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transsexual, israel, people, great britain, case, interesting, transgendered, law, britain, surgery, talk, male, stephen, women, change, children, court, legally, whittle, transgender

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Sarah Dipalma

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Sarah Dipalma 00:03

I think it takes a lot of courage. The Australian culture very much like the Texan culture is one of some being kind of macho, sure.

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Jimmy Carper 00:10

And Wild West type of thing. You know, anything goes. Yeah,

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Sarah Dipalma 00:14

yeah. And I was pleased to hear Jane say that the relationship between gays and lesbians in the transgender community in Australia is getting better. Because I know in the past some of the things that she's written, that was not so. So that's good. That's good things. One of the things that I have found very interesting in and I don't mean to be bragging here, there's just something that is that. We are finding that because of the internet, people are watching what we are doing this country, but we are doing especially in Texas, and they are saying, Well, damn, they can do it. Why can't wait. Well, yeah, it's an amazing thing, how the Internet has acted as a tool. Later on, you'll hear an interview with Steven Whittle, and we'll talk about Steven Woods starting a group called press for change. One of the things they are doing in in they're going to do in Great Britain is something called a national Lobby Day. Something they learned about when they were here at the Transgender Law conference. Again, well, yes. So it's it is indeed a small world,

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Jimmy Carper 01:11

the world is getting even smaller. Yeah. Which is really exciting. Yes. Because because we're we're finding out that people all over the world are really just about the same.

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Sarah Dipalma 01:22

It's almost embarrassing to me how much more they know about us than we seem to know.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:28

That's always been the way because we were you know, we're us. We're the one that sets the pace we set the style. Well as

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Sarah Dipalma 01:37

in I was corresponding with a transgendered activist in Norway by the name of Jenny sand. And I was I said several things. And she basically said, Well, that's nice, but you have your facts wrong. And I was very embarrassed to find out I didn't do my facts wrong. And it is true. They I consider myself a reasonably educated person. They really do know a lot more about us than

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Jimmy Carper 01:56

that. It's always been that way. It's the American ego. I think that that you know,

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Sarah Dipalma 02:02

yeah, I remember being this horrible story, but we're I remember being in Paris and there are signs in nine languages. Please do not take flash cube shots of the paintings, because if they apparently fade the paintings are oxidizes most most museums and here we are over with the Mona Lisa. And here's Uncle Fred from Kansas and his wife Bertha taken in front of the Mona Lisa, like like the Mona Lisa needs them to frame it. You know, right in Oh, Fred's there's, well stand over here. Bertha, we're gonna take a snapshot. I mean, the poor people have guards have to come and shoo them away. But now I know why they think that what they do. Oh, god.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:40

Yeah, we we kind of do that we go to other places and we think that we own them.

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Sarah Dipalma 02:46

Yes, please a lot. Folks. Trust me. The Mona Lisa does not need you to pose. No, well, let's go to some music. What do you think?

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Jimmy Carper 02:53

Sure. Another piece from Great Britain. Oh, cool. You. I'm trying you know, I've tried to get some international queer music here. But you know, this is a piece you've heard before. It's

Holly Johnson. Oh, yeah. Legendary children, all of them queer. See how many people you know through Holly Johnson legendary children, all of them queer. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston, and KEOS College Station Bryan That's 90.1 FM and 89.1 fm, respectively. Hi, I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me is

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Sarah Dipalma 03:40

Sarah De Palma. Did you see Sophie B. Hawkins on on Jay Leno?

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Jimmy Carper 03:44

No! She was on?

