



Stephen Whittle

OBE, DLaws (hc), PhD, MA, LLB , BA

Stephen is Professor of Equalities Law at Manchester Metropolitan University where he has taught for 21 years.

Born and raised in Manchester, in the UK, Stephen transitioned from female to male (FTM) in 1975 aged 19. In 1975, he and a few

trans friends set up the Manchester TV/TS group, the first local transgender and transsexual support group in the country. He received a degree in Geography in 1981, but throughout the 1970s and 80s he lost numerous jobs when it was discovered he was trans. He qualified in law in 1990, having decided things would only change if trans people became expert in the law and its inadequacies. In 1989 after being part of developing the national transgender support organization SHAFT, which would later become the Gender Trust,¹ he started the UK's FTM Network,² which he coordinated until 2008, and which has now provided support to over 3000 members.

In 1992, Stephen was a co-founder of Press For Change (PFC),³ the UK's transgender lobbying group, and in 2005 was a founder member and later Chair of Transgender Europe.⁴ He has advised the UK government on implementing gender recognition legislation⁵ and full protection in all aspects of life in the Equality Act 2010.⁶ Stephen has since advised on transgender law to the UK, Irish, Italian, Japanese, South African and Honk Kong governments & the European Union, the Council of Europe & the European Commission. He advises lawyers and writes briefs, or is an expert witness for courts worldwide. In 2015 Stephen was elected by his academic peers to a fellowship in the Academy of Social Sciences, quite a rarity for a lawyer.

Stephen has authored many papers, including being a co-author of

- the Yogyakarta Principles on the application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity,⁷ and
- the World Professional Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People, v.7

as well as numerous commissioned reports, amicus briefs and several books. He has received numerous awards for his work, including

- the American Bar Association's Stonewall Award (2014),⁸
- an Honorary Doctorate in Laws from Sussex University (2014),⁹
- the Frank Kemeny Life Time Achievement Award(2012) from the North American LGBT Bar Association,¹⁰

¹ www.gendertrust.org.uk

² www.gwestftmuk.org

³ www.pfc.org.uk

⁴ www.tgeu.org

⁵ The Gender Recognition Act 2004 at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/7/contents>

⁶ At <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

⁷ http://www.yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles_en.pdf

⁸ http://www.americanbar.org/groups/sexual_orientation/stonewall_award.html

⁹ <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/bulletin/staff/2013-14/24012014/wintergraduation>

¹⁰ <http://www.lgbtbar.org/awards/frank-kameny-award/>

- a Lambda Literary Award (2006) for ‘The Transgender Studies Reader’ (with Susan Stryker) New York: Routledge, 2006,¹¹
- The Sylvia Rivera Award from the City University of New York Centre for Lesbian and Gay studies for his monograph: ‘Respect and Equality: Transsexual and Transgender Rights’, London; Cavendish Publishing (2002)
- the Law Society/Liberty/Justice Human Rights Award (2002) from lawyers in the UK Human Rights Legal Profession,¹²
- and in 2005 he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE, 2005) in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list for his work on transgender rights.¹³

Stephen is currently researching a history of gender reassignment in the UK, and in particular the physicians and the debates that led to Transsexualism being classified as a mental health disorder.

Stephen married his partner Sarah in 2005, when the Gender Recognition Act 2004 came into force – though they have now been partners for 36 years. They have 4 children by donor insemination; the 2 oldest are now both at University doing music. In recent years, Multiple sclerosis has meant giving up sports and hiking, Stephen’s hobbies now include giving free legal advice to trans people, reading, going to the theatre and opera, watching war movies, and beating his children at board games.

¹¹ <http://www.lambdaliterary.org/winners-finalists/04/30/lambda-literary-awards-2006-2/>

¹² <http://www.justice.org.uk/pages/award-winners-2000-2009.html>

¹³

http://menmedia.co.uk/stockportexpress/news/s/322/322363_great_and_good_of_stockport_honoured_in_new_years_list.html