

LINKS FOR FURTHER READING

If you support human rights for all but are troubled or in doubt due to the alarming claims made by the “1 Million March 4 Children” about SOGI education, please take the important step of informing yourself further on the topic from high-quality information sources that are actually endorsed by Yukon’s 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

<https://egale.ca/published-research/#category=research>

<https://www.wisdom2action.org/resources/>

<https://www.them.us/story/a-new-study-debunks-the-myth-that-kids-become-trans-through-social-contagion>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/evidence-undermines-rapid-onset-gender-dysphoria-claims/>

The march claims to be inclusive and to have “support from the LGBTQIA++ Community.” There will always be outlier views on any topic, which is why it’s all the more important to seek perspectives informed by rigorous research and analysis.

For local resources and education, Yukoners can also reach out to the Queer Yukon Society.

<https://www.queeryukon.com>

FOR THE KIDS:

We will never stop fighting for your right to be who you are, to explore your identity at your own pace without fear or coercion, and to live in a world that is tolerant and accepting of the full spectrum of beautiful human diversity.

Dear Yukoners:

*If you CARE,
PLEASE be careful!*

We are proud to live in a territory that has some of the strongest protections in Canada for safeguarding the human rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

We need to keep it that way.

We are here to peacefully protest against the message of the “1 Million March 4 Children” in Whitehorse today, which is an attack on vulnerable youth, disguised as parental concern.

This march is advancing dangerous misinformation that claims gender-inclusive education in schools is harmful to children. We are asking you to please, stop and think before accepting this patently untrue message.



WHAT THEY SAY: The website for the “1 Million March 4 Children” makes two main claims about their movement’s overall goals:

1. “Breaking the system designed to sexualize our children,” by
2. “Advocating for the elimination of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) curriculum, pronouns, gender ideology and mixed bathrooms in schools.”

THE REALITY: Wanting to protect children from harm is a natural, pro-social instinct, and one we all share.

That’s why it’s important to understand what SOGI education is—**and what it’s not**. Teaching kids about the factual diversity that exists in human gender and relationships is not the same thing as “sexualizing kids”—no more than teaching children about straight people and families is “sexualizing.”

SOGI education is also not an attempt to “turn kids gay/trans.” Real indoctrination comes in the form of conversion therapy, which is an abusive, human rights-violating practice, is illegal in the Yukon, and has been proven to be ineffective in altering someone’s gender or sexuality. Gender and Sexuality are known to be immutable by external forces and are natural expressions of human diversity.

Pushing to eliminate SOGI topics from schools is not protection, it’s a human rights assault.

THEIR CLAIMS ARE NONSENSE, BUT DANGEROUS

The claims made by groups like this do not hold up to scrutiny, but that’s not the point: by making creepy insinuations, propping up scientifically unsound studies and wildly misrepresenting SOGI education, they spread doubt, unease, and fear among those who don’t know any better.

The narrative of “protecting the children” is a dog whistle tactic, and it’s often used to rally those who may be less informed on the topic, and are maybe concerned because they don’t know the full picture.

It’s effective because we all love and want to protect children—but this protective instinct is being manipulated here to create a false sense of moral imperative. The point is to cause well-meaning people to think that if they care about kids, they should support the cause of the “March 4 Children.”

Who gets hurt?

The people most directly affected by the kinds of narratives spread by these groups are trans kids—they are literally picking on defenceless children, who receive the message that it is not safe for them to exist. This is unacceptable.

When moral panics like this take hold in a community, it won’t be just the directly targeted group that suffers—ultimately, all are affected by the climate of fear, suspicion, and baseless accusations that are the predictable result of this type of dangerous agitation.

PART OF A LARGER MOVEMENT TO ROLL BACK 2SLGBTQIA+ RIGHTS (and beyond)

The ideas being spread by the “March 4 Children” events being organized across Canada this September are nothing new.

Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ narratives have been gaining ground on an international scale in recent years—perhaps most visibly in the United States, they’ve also been affecting countries such as the United Kingdom, gaining steam in Canada—and unfortunately, are now emboldened in our own community of Whitehorse.

Hate movements do not always wear their hate openly, and the “1 Million March 4 Children” sits firmly in the tradition of hate content that tries to disguise itself as something else, making it more insidious and harder to combat.

For example, the march’s website claims the organizers are not anti-2SLGBTQIA+ at all, but merely believe “discussions on gender ideology should be approached at age-appropriate times.”

This claim is designed to *sound* reasonable to those who want to support 2SLGBTQIA+ human rights, but this is another misdirection. The term “gender ideology” makes it seem like the mere existence of trans folk is an ideology or a belief—something that can just be believed or not believed. The reality is that trans and queer people exist—they exist when they’re kids, too, and deserve our protection, support and care.