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Sarah Dipalma 03:46

Yeah, she's cute.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:47

She is

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Sarah Dipalma 03:48

she really is she was on Jay Leno on I gotta be sure tells you that she's saying? Yeah, She sure did. I forget what it was she sang. Sang now because I was kind of falling asleep.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:57

Probably on her. Her new album. Yeah,

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Sarah Dipalma 04:00

she's adorable.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:01

She hot woman

S

Sarah Dipalma 04:03

she is let's let's talk about you know, and this show we talk about what it's like to be

she is let's let's talk about you know, and this show we talk about what it's like to be transgendered in this country. And sometimes we think we have a tough. Well, I have been, as I said earlier, I've been corresponding with people on the internet. And I have been speaking with a person by the name of Lisa Aronson. Now, Lisa is an interesting case because Lisa live, or did live in Israel. And so I submitted a series of questions to her and I wanted to know what it was like to be transsexual in Israel. For starters, she tells me Israel will not register a change of sex, period. Oh, you're kidding. So right off the bat, I think that's an interesting question. How does one get a job in Israel? They will not register a change of sex at all. And Lisa says, it's an interesting question would be whether they would register if an amended birth certificate has been issued in another country. Now the reason that As she mentioned that is because she is planning to come to the United States to transition. And what she plans to do, she says here is requested citizenship all over again with her new ID that she'll be getting in the United States. And never tell them that they once registered her as a male and a citizen in the country of Israel. Probably that's the only way to do it. Well, as it turns out, it is. So folks right off the bat, if you're here, you're sitting here in Houston and you're thinking, Oh, woe is me. I've got lifetime. Yeah, imagine having to move to another country to do your transition. How much money do you need? Then? Whoa. She goes on to say that she saw some newspaper articles about transsexuals in the Israeli papers. And of course, according to the Israeli papers, all transsexuals are prostitutes, brother. It's interesting that as I've done my research, that stereotype is true

J Jimmy Carper 05:52

worldwide. I wonder why that is? It was my stereotype before I met you, even in Turkey,

S Sarah Dipalma 05:57

they held that to be true. I'm not it's Jane Langley speculate and I think that there's some truth to it. She speculates it's because somebody transsexuals end up in their profession because they can't be employed anywhere else. That may be Yeah. Which which could very well be I know, we've talked about that on the air. And

J Jimmy Carper 06:15

that is, that's the vision you get. It's sort of like, a lot of people think that all gay people are raging queens, because that's all you say. Well,

S Sarah Dipalma 06:27

you know, yeah, that's it, especially if you watch Jerry Springer or some of these other shows. I mean, you know, you would think that that's the case. Lisa goes on. And she talks about she says she I wasn't aware of this. There is no civil marriage or divorce in Israel. Only rabbinical marriages. Marriage, yes. So needless to say transsexuals cannot marry no even postoperative they cannot marry. So there's another situation. So in Israel, number one, they won't change. It won't issue a change of identification, even after surgery so you can't get a job. Clearly you cannot get married. She does tell an interesting story. It's a really tough trying to live well, I can't really imagine it. This is something I thought was very interesting. A little less than a year

ago. She says Israel God, it's first out in open public transsexual. She's a 27 year old woman by the name of Sherry Cohen. And she put out an album under the stage name Dana International. And ironically, she is phenomenally popular in Egypt. Were a particularly Muslim fundamentalist, like her. That's funny. It's a very strange story. As she says reaction to her has been surprising. Israel as is, I guess our listeners know is made up of many, many cultures. Yes, of course, Israel is a country that was completely built on immigration. Well, apparently one of the primary cultures or group there is called I probably can pronounce this wrong. It's this party, SCP H AR di, which is she explains to me, our Jews, primarily from Arab countries, she says they tend to be pretty macho, hairy, Middle Eastern and score the types. She said just exactly the type of people you assume would hate a transsexual. She says In fact, they are her biggest fans. Wow. She also explained I thought this was very interesting. And some sex SEC TS Yeah, folks in Israel. It is considered immodest for a man to hear women singing what except for the wives and daughters. That's right. It is considered immodest, in the same way that being half dressed with it. So one rabbi somewhere in the north of the country, has ruled that this prohibition does not apply to wearing transsexual hearing transsexual women say you know why? Because transsexual women are not considered There you go, there you go. Yes. Now the other part of this so they can listen. They can listen and it's okay to listen to her. That's to me that was our logic.

