



Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities
The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
By Email

11 September 2025

Dear Bridget,

EHRC statutory guidance - debate time on the floor of the House

At Business Questions on 4 September I was pleased to hear the Leader of the House say she would ensure there is appropriate time to debate and discuss the Equality and Human Rights Commission's new code of practice and guidance following the *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers* Supreme Court judgement.

This is something that is of huge concern to trans people in my constituency of Bristol Central, and to trans people up and down the country, who fear not being able to go about their daily lives in privacy and dignity.

The purpose of this letter is to ask if you could add some detail to last week's promise and let me know via what mechanism we will get a debate on the floor of the House.

I should be grateful for your response.

Yours sincerely,

Carla

Carla Denyer MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol Central



Hansard Record for ease of reference:

Business Questions, Hansard, Col 468 4.9.25:

[Tom Gordon](#)
[\(Harrogate and Knaresborough\) \(LD\)](#)

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I sit on the Joint Committee on Human Rights. One of the issues concerning me is what scrutiny and accountability the Equality and Human Rights Commission's new code of practice and guidance will have from this House. My understanding is that it will be laid before the House as a negative statutory instrument, meaning that unless the Leader of the Opposition pushes for time and scrutiny, there may be none. Will the Leader of the House outline what opportunities Members will get to scrutinise that guidance when it is published?

[Lucy Powell](#)

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I know the new guidance from the EHRC is of great interest to many Members across this House; it is something that I get many emails and correspondence about myself. A parliamentary process will sit alongside that, but I will absolutely ensure that there is appropriate time to debate and discuss these issues, which I know are important to the House.