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LGBTQI in Perth protest over visiting anti-trans activist Kellie-Jay Keen



Kate Emery The West Australian
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Kate Emery



The protest at Parliament House in Perth today. Credit: Jackson Flindell/The West Australian



Perth LGBTQI protestors all but drowned out visiting anti-transgender activist Kellie-Jay Keen at an appearance on Tuesday.



About 150 protestors shouted, “Posie Parker you can’t hide, you have nazis on your side”, while supporters of Ms Keen returned fire, telling them to “get a job” and “stop the genocide”.



Ms Keen, who also goes by the moniker Posie Parker, is in Perth as part of an Australia-wide tour understood to be at least partly sponsored by CPAC Network, the

conservative organisation which, among other things, is campaigning against the Voice.

It is unclear whether the reference to nazis by protestors referred to Ms Keen's appearance in videos with white nationalists or an event she organised in January, at which one of the speakers quoted Adolf Hitler, drawing a parallel between what he called "the big lie" – Jewish people discrediting Germany's war efforts – and those supporting trans rights.

Ms Keen, who prefers to describe herself as a women's rights activist but mostly campaigns on opposing transgender rights, told the crowd of about 100 people, including one wearing a One Nation t-shirt and carrying a cardboard cut-out of Pauline Hanson, that it was time for politicians to be brave.



📷 Protest at Parliament. Posie Parker Jackson Flindell Credit: Jackson Flindell/The West Australian

“I’m just going to say to politicians, the time to be brave is now, don’t wait until you’re jumping on the next bandwagon,” she said.

The last politician to run on an overtly anti-trans platform, former prime minister Scott Morrison's pick as Liberal candidate for the seat of Warringah, Katherine Deves, failed to win the seat.

The Perth rally came a day after the organisation Ms Keen founded, Standing for Women, put out a media release wrongly claiming that WA was poised to introduce new laws that would, among other things, allow 12-year-olds to change their sex without safeguards or allow "any man to identify into" female prisons or sporting competitions.



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It claimed the Government was considering a new bill on transgender rights that had gone through a Parliamentary legal and safety committee and would include a number of reforms.

Although the WA Government is, as has been previously announced, planning reforms to make it easier for people to change their sex, no bill has been introduced to Parliament or considered by a committee.

The proposed reforms essentially mean that instead of providing proof of surgery, a transgender man or woman would need to provide a certificate from a doctor or psychologist confirming they have received relevant clinical treatment.



📷 Protest at Parliament. Jackson Flindell Credit: Jackson Flindell/The West Australian

Relatively unknown in Australia, Ms Keen has a high-profile in the UK where she campaigns against transgender rights.

Since arriving in Australia, she has spoken out against allowing girls under-16 to access to contraception or abortion.

Asked about Ms Keen's presence in Perth, a spokesperson for TransFolk of WA said the peer support group was "deeply concerned by the exclusionary attitudes and harmful rhetoric espoused by some individuals who ... use their platform to attack and marginalise transgender women".

"We know for a fact, through the lived experience of our community and numerous peer reviewed studies, that the platforming of these violent, anti-trans voices leads to a measurable increase in violence on our community," it said.

"We believe that women's rights are for all women, including trans women and trans feminine people.

"It is important that we advocate for the rights and safety of all women, regardless of their gender identity."

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