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Jimmy Carper 09:04

Yeah, so let me how you find the loopholes. Isn't it if you really

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Sarah Dipalma 09:08

you know if you want to find a loophole law, okay, so what if it's the you know, the Koran or the Bible or the Talmud, you can find really can find that you can find Oh, the other thing I was not aware of this in Israel, all funerals are done. They have different rights for males or females. Oh, which meant in the past transsexual since they were never legally males or females were never legally in their new gender. were buried under the wrong gender. Sure. That is only recently has been changed apparently. No. So yeah, so now at least the ruling is that they should treat the deceased in accordance with their apparent gender. Good, well, that is good, which is interesting. Now that would mean for people like me who have chosen not to have surgery, where you know what? What so if you have the story treat and you become a female, you'll get no legal rights, you won't be able to get a job. But they really bury you in the

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Jimmy Carper 10:07

correct way. Well, hey, it's a start. Well, maybe it's a finish. I don't know. It is a finish. Yeah. So you have to get your foot in the door somewhere, you know? Yeah, I guess, even if it's the last door, and then you'll work your way backwards.

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Sarah Dipalma 10:22

I guess that's I guess that's the theory is one of the questions that I asked her is, I want to know, if it was possible to get a sex change operation in Israel? The answer is yes, you can. And in fact the state will pay for in most cases really? Yeah. Apparently they have socialized

in fact, the state will pay for in most cases, really. Yeah. Apparently, they have socialized medicine there. And so it's a case similar to Great Britain in that, yeah, they'll pay for the surgery. They just won't give you any rights. Okay. But she tells a very interesting story about her experience. And I'm just going to read this in her own words here. She said that she that they have basically two hospitals in Israel that one can go to, and apparently the one that was closest to her was in Jerusalem. In her words here now. It was horrid. Oh, I had three sessions with a psychiatrist. The first session, he embarrassed me and generally made me so uncomfortable that I didn't go but I almost didn't go back. It eventually led to a depression so badly, I attempted suicide. Damn, said he made it clear from the start that I was there for him to decide whether I was suitable for his program, which meant he had to decide whether I was indeed transsexual. And folks, it isn't like in this country, you can't go get a second opinion. Yeah. He said, the heat this. Lisa says that she had been Premarin which is of course, a hormone which was self prescribed. And they said that they would have to start monitoring me on Premarin. Now, interestingly, Lisa, Aaron contacts Delos Dennee in Atlanta, Georgia for help. Oh, because she can't get help in Israel. In Dallas, Danny says it can manage to get her help for a different doctor. However, this doctor says that they will they want to she'll have to stop taking hormones. So they can do baseline work workup, which is standard procedure, and then says By the way, you won't be able to take hormones for a year until I decide you can restart. Right? Now I gotta explain about that for a minute. Maybe maybe that isn't clear to folks. For transsexuals. Once you start on hormones, getting off off them, again, if you've been on it for any length of time can be extremely

J Jimmy Carper 12:28
dangerous was the

S Sarah Dipalma 12:31
it's it would be it would be similar to the chain, it's similar to menopause. For women, oh, you have very much the same kind of responses, you'll get heat flashes, it can lead to heart palpitations, it can lead to complications of blood clotting, it can be a very serious deal. So what this doctor was suggesting to her is no small matter. So what she did, she simply killed self kept self medicating the permanent until she moved out of Israel. And now she's moved to this country. And she's going to transition in the United States, plans to continue her transition, and then go back to Israel, not knowing whether she'll actually be accepted as a citizen after she returned. Wow. So if you think life is tough here, I just thought you'd find that kind of interesting. What's shift countries? And let's talk about something that maybe that's really

J Jimmy Carper 13:21
totally worn out. I mean, think about the implication. I mean, why would you want to go back? And, of course, it's our homeland and willing, it's a religious matter. Yes. But gosh,

