

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP, Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

16 April 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

On 16th April 2025, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that “sex” in law means biological sex. A woman is an adult human female and a man is an adult human male. The judgment provided long-awaited clarity on the law of the land, affirming that women have distinct legal rights on the basis of their sex.

Such clarity ought not have required the intervention of the Supreme Court, but a prolonged campaign to undermine women’s sex-based rights in the UK had gone unchallenged for years, warping policy and practice across the country. Scottish Labour, like the Scottish Conservatives, has now committed to abide by the law and take action to rectify some of the egregious failures across public services in Scotland. We would urge the UK Government to be similarly robust and stand up for women’s legal rights. We are deeply disappointed that lies and obfuscation about the law continue to go unchallenged by your Government.

It is imperative that you, as our Prime Minister, provide clear and decisive leadership, rather than allowing the status quo to continue to the detriment of women and girls.

Failure to do so gives the impression that the rights of women and girls are of lesser importance and negotiable to you. How can your Government have a commitment to halve violence against women and girls, when it refuses to enforce that law which defines what a woman is?

A functioning society depends on civil compliance with the law. The notion that individuals or institutions may disregard legal obligations until such a time they are “caught” or compelled to comply is not compatible with the principles of a democratic society governed by the rule of law.

We urge you to act now, for women and girls. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Trina Budge, Marion Calder and Susan Smith
Directors, For Women Scotland