

Carol's Prepared Remarks for the Safe Community Team, May 15, 2024

The invitation to this session declared that our behaviors “may impact individual and community safety.” Bruce Lesnick and Carol Dansereau may make people unsafe?! This is Orwellian and deeply disturbing.

What is it that we have done that lands us here with the label of being a threat to safety?

- Have we gone up to trans and nonbinary-identifying people, pushed them, threatened them with violence, told them we want them to die? Of course not. While all of these things have been done to us by trans rights activists, we have never done anything of the sort. Nor would we.
- Have we told people that they need to adhere to sexist stereotypes, telling trans-identifying men that they should not wear dresses, for example? Of course not. That would be inconsistent with the lives we have led fighting sexist stereotypes.
- Have we insisted that those who believe in gender identity must be silenced and/or must apologize to us, because terms like “cisgender”, “misgendering”, and “person with a vulva” cause us discomfort? Of course not. We seek to engage in respectful discussion with people who have different perspectives. We don't seek to shut people down or get them excluded.

What we *have* done is this: we have refused to signal agreement with Gender Identity Ideology, its definitions, and its agenda. We don't refer to people as something we don't believe them to be. Why? Because harm flows from doing so. We're deeply committed to defending gay rights, women's rights, and children's health, and much more, all of which are dramatically undermined by gender ideology. We also believe in honesty, and not being compelled to say things we don't believe.

By framing this meeting as a matter of “safety”, the Eliot Committee is conflating failure to embrace the definitions and tenets of an ideology with making people who believe in that ideology unsafe. This is extremely dangerous.

In the name of inclusion, the Committee is considering exclusion. This would be unfair to Bruce and me, and also to the Eliot community. We bring to camp not only our own experiences and expertise, but also the voices of other people who need to be heard:

- Detransitioners angry that affirmation led them to irreversible harm.
- Young lesbian friends, who have asked us to tell people about the homophobia they're experiencing as the result of gender ideology.
- Women incarcerated throughout the provinces and states where Elioteers live, including 30 miles from Seabeck, who are enduring cruel and unusual punishment, locked in cells with males who identify as women.

Does the Eliot community not care about these people, and about the consequences of the ideology being promoted? Does it really want to exclude our voices and theirs?

It has not escaped our notice that this meeting is happening AFTER the new Gender Identity policy was adopted, not before. The Eliot Board appears to be doubling down on a decision to promote Gender Ideology, in the absence of in-depth discussions with us even though we're often described as "valued community members" and we have very important input to offer.

Shockingly, this is happening even as the wheels of the gender affirmation bus are coming off all around us. There have been very major developments in recent years and months, which the Eliot Board has ignored.

- In early April, for example, the Final Report of the Cass Review was published. This extremely important report culminates a 4-year comprehensive review of the scientific basis of what is happening to children in the name of gender ideology. Like 3 other systematic reviews before it, this most comprehensive of them all, is harshly critical of the evidence underpinning gender ideology finding it to be of extremely low quality. It put the final nail in the coffin of endless claims that affirmation improves mental health and prevents suicide. These claims are not supported by credible evidence. The Report is a damning indictment of Gender Affirmation, not just medical affirmation, but social affirmation as well, which it recognizes as an active health intervention. And yet, later in April the Eliot Board adopted a policy that MANDATES affirmation. It chose to directly contradict rigorous scientific data in favor of a position promoted by ideology-driven organizations.
- In March of this year, the WPATH Files were published. This huge trove of leaked internal emails and panel discussions from the World Professional Association of Transgender Health exposes that organization as an ideology-drive sham that is doing incredible harm to children and vulnerable adults, including people with very severe mental illness. Anyone who is promoting gender identity ideology needs to hear what the leaders and members of the body that sets Standards of Care are saying.....needs to understand the callous disregard for health and informed consent that characterizes that body, and the huge harms unfolding. Yet the Board adopted a gender ideology promotion policy in April, and we very much doubt that the WPATH Files were mentioned.
- The Board has ignored
 - Gender clinicians coming forward with stunning whistleblower accounts;
 - Detransitioners speaking out, denouncing the specific approach embodied in the Board's new policy,
 - Major lawsuits filed against those who blindly promote Gender Ideology while ignoring the resulting harms.

- And more.

Frankly the Eliot Committee and the Eliot Board, appear to be committed to remaining ignorant of things that matter a great deal.

This should be a time of deep reflection for any organization that cares about children and justice and has been promoting gender ideology. Healthy organizations will seek out our voices, will be *grateful* for our voices, instead of holding sessions like this one drenched in an insinuation that we are doing something wrong that makes people unsafe.

We urge you to change course. Declare an unflinching commitment to including gender critical voices in the Eliot community. State clearly that disagreement with gender ideology, must not be conflated with threatening someone's safety.

We urge you to rescind the new gender identity policy in order to evaluate it more carefully with input from people like us.

We believe that the Eliot Covenant alone is all that is needed. If the Board re-issues a gender identity policy, we have numerous specific suggested changes.

Bruce and I intend, as always, to engage in civil respectful communications with those attending August Eliot. We intend to raise concerns about the consequences of redefining sex-based words and undermining sex-based rights. We hope that the Committee will endorse this healthy intention.