S Sarah Dipalma 13:32
no one is really Oh, when she sees it. Honestly, I can't imagine the situation that she's got to be in. I don't know what kind of job she's in, that she can leave Israel and go to the United States

for Yeah, for for a year or more. You have to think that that's not true for probably 90% of the transsexuals who live there. You certainly can't go to Arabia and have it done. No. And it is interesting about about getting the information out of Israel because most of Israel is not wired to the internet. And none of the Arabian Peninsula is oh, by their choice, the Arabians do not want Western culture being put out into their country decided not to hook up to the internet at all. So I tried like crazy to get information because real curious knowing how women are treated in the Arabian in could not come up with an information and apparently that's why oh, so it was just just getting the information out of Israel was pretty interesting. And even then I only got a lot of after she came back to this country and hooked up on the internet again. It boggles my mind that that you have to see one doctor, one doctor decides everything. Yeah, that was pretty dangerous. She was nice enough. I'm not going to read it all here. She was nice enough that she uploaded the consent form for surgery in Israel. And it never occurred to me that in the in in Hebrew, there are a lot of strange nuance says in words, so that some words don't translate well. So when it comes time to do a sex change operation, just by the fact that vocabulary doesn't exist, it makes it very difficult to put together a consent form. Sure. And in many cases, putting together a consent form requires rabbinical review. But rather than on top of that, in there in Israel, it's not just a case of going to a psychiatrist and getting a letter. You have to get a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a urologist, an endocrinologist, you talk about through hoops of fire me after all that after two year period, they have a two year waiting period in Israel, not one. They can still say well, nope, nevermind. Wow. So

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Jimmy Carper 15:44

we have lots of freedoms here. Don't

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Sarah Dipalma 15:46

worry. Yeah, I quit feeling sorry for myself. We're going to do an interview in a few minutes with Stephen Widdle so I thought we'll talk about Great Britain next. Okay, that seemed to make the most sense. Now, Stephen Woodall is very interesting man. First of all, he's an author, and I brought his book with me thanks to Dean McKellar. She lent me her copy. He is an attorney. And in the interview, you're going to hear Stephen Whittle say he's you're going to hear him say the same things. You've heard Phyllis Frey say, for years and years, which is if you can't beat them, become a lawyer and go after them. Right, which is essentially what Stephen would have decided and it works. It does work. Now Steven Whittle is in a very interesting situation. In Great Britain is when we want to back up a second. Most of our listeners have probably seen Tula Tula is a is a supermodel right? She didn't James Bond movies, also British Tula took a took her case to the World Court because she wanted the right to marry anyone who looks at tool and can see a male needs a new set of eyes.

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Jimmy Carper 16:53

Yeah, no kidding, no kidding. But

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Sarah Dipalma 16:56

in Great Britain. they decided that she was male. in same sex marriages are not allowed. So

she took them to the World Court. And she lost. Oh, now, Stephen widow has a different situation in the he is a female to male transsexual. And they have had, I believe two children by artificial insemination. And so legally, he is not their father. Right? Because since he's still legally a woman, and you can't have two mothers in Great Britain, he's not legally their parent. Now, he is suing under the World Court, on the grounds that Great Britain has violated his right to privacy, which will be a very interesting case. Wow, I checked with just the other day with with him, in his case is in fact going to be taken up by their court. So we very interesting, Steven would is also started a group called press for change, which is going to be cut, which is kind of a cross between transsexual minutes, in its time America. In what they're doing is they're going to be seeking full rights and responsibilities for all transgender people in Great Britain. And one of the things they hope to do is for the first time ever, they hope to have a group in the gay pride parade in London, NATO, so that that'll be a big step forward. Yes. Another thing that Stephen will talk about, which I thought was interesting, is that they are going to have a national lobby debt.

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Jimmy Carper 18:22

Sounds familiar?

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Sarah Dipalma 18:23

Yeah. Now this is kind of interesting. A Ricky Wilkins from transsexual minutes came up with this idea. And in October 2, and third, we're going to have representatives from every state in the Union go to Washington DC in the lobby their representatives and their senators, on behalf of transgender issues. Apparently, Stephen Whittle was paying attention when Ricky talked about vaccines. And so they are in fact putting together a lobby day and they are going to visit the Houses of Parliament and go and present transgender issues to Parliament. Cool, they are going to be putting publicity together. What I like it's different from what we're doing in this country is they are going to be using photographs. And what they are going to do is they are going to use these take these photographs and put them on these the desks of the politicians and say, you see we are talking about human beings here. Let us put faces on these issues for you. It makes a big difference, I think. I think brilliant. Yes, I really do. And they are going to also put together a campaign pack and which which is something it's time American has already done. Now. It's it's interesting to me how again, watching what we've done here, they have been able to go back to Great Britain and say, you know there are some things we can adapt here. And by golly look at what's going on. Yeah, it really it makes me feel very good to think that what we do here makes it is being observed in other places and can be useful. Sure.

