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## Trans activists attack free speech with Mumsnet threats

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Transgender activists are targeting companies which advertise on Mumsnet, because the online forum allows people to debate transgenderism.

Mumsnet founder Justine Roberts said she had been approached by three significant advertisers who had been contacted by pro-trans groups threatening boycotts.



It is being seen as the latest attempt by activists to restrict free speech by shutting down debate.

### 'Thought police'

Women wishing to critique proposals to allow people to legally 'change sex' through self-declaration have been accused of 'transphobia' and 'hate speech'.

Roberts said: "What's worrying to me is the thought-police action around speech and the shutting down of the right to be able to disagree and immediately labelling it as transphobic".

She added that there is "a section of the hardline trans side which thinks that any discussion at all is by definition transphobic".

### Free speech

Mumsnet, Britain's most popular parenting website with twelve million monthly users, does not take a position on the debate, but its founder is determined to protect free speech.

“What’s worrying to me is the thought-police action”

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“This is an issue that needs to be discussed and that’s why we’re prepared to take any potential advertising hit”, she said.

As yet, no companies have pulled their advertising from the website.

## Bullying tactics

Columnist Janice Turner criticised this latest attempt at censorship, but said that bullying and scaremongering was activists’ chief tactic in shutting down debate.

Writing in The Times, she explained that there is a complex debate to be had, but that transgender activists keep it simple when threatening “meek receptionists and scared middle managers” with boycotts.

She said that the simplified transgender narrative “plays to a company’s worst fears: being hounded on social media”.

The activists, she said, demonise anyone critical of the self-identification plans by portraying them as evil bigots who want to eradicate transsexuals and incite violence against them.

She concluded that proper debate is essential, as “what is proposed is nothing less than changing the very definition of man and woman in law – biology replaced with identity”.

### More on this topic

[Mumsnet founder Justine Roberts: Transgender activists try to curb free speech on site \(thetimes.co.uk \(£\), 15 April 2018\)](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-15/news/mumsnet-founder-justine-roberts-transgender-activists-try-to-curb-free-speech-on-site-z3sr3nf6q) (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-15/news/mumsnet-founder-justine-roberts-transgender-activists-try-to-curb-free-speech-on-site-z3sr3nf6q>).

[Trans activists think debate is hate speech \(thetimes.co.uk \(£\), 14 April 2018\)](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-14/comment/trans-activists-think-debate-is-hate-speech-hsh7vpmzt) (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-14/comment/trans-activists-think-debate-is-hate-speech-hsh7vpmzt>).

### Related Resources



[‘River Island have made a mistake’ over ‘gender free’ ad](http://www.christian.org.uk/resource/river-island-made-mistake-gender-free-ad/) (<http://www.christian.org.uk/resource/river-island-made-mistake-gender-free-ad/>)

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