

WATCH HERE; <https://youtu.be/iX5buM7kRbU>

CONTENT WARNING; Transphobia

We need to talk about Stephen Woodford aka Rationality Rules and the events that have occurred surrounding the Atheist Community of Austin's public condemnation of his video. Now for those of you here for a response to Woodford's video on the subject, that is coming. But first I need to go over why his original video was transphobic and how he can begin to fix the harm he has caused since I'm still being asked about these things.

Now each of these segments will be time stamped in the description for your convenience. So if you already know how his original video was a problem or have seen my posts discussing how he can start to fix things, feel free to skip to the response segment. Or not if you'd like a quick recap.

Now one thing I'd like to note right off the bat is that nowhere in my original video did I label Woodford as transphobic. [1] The only times transphobia was mentioned in my video was in reference to the transphobic nature of the Michelle Obama hand conspiracy and certain segments of Woodford's audience. Which... I don't think even you will deny.

I feel the need to note this since following his video in which he claims the ACA labelled him transphobic, even though they didn't, a lot of people have flooded my videos claiming I labelled him transphobic, even though I didn't. If you believe otherwise I look forward to seeing your timestamped example of where I did.

However Woodford's video was transphobic and he as a creator was acting on transphobic principles when he made it and has utilised general anti-LGBT+ rhetoric since to defend his actions. But sticking with the former part, how was his video transphobic? After all, wasn't it just a sincere opinion founded upon science? Well it wasn't scientific, and sincerity has nothing to do with it.

When a person says they have no problem with homosexuality, they just don't think it's appropriate for a gay teacher to be near children unsupervised, the sincerity of their beliefs in that doesn't mean a thing. And they could have read a thousand bad sources which argue their case. That still wouldn't stop said views from being homophobic. Much like Woodford's video.

Woodford lied about one of two things. He either lied about having carried out his research, or what that research entailed. Now how can I claim this? Well next to every article on the effects of HRT on trans women details reduced muscle mass and changes in fat distribution. These are in fact some of the most drastic changes brought about by HRT.

So when Woodford listed both as things which do not change, that set off red flags. There is no way to have a foundational understanding of the effects HRT has on trans women's bodies, and not know this. And this is something I noted in my original video. Woodford, whether out of sheer laziness or active deception formed his argument not from a standpoint

of evidenced understanding. Instead he formed his argument from sheer prejudice for trans women based on preconceived notions and stereotypes of what they're like.

And here is where things get darker. He used this prejudicial standpoint as a launching pad for his active dehumanisation of trans people. He did this in the way he referred to cis women as 'biological women' which is not scientifically accurate. He did this in the clips he used from sources Joe Rogan who aggressively misgendered multiple trans people. But most important to me, he did this in how he talked about cis women vs trans women.

Woodford presented cis women as having their dreams, their scholarships, and their careers taken from them by trans women. [] The implication here being that the very thing Woodford argues is a terrible crime against cis women, should in effect be forced upon trans women. Because if trans women are excluded from said sports as he argues they should, that's the result. And he appears to see that as a preferable outcome. For trans women to be excluded from women's sports, just to ensure cis women don't lose to them. [2]

Woodford also resorted to fear mongering, using claims such as these to paint trans people as a threat to society. [] This sort of statement is designed to create or feed a moral panic. It differs in no way to the claim that gay teachers are a threat to children. It's designed to emotionally manipulate the listener into believing that there's some ticking clock of catastrophe, when there's really none.

Trans athletes have been allowed to compete in the Olympics for the past 15 years and yet no such thing has occurred. And a handful of records being broken by trans people out of the tens of thousands of records that exist today in no way changes that. This is a product of media focus, not trans dominance. The same principle used to infer that gay people are more likely to be child predators because the papers focus on said stories more.

And all of this feeds into this idea that trans women should be stripped of specific human rights when it comes to sports participation. Now this is another thing many Woodford fans had a problem with, even though it was the very first thing I evidenced in my video. [3] I noted the human rights which would be violated if trans women were blocked from competing.

