

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.30PM***NO MORE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT US, WITHOUT US:*****Trans Legal Clinic lodges appeal against Supreme Court ruling to the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of UK's first trans judge Dr Victoria McCloud**

Lawyers for Britain's first Transgender judge Dr Victoria McCloud have today filed an appeal in the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) against the UK Supreme Court ruling in *For Women Scotland Ltd v the Scottish Ministers* [2025] UKSC 16. In this case, the Supreme Court refused permission for Dr Victoria McCloud to intervene on how the issues would affect her and other trans people.

At its heart lies the principle in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights; the right to a fair and impartial hearing by an independent tribunal. This cornerstone of democratic societies exists to guarantee that those whose rights are affected can take part in proceedings that determine their future. For the trans community, it embodies a simple truth: there must be no more conversations about us, without us.

In bringing this claim, the Trans Legal Clinic have launched their Strategic Litigation Service in partnership with legal heavyweights at W Legal. This is the first case in history to be brought by a trans-led legal team. The significance of this is striking given that, ultimately, this is a case about the exclusion of trans voices from discussions about their very existence and freedoms. Dr McCloud herself the UK's first openly trans judge, among those representing her is Oscar Davies, the UK's first openly non-binary barrister. Olivia Campbell-Cavendish, the founder and Executive Director of the Trans Legal Clinic and the first black trans lawyer in the UK. The Trans Legal Clinic offers free and accessible legal help to Trans and Non-binary people. Campbell-Cavendish has formed the Clinic's new Strategic Litigation service to bring this case. Joining forces with them are leading public and administrative law silk Amanda Weston KC of Garden Court Chambers along with public and administrative law barrister Jenn Lawrence of Monckton Chambers.

The Trans Legal Clinic has established a community crowdfunding campaign at www.translegalclinic.com/mccloud to help meet the costs of the case. The initiative is intended to enable members of the public to contribute directly to the proceedings, reflecting the collective interest and engagement in the issues at stake.

ENDS

All enquiries, including interviews please contact: press@translegalclinic.com

***STATEMENT FROM
DR VICTORIA MCCLOUD***

“Following the “For Women Scotland” case in the Supreme Court, the UK has been red flagged with a genocide warning internationally and harsh measures such as segregation within hospital wards behind special screens and curtains, strip searches by police using male officers to search anatomically female trans people, bathroom bans, and a range of other measures. Amid all this hundreds of us with our families are leaving the UK where we can afford it, for safer shores.

But there can be no question of abandoning our community for any of us. The immediate future will necessarily involve a great deal of strategic legal action and other steps within the legal sphere. We have much to do, and many many avenues to pursue here and abroad in pursuit of the restoration of normality to the UK for trans, non-binary and even lesbian women affected by the FWS decision, and everyone else being impacted by this obnoxious state of affairs.

The Trans Legal Clinics Strategic litigation service have taken on this case in defence of the rights and freedoms of trans people. I encourage anyone who can, to participate and support our fight. There is no space for decision making about us, without us. I intend, with our wonderful team at the Trans Legal Clinic, our counsel Oscar Davies, Jenn Lawrence and Amanda Weston KC, and all the dedicated people working with us, to ensure that there will be no peace for the Gender Critical Ideological Movement, the Labour Government appeasing it, or space in our schools, homes and workplaces for an ideology which causes harm, misery and oppression of a small and law abiding minority in our formerly tolerant country.”

Oscar Davies, LLB - Barrister, Garden Court Chambers



(they/them) Oscar Davies is the first publicly recognised non-binary barrister. Tier 1 'rising star' barrister at Garden Court Chambers. King's College London Distinguished Alumni 'Changemaker of the Year' 2025, LGBTQ+ Champion of the Year at the Legal 500

"The unfairness of having an almost one sided debate is readily apparent. We trust that the Strasbourg court sees this injustice too. Where is the justice in a one sided debate?"

"This case depends on collective support. The crowdfunding campaign allows anyone who shares our belief in fairness and justice to be part of this effort, ensuring the resources are in place to see it through."

"The Trans Legal Clinic represents an important development in ensuring that trans people are not merely the subject of legal proceedings, but active participants in shaping them."

"This is the first time a trans-led legal team has brought a case to the European Court of Human Rights. It matters who is at the table and for too long, we haven't been."

Olivia Campbell-Cavendish, LLB - Founder, Trans Legal Clinic



Olivia Campbell-Cavendish is the founder & executive director of the Trans Legal Clinic, the UK's first law firm to specialise in the law as it intersects with gender identity. She was the first Black Trans Woman to be awarded a law degree in the UK

"Dr Victoria McCloud stands as a powerful symbol for trans and non-binary people in the UK: principled, diligent, and deeply humane. She embodies the simple yet urgent truth at the heart of our lives; the desire to live authentically, contribute fully, and move through the world without fear for our safety."

"Article 6 is clear, everyone has the right to a fair, impartial and independent hearing. That principle must extend to trans people, whose futures are directly shaped by these decisions."

"It matters profoundly that this case is led by a team of trans lawyers, taking our place in proceedings that so directly shape our futures. At its core, this is about ensuring there are no more conversations about us, without us."

"This case will only be possible through collective effort, and the fact that it is powered by our own community is part of its significance. By standing together, we make clear that our voices will be heard where it matters most."