fisher**, Trans Rights Advocate  
**Ugla Stefanía Kristjónudóttir Jónsdóttir (Owl)**, Journalist, Trans Educator  
**Kaz Self CEng MIMechE**, Trans Pride South West executive committee  
**Reverend Jide Macaulay**, Founder & CEO, House of Rainbow CIC  
**Leni Morris**, CEO, Galop  
**Cat Burton**, Chair, GIRES, the Gender Identity Research and Education Society  
**Aderonke Apata**, Founder & CEO, African Rainbow Family  
**Duncan Campbell**, Founder, Stonewall  
**Phoenix Maycock**, Trans Rights Advocate, Trans Radio presenter, and Advisor for Blossom LGBT CIC  
**Oscar Hoyle**, Founding Director, Blossom LGBT  
**Ginella Williams**, Company Director, TRUK Listens CIC  
**Paul Roberts OBE**, Chief Executive, LGBT+ Consortium  
**Alexander Leon**, Writer  
**Carla Ecola**, Managing Director and Co-Founder, The Outside Project  
**Olly Alexander**, Musician & Actor  
**Chris Brown**, Associate Trainer in LGBTQ Inclusion, MindOut LGBTQ Mental Health Service  
**Vicki Mulligan**, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Sparkle - The National Transgender Charity  
**Katy Ashton**, Director, People's History Museum  
**Steven McIntyre**, Chief Executive Officer, Stonewall Housing (LGBTQ+ Housing and Homelessness Charity)  
**Maria Exall**, Organisation and position, Chair of TUC LGBT + Committee  
**Jamie Wareham**, Founder, QueerAF CIC  
**Alison France**, Evisos limited, Courageous Inclusion Director  
**Dan Beaumont**, Director, Dalston Superstore  
**Martha Awojobi**, CEO, JMB Consulting  
**Edward Whelan**, Writer  
**Luke Dowding**, Executive Director, OneBodyOneFaith  
**Lynks**, Musician  
**Alex Thomas-Smith**, Actor & Activist  
**Mark Fletcher**, Chief Executive Officer, Manchester Pride  
**Helen Belcher**, Chair, TransActual CIC  
**Paul Martin OBE**, Chief Executive, LGBT Foundation  
**Zelly Lisanevork**, Co-founder, House of Guramayle  
**Craig Jones MBE and Caroline Paige**, Joint Chief Executives, Fighting with Pride  
**Chris Jepson**, Journalist, Artist & LGBTQ+ activist  
**Travis Alabanza**, Writer & Performer  
**Erica Rose**, International QEHS Director & Co-Chair – The Body Shop LGBTQ+ Employee Network  
**Eve Russell**, Festival Director, Bristol Pride  
**Paul Kemp**, Managing Director, Brighton & Hove Pride CIC  
**Francesca Purcell**, Lead Private Sector Engagement, Frontline AIDS  
**Will Nutland & Marc Thompson**, Directors, The Love Tank CIC  
**Alison Lomax**, Director, Trans in the City  
**Karen Skipper**, CEO, Spectra  
**Matt Mahmood-Ogston**, Chair, Naz and Matt Foundation

**Ian Green**, Chief Executive, Terrence Higgins Trust  
**Charlotte Jaconelli**, Actor  
**Katie Neeves**, Founder & Trans Ambassador, Cool2BTrans  
**Steven Wardlaw**, Chair, Emerald Life  
**Anna Kear**, CEO, Tonic Housing  
**Tommy Vickerstaff**, UK Lead, 350.org  
**Sandy Downs**, Chair, ChimeQ, Chime's LGBTQ network  
**Gideon Berger**, Director, Block9  
**Benjamin Cohen**, Chief Executive, PinkNews  
**Ryan Butcher**, Head of News, PinkNews  
**Tim Hopkins**, Director, Equality Network  
**John O'Doherty**, Director, The Rainbow Project  
**Lisa Cordery Bruce**, Trustee, Pride Cymru  
**June Bellebono**, Founder, oestrogenation  
**Jason Okundaye**, Writer  
**Hayley Wall**, Illustrator  
**Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants**  
**We Exist**