What's more is I did so without referencing trans specific materials. Instead I used discourse on intersex athletes such as Caster Semenya who is a cisgender woman. That way I could avoid all accusations of the trans agenda or trans dogma. Something we'll discuss later with Woodford's ACA response. Fact is a human right for cis intersex women is still a human right for trans women. Unless you want to claim trans women as not real women or sub human.

In which case the whole 'LGBT+ ally' thing is going to be stretched really thin. And talking about the whole LGBT+ ally aspect. If Woodford truly was an LGBT+ ally, surely he'd know about the social hostility trans people face on a regular basis. I mean just these past few months I've dealt with three stories in the UK alone dealing with just trans children.

The first was slashed across the face. The second was kicked in the head so brutally that had the teacher not stepped in they'd likely be dead or suffer permanent brain damage. The third has been strangled. All of this for being transgender at a time of trans hysteria. [5-11] Woodford's video is not made in some vacuum. It's made in a very specific social setting. So he should have known to approach the topic with extreme caution to avoid causing harm.

Now all of this. The prejudice he started with. The dehumanisation he carried out. The threat he cast trans people as. And the way he used this to argue for the removal of their human rights. All of this adds up to show why his video was undoubtedly transphobic. The only way to pretend otherwise is to ignore his entire video. So now I've made that clear, I won't be repeating this again.

As a result of his video, many aggressively transphobic voices feel emboldened. Woodford gave them the veneer of reasoning without the actual substance. And it's the trans community that has suffered for it. Not only have I experienced this first hand on my work, but across the internet. In trans support groups his video keeps coming up as having made the situation noticeably worse for many trans people.

But if that's the harm caused, what could Woodford have done and possibly still do to fix the situation? Well one of the steps I noted on Twitter and in my Faithless Forum Request video has actually been carried out. [12] Woodford has finally changed the title to note the presence of mistakes and for that I'm at least somewhat thankful.

Is it as clear as I'd wished? Not really. Is it too little too late considering my original response came out over a month ago and my Faithless Forum Request video 18 days ago? Arguably. But it is a start. Other things Woodford could have done however include putting his video on private until he uploads his correction, at which point he could change it to public once more.

He could have also put it on unlisted which would at least remove it from search results looking for ammunition against trans people. He could have then published a video by the same name, clearly listing his errors and stating his intention to return to the topic with an in-depth breakdown of each of the points he got wrong. This one would have been easy and would have made what mistakes he made clear, as well as the nature of his apology apparent. Because transparency is something missing from a lot of Woodford's actions.

He also could have removed the video completely. Now Woodford has responded to this and claims that he can't do so since he wishes to remain transparent. Now there are some issues with that which we'll go on to discuss, but there's also a very simple way to test his words. If he genuinely is keeping his video up for transparency and not for the money it makes and the traffic it drives to his channel, I suggest this.

Woodford should donate the money he has made from his original video and all subsequent videos, along with his patreon earnings and the rest of his channel earnings for the month of April. Now who should he donate the money to? Well one of the various trans charities out there, chosen by key trans activists. I think people such as Zinnia Jones may be good to approach on this.

Now some may ask why he should pay more than what his videos have earned, and you're right to do so. The case is simple. For a start his video has done pretty well and its presence bolsters his channel's position in YouTube's algorithm as a whole. It's not just this video which profits from its presence, but all his videos.

Then we have the fact that Woodford has caused harm to the trans community, harm he's not going to fix by releasing a correction. Now he will never have to face the consequences of the misinformation and the fear mongering he put out there like trans people will. But he can at least put his money where his mouth is and shoulder some of that burden by helping fund trans specific charities that help those he has harmed through his actions.

If he just gives the money he's made from these videos, that just means he's not profited directly from it. That doesn't mean he's actually gone out of his way to fix the damage he's caused, shifting part of the cost from the trans community back onto him. It's far easier to do harm than it is to put it right. And he's going to have to live with that if he wants to genuinely make amends.