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Jimmy Carper 19:53

Because the game for for somebody is the game for everybody.

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Sarah Dipalma 19:57

Yeah and in especially in in gray Britain, gays and lesbians have a lot more liberty in some ways in Great Britain than gays and lesbians here do. But transgendered people generally were

unheard of, until until Iula decided to make the case right. The other thing that's interesting to me is then in Great Britain, it is primarily female to male transsexual that are the activists really, which is the opposite of what we have in America. Yes. When we come back from this interview, we'll talk about some of the cases that have gone to the World Court from Great Britain, and both them were female to male transsexual. Of course, Steven, Steven would be a female to male transsexual, precisely the opposite situation that we have in America, but driving to the same results. Yeah. So I don't know. I just thought I'd point that out. It's interesting. Cool. Yeah. So let's go. We're going to go the interview with Steven Whittle. We'll come back to some music and then we'll talk about what it's like to live in Europe and be transgendered. Okay, you're

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Jimmy Carper 20:56

listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and KEOS College Station Bryan.

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Sarah Dipalma 21:13

Regan, regular listeners of after hours this evening, we have a special treat for you. from Manchester, England. We're speaking with Stephen Whittle. And Stephen Wardle is an author and noted transgender activist from Great Britain. Welcome to after hours. Hi, thank you very much for inviting me to speak. Oh, thank you for doing it. First of all, let's let's talk about your book. You've recently written a new book, is that right? Yeah. I just, it's been out about nine months now. I wrote a book called transvestism transsexualism. And the law, which came out actually of my research, I was a PhD student, a rather old PhD student at a university in England, and my subject area was transsexuals and the law. I did a lot of research. And partly it came out of that. But also, I've been an activist on the scene in Great Britain for about 20 years now. From when I first transitioned. Okay, so let's let's explain to our listeners then that you transitioned from one gender to another about 20 years ago. That's why I always find this difficult because one wants to say I was born a little girl I wasn't, I was born a baby. When everybody thought I was a little girl. From a fairly early age, I knew it was wrong, that I was if anything a little boy. And when I was about 19, I transitioned to living full time as a man. Okay, now Great Britain has a different set of rules about transitioning than we do. And as I understand it, they will the insurance will pay for the surgery, but then you get no legal rights. Is that essentially correct? That's essentially correct. We have a public health service system, which I think is a sort of issue over here at the moment for you, a socialized health welfare system, and surgery can be obtained under the National Health Service, and all treatment. Unfortunately, though, you're not legally recognized in your new gender role. So for example, for the last 20 years, though I've lived as a man, as I'm still recognized in law as a woman. And certain things are quite easy to change, we can change most of our documentation, but it's actually by concession rather than by any form of legislation. So for example, my driving licenses as a man, my tax records was a man, the public records on Social Security as a man but in fact, the private records are as a female as a woman. And my birth certificate still states that I'm female. So for example, I'm in the position now that I'm actually a father to two children, who were conceived by artificial insemination. But I'm not their father and wasn't allowed to be their father on their birth certificate, because you can't have a woman being anybody's father in English law. And I've been very involved in campaigning for these laws to be sorted out, sooner or later, one way or the other. Because it's anathema to me, that one should be able to obtain surgery, treatment, hormone therapy, and such, like, be almost

