

Unite Equalities | Statement on the banning of puberty blockers



Unite the union wholeheartedly condemns in the strongest possible terms the announcement made in December 2024 by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting, to implement a ban for under-18s experiencing gender dysphoria accessing puberty blockers. We are appalled that Mr Streeting has seen fit to continue with this ideological based Tory policy – one that is not backed by reliable scientific evidence.

At our recent LGBT+ members conference we passed a motion that gave our unequivocal support for trans people and committed Unite to campaigning for

- the reversal of the decision to ban the provision of puberty blockers to trans youth on the NHS.
- the proper and fully funded provision of gender identity services on the NHS.
- the provision of proper, fully funded and accountable support services for LGBT+ youth, within local authority community services.
- the DfE, and the devolved administrations to provide specific guidance for all schools to have a trans inclusive gender identity policy.

This ban is a cruel attack on one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, trans children. It comes just days after Mr Streeting met with some of very children who will be personally affected by this decision, listening to their stories, talking to their parents, hearing first-hand how this medication saves lives.

Other children who need access to the same medication for other medical reasons will not be prevented from accessing this medication. This ban is only being applied to trans children and is nothing more than pure discrimination based on flawed dogma.

Unite the union resolutely stands against this decision and stands with the trans children and their families who are fighting to make a positive change for all trans people.

The families and loved ones of trans children should know that Unite is fighting by your side, you are not alone, and we will do everything in our power to make this world a safe and welcoming place for you and all trans people.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

DHSC press release - [Ban on puberty blockers to be made indefinite](#) – 11 December 2024