Woodford has also demonetised his video, but only after I made the suggestion to donate the money he's made both on Twitter and by messages. And he's not responded to either suggestion which doesn't fill me with much confidence. I hope he didn't just demonetise the video in hopes that people would think it wasn't monetised and would forget that he's made money from harming the trans community. As evidenced here, it was monetised until very recently.

However I'd also like to note this as well. The argument for transparency is not sufficient. It reeks of privilege. Namely that Woodford believes some sense of personal integrity is far more important than the harm he has caused the trans community. This is something also supported by the fact that he put said video on halt just to respond to fair criticisms levied against him by the ACA.

Woodford seems to care more about his own ego right now than he does the trans community. He also seems to be under the impression that he gets to choose how to fix things with the trans community. But he doesn't. Not even I get to decide that. My solutions are not checklists of everything he needs to do and then all is forgiven. I'm not the leader of the trans community, but I'm the one currently cleaning up his mess and giving active ways to start to fix things.

So now with all that out of the way, let us continue to review his ACA video titled 'I've Been Denounced by the ACA', accompanied by a thumbnail that depicts him as Galileo being labelled a heretic by the aforementioned ACA. Now we'll come back to the optics of the thumbnail later. But for now let's check out the video.

1) Except if you read the segment you just highlighted, they say nothing of the sort. What they actually stated was quote; "Recently, the ACA Board of Directors was made aware that guest co-host Stephen Woodford (YouTuber "Rationality Rules") had made ignorant and

transphobic videos and statements on his social media platforms in the weeks leading up to his appearances on ACA shows.” EQ. [14]

Notice how they focus solely on the content Woodford has put out and say nothing about him as a person. They also didn’t state that this was cause for a ban, going on to add the following in the next paragraph. Quote; “We acknowledge that the ACA did a poor job showing our support by allowing Mr. Woodford to make appearances on our shows without either addressing his controversial views on the air, or asking him to refrain from appearances until he released a clarifying statement on his channel.” EQ.

So had Woodford acted in the 30 days since he published his video on the 29th of March and his appearance on the Atheist Experience on the 28th of April, this entire thing could have been avoided. So when you say you have no choice, that’s not entirely true. You had a choice and you made a bad call by remaining silent on the matter.

As noted you didn’t need to publish your final piece. But you should have clearly listed your errors and what you intended to apologise for in future. Instead you chose to do absolutely nothing. Not even when I published my video detailing the factually void and harmful nature of your video on the 6th of April did you act. That still left 22 days between my video and your appearance on the atheist experience, 33 days between my video and their statement.

Now there’s also a problem with the actions of the ACA. Namely the fact that they continued to publish videos containing Woodford the day after their public statement. Now this could be down to any number of factors such as scheduled publishing or a simple miscommunication. But either way it’s rather sloppy and sends out a very confusing message. “Sure, we condemn Woodford but we’re just going to keep profiting from his appearance.”

But returning to Woodford, I want to say this. Could you even begin to imagine what it was like for your trans viewers, people who had followed you believing you to be an ally. Many of them even donating to your crowdfunding which oddly enough closed just before you published your trans athlete video, only to hear you make thoroughly dehumanising statements about them and call for the removal of their human rights?

Thing is there’s a key difference between that and what you experienced with the ACA. We live in a culture where trans people are the constant victims of abuse and violence for being trans. We do not live in a culture where the Stephen Woodfords of the world suffer for being Stephen Woodford.

You may feel hurt, but that nowhere nears the crushing despair you’ve induced in many trans people. So please, spare us your self pity. Your pain doesn’t even begin to register on the scale we live with every single day of our lives. And if you were an ally, you’d realise that fact and act accordingly.

2) None of which actually shows your perspective on trans people. Nor does it show how the description of your video, reminder that Woodford himself was never labelled transphobic, to be slander. People supporting the LGB and not the T is not uncommon. In fact even the LGB

segments of the LGBT+ community can harbour hostility towards trans people. I feel it's time for a quick history lesson in this since you sadly lack some pretty basic knowledge.