welcomed by society with open arms, I've actually found increasingly, on a social level people really are not concerned about some dis transgenderism, but to face this constant battle with the government and with the courts over one's legal status. And and that's what my, my area of concern is. No, you showed me pictures of your children and they're absolutely beautiful. But in they the courts of the laws of Britain do not recognize you as their legal parent. Is that right? That's right. In England, I'm not the legal parent at all, even though we actually receive treatment. it through the National Health Service system for my partner to get pregnant. Mind you that took a huge battle to that took five years and we got to the doors of the court before they gave up. I think they hadn't realized they had somebody who was playing in the same ballpark as them. We anyhow, we have two children now, but I'm not recognized as their father, my partner, ironically, is recognized as a single parent for welfare benefits. So we claim for worth welfare benefits, which is about \$700 a month. And that \$700 a month, we've been putting aside to take the government to the European Court of Human Rights, we're using their money to pay to take them to court. I enjoy. So actually, the government is shooting themselves in the foot. Totally, totally. I mean, I think the case that we're actually taking, which is on behalf of our children, their right to privacy, the European Convention on Human Rights and bodies, things that you would have in the the US Constitution or the United Nations Convention on Human Rights, but it's specifically for European states and has a court system which can address where the states are meeting the requirements of that convention. One of the requirements of that convention is everybody's entitled to privacy over their family life. We've actually taken the case on behalf of my children. They why should they have to constantly explain a blank space on their birth certificate? Why should their privacy be intruded because the government refuses to recognize my status. And we've been through the first stage of that proceedings, because it's a two stage proceeding, you first of all get admissibility of the case. And then you get it taken to the finally to the Supreme Court. We've gone through the admissibility stage and it's been declared as admissible. And now the government is having to work out its defense for his behavior. But I think we've got a good chance. This is the major case from a transgendered or transsexual person to be taped to the European Court of Human Rights from Britain. The two previous cases. The last one was actually Tula Carolyn Cossie, the model, who I think lots of people will have heard of her. She now lives over here in states. She unfortunately failed, she went on the right to get married. But I think we've got a good chance because this case involves children. And the European Court is not bound by legislative law. It's only bound by the convention. It's very equitable court, it has a lot of freedom. And certainly the whispers we've heard is, you know, they're pretty disgusted with what the British government has been doing. So I think we've got a good chance, but it'll take another couple of years before we get the final hearing. Now, let's assume that you win at this court, does it carry any force of law in Britain? In other words, if you win, to the British government have to say, Well, okay, we lose. And now Stephen Whittle is legally viewed as the parent of these children. Well, actually, the way it will work is that the European Court doesn't have any absolute power over the British government, but the British government will look an absolute fool if they don't do anything that the British government, of all signatories to the convention has lost more cases at the European Court of Human Rights and any other cases concerning torture, for example, gay rights, and so on and so forth. What they will do is they'll make a recommendation to the British government that they have to sort out the situation or they will review them as signatories to the convention. So the British government, I think, is fairly likely to act. The other thing I'm involved in is the campaigning group, a parliamentary lobbying lobbying group called press for change. And what we're trying to do is endeavor that if the court gets to the point where it says you must do something about it, we're there ready with a piece of legislation that they can pick up and then act on our behalf. Now, just by comparison, for our listeners who may not be familiar with this, in this country, no insurance will pay for your surgery, everything is out of pocket, and it has to be paid for in advance. But if your

genitals actually are changed through surgery, the government that your marriage is legally recognized. So you don't really hear that issue of child custody. On the other hand, coming up with 12 to \$15,000, payable in advance is a definite problem. How is how is how have things changed in Britain? You've been an activist for 20 years. I know in this country, we've seen change, but it's been painfully slow. How are things changed in Britain? I think one of the most amazing things that I see over the last 20 years is the social change. Truth of the matter is that if you're transsexual or crossdresser, or transgender, just in Britain socially, you will be very accepted. I certainly I now teach I'm a law professor 20 years ago, that wouldn't have been available. I mean, 20 years ago, I was hounded out of my job. I am actually working in the same institution nowadays. And I was welcomed with open arms. It was great feeling actually to get back, a chair and the desk and the kettle to make a cup of tea, you socially, there's been a great change much more acceptance. Unfortunately, politically, there's been no move at all. I think the political issues have been about gay rights. And unfortunately, the gig and women's rights also, but the gay community and the feminist movement in Britain are very loath to take on board the transgender wrist cause and transgendered people themselves have probably been partly to blame for that. Because, because surgery has been available reasonably easily. I mean, you know, nothing sadder you say, um, because you can get most documents changed, eventually, people have gone back to hiding in the closet to just blending in as a new person. I made a real decision about 15 years ago that that wasn't who I was. I think it's quite interesting if you're female to male transsexual. Certainly in Britain, one of the most noticeable things is that there isn't surgery to make a penis. So you have to learn to live without having a penis. Well, you have to tell somebody always if you want to have a relationship in life, if you want to love anybody, you know. And I realized that a penis didn't make a man. But I had to learn to be out in some bits of my life. And I thought, hold on a minute, why am I ashamed? Anyway, there's nothing to be ashamed of, I should be out in all my life, and be proud of who I am and what I have achieved. I've done things that, you know, most people will never do in that life. I had a dream, and I've actually achieved it. That's a lesson a lot of people could learn about their own dreams. I teach students, you know, I walk in the first day of the first term, the first year students, so they say, right, let's get it straight. Now, before all the gossip starts going out, and the one who's had the sex change any questions? And they'll their mouths drop open, I say no, seriously, any questions? Because I want you to be able to realize your dreams one day, the way I have done, you will want to be lawyers. You want to be attorneys, and you want to fight for justice? Well, you've got to learn that fighting for justice is not just about schooling. It's not just about wearing the right sort of clothes. It's not about standing up in court. It's about living it throughout your whole life. And I think you know, this is something that is really most important to me that justice is an essential aspect of ourselves. When I was a child, I used to watch the Lone Ranger, the masked man who fought for justice. And as a child, I used to feel like that masked man, nobody could tell who I was, I was I was behind a mask. And now I'm an adult, you know, but I'm still that masked man. In many ways. People see me they don't think I'm transgendered. I love telling them and just breaking off and taking out that mask and saying, and I'm also fighting for justice. I thought was fine likes to tell the story about she called her doctor for an appointment and got a new nurse. And the nurse said to her, Well, of course Ms. Fry will have to have you have to do a pap smear. And Phyllis said, Well, I don't think so. And Lily Linares had Oh yes, we have to do that for all the women and Phyllis prices. Well thank you must be new, check my charts. And then actually check the charts and discover course that Phyllis was a non surgical transsexual, and came back and apologized and Felicity will don't apologize. It's the most fun of the head all day. tend to agree. I mean, I look do the same sorts of things. I mean, I'm proud of who I am. I'm proud of what I've achieved. I'm really proud of my family. But mostly I want to say to other people, that you too, can be proud. I think that's the biggest lesson we have to learn is how to be proud about ourselves that we really have a lot to show the rest of the world. And that's partly really why I wrote the book, because I

wanted to enable other transgender people in the United Kingdom. And their turn is to realize that the laws there, it's apparently against you, but use it for you. I'll give you a really good story. Friend of mine, he transitioned about four years ago, he worked as a games teacher in a school, a gym teacher. And he was contracted as a woman to teach games to girls. He started transitioning, he went and told the head of school and he was asked to leave. And he said no, I'm not leaving. This went on for a year we fought this case, on the basis that English law says that you can't change sex. Therefore this guy was he was taking medication under the National Health Service that was authorized. He changed his name. Well you can change your name in England to anything you want. You can be called Mickey Mouse if you want to legally He was perfectly fit and able to work, which his doctor said so. And he had not changed sex, he was still a woman. And as for the beard, he was growing well, lots of women grown women grow hair on their face, you know, and you don't sack them for it. In fact, he got an incredible amount of support from the parents and pupils in the school. He didn't actually retain his job, unfortunately. But he got a huge payoff that was not a formal pension. And he actually is now working in another school. That's GamesMaster. And we took the law and we said, Okay, you say we don't change sex. Therefore, don't try and sack anybody for changing sets. Oh, no. Oh, and that's the thing to do is take it and turn it and play it their way. As interesting logic. I went to the tea party in San Antonio, which is run by Lyndon, Cynthia's Phil's from Windsor and Cynthia Phillips. And they gave a talk called the religion of fear, in which we talked to mostly transvestites across classrooms, and tried to explain to them why they had a stake in the political process of Texas. About three weeks after that there were two people at least who became victims of hate crimes, who then call us back and said, Now I understand. Unfortunately, they were so ashamed of what happened. It drew no support, and those people are still living in fear. Is that still the case in Britain as well? I think so. I mean, hate crimes are fortunately very rare against any member of the transgender community. Fortunately, very rare, they do happen occasionally. And the police have not been very supportive to people in the past. I mean, I often get phone calls in the middle of the night, you know, from people in desperate straits. And I find a word with the sergeant on duty in his ear will generally sort things out and get some support for that person. Certainly, until last year, one of the biggest problems we had was that a male to female transsexual, who was raped could not be raped in English law, because of course, they will still a man. So in English law, they couldn't be rate. So if they were raped, their attacker would just be charged with sexual assault, which meant probably no imprisonment. And we really fought hard over that. And in fact, the new criminal justice bill that came into law at the beginning of this year, includes all sorts of rape, male or female, any penetration is rape, any non consensual penetration, I think that's a nice thing, that one, that's something that the transsexual and transgender community have actually contributed to an awareness of the law was inadequate, that they were being excluded, and men were being excluded. Some men who were being raped, had no recourse in law, either. They're now all included. So that's sort of, you know, it's in England, it's almost like we've had to drip drip drip away at everything. There isn't a huge sort of activist movement, that's public. But instead, there's a small activist movement, mostly F two M's, actually, really? Yeah, I mean, it's an amazing one of the things I've really noticed was that when the organization's were run by male to females, they were very committed, orientated, and very into actually organized meetings, and so on and so forth. But nothing ever got done. It's like the meeting became the purpose. Whereas the F two M's, have a pint of beer, and work out and get the next thing done. And there's no committee meetings. And I think that's really interesting, because I think it has says a lot about the way gender people are brought up in our society. The F, two M's were brought up as women, and they were brought up to listen, they were brought up to discourse, they were brought up to come to some form of, I suppose, consensus, and compromise, and then to act upon it. And that's exactly and precisely what they do. And I think in that way, as to where men have a great deal to educate, great deal of sorts of things that they need to

educate other men about. It's one of the arguments that I've made to feminists, is that in this is at least in Texas, the females to male, the male to female transsexuals bring a lot to Feminists. Feminists often say, a complaint about how they don't know how to be assertive will male to female transsexuals have learned that because it's part of our being colorized. And we could teach them a lot. If they would allow us to do that. That's that's the hard part. I think that's exactly right. We have a lot to offer to the gendered groups, which we're sort of taking part in. We have a lot to educate them from we learned from them, but they need to learn from us too. If they stopped and listened, they might find that the world gradually became a much freer and more eco We'll place for everybody. Oh, before we end the interview, let me ask you what's next for Steven wouldl. You go back to Britain in what's next on your agenda? Well, the next thing on my agenda is we want to have a third baby. But the other thing I want to write, I'm a great believer in the art of writing autobiography that I think our community does well, we know how to address ourselves. And what I want to write, and this is probably going to take me three or four years. But I want to write the history of our community, on one side of the page, and on the other side of the page, a translation of that community through my life. So that it becomes a translated piece, each side translates each other. So that we see a history of the community and the development of activism and theory in the community, alongside the changes that have taken place in my life as an individual. Because I have had fascinating, fascinating life. I mean, I often, I often think that I wish other people could have had the adventure that have had. And I look at my own son, my own little boy. And I wonder whether he'll be half the man. Because he won't have had that amount of fun, because I had some scares, but a hell of a lot of fun along the way. And it's been a real, real adventure. And in many ways, I want to write that adventure down so that other people can see that their lives can be an adventure. Also, Steven Woodley, you are an absolutely joy to talk to. I've really enjoyed this. Thank you very, very much. Well, thank you for having me. Thank you very much. I hope everyone was listening to the last the last portion of that. He talks about life being in adventure. And earlier in the interview, he talked about the fact that he talked about his young son and he wonders whether his young son will be half the man that he is because his life has been such an adventure in such a challenge. And it is, it has occurred to me is as I've listened to, excuse me, some of the people that we've had on the show now, what it takes to be an activist, it takes I think it's an attitude that says, life is it feast, let's eat Yeah, yes.