Stonewall was a riot instigated by trans women of colour. When the police raided they segregated people into male and female lines, took them to rooms, and checked their genitals. If a person's genitals did not match what they deemed acceptable presentation for that gender, they were arrested. When a group of people refused to be sexually assaulted by police, everyone who was trapped inside was arrested.

As they were dragged out, various trans women of colour began to throw bricks and bottles at police, and soon it broke out into a riot very similar to earlier riots. One such example is the Compton's Cafeteria riot of 1966. After Stonewall we of course saw the emergence of the Christopher Street Liberation Day rally, named after the street Stonewall was located on. At which point the trans community who had led the riots were subsequently kicked out.

The gay and lesbian community turned on them, claiming them to be too radical for cis-heterosexual people to accept. They argued that their very presence in the then 'gay liberation movement' was a detriment to LGBT+ equality. That they were causing the gay community more harm than good. And that's how it was for decades.

The UK charity Stonewall, named after trans instigated riots, even forwarded transphobic authors who claimed trans people to be self mutilators for writing awards as recently as 2008. Only in 2015 did they change their policy to finally start allowing trans people access to the resources named after riots they instigated. It'd be like having a Martin Luther King Foundation which explicitly says 'no blacks' on the door.

So none of this proves anything and as a self declared ally, you should be aware of that fact. And even if you believed yourself to be supportive of the LGBT+ community, you lost the right to claim that as a defense when you spun trans people as an international threat to women's sport and called for the removal of some of their human rights.

3) Being clear would be listing the mistakes you made and specifying what you intend to apologise for. Because that's the thing. A lot of the people defending you are claiming that you've apologised wholesale for your actions, only to blame me when I show them screenshots from your tweets or reference this video to show them otherwise. You expect us to accept an apology without explicitly telling us what you are apologising for.

You here say you don't have an issue with trans people when in your original video you very clearly stated the opposite in your original video. [] Again, we see this argument all the time with every other disempowered group. See my previous example with 'I don't have a problem with gay people, but gay teachers are a danger to our children'.

Just like a racist will claim that they're not racist because they don't murder people of colour. Or a sexist will claim they're not sexist because they don't beat and rape women. Or a fascist will claim they're not fascist because they're not gassing people, you pretend

transphobia is solely extreme acts. Which it isn't. Transphobia as with my other examples are not merely extreme acts of violence, it's the narratives which cultivate such violence.

And this is why you don't get to draw the line, just like people accused of racism, sexism, and fascism. There will always be someone who has done something you deem worse, and you'll always draw the line between them and yourself. What I am telling you as a trans person who has studied what you are saying, is that your words were transphobic and have resulted in massive harm of the trans community. And since we don't get to pretend said transphobia doesn't exist when they're stopping on our heads, neither do you.

4) Except for the fact that we all know why we're here. I mean, what did you expect them to do? Did you want them to drop a link to your videos to promote them? Now as for the plurality of this statement, it could very easily be reference to the fact that that you naturally share said video elsewhere. But that's not the only way this would be justified.

It could easily be reference to your recent Ben Shapiro video that I also noted in my original response. Let's play a clip from that and see if he can spot the problem here. [] Putting aside the Young Americans clip, the other clip he used was Ben Shapiro targeting trans people. And Woodford used this as evidence of the stuff he agrees with.

Ben was comparing gender, the psychological basis of sex to age, the measurement of time. On much the same basis that Woodford goes off the deep end in his trans athletes video with his slippery slope fallacy towards the end. [] There's also this bullshit idea that a trans woman is not a biological woman. That somehow they're of the male sex.

Well I've got news for you. A trans woman is a woman and their sex... is that belonging to a woman. It may not fit inside the typical range, but as anyone actually versed in biology will explain, sex is not this clear cut thing of tick box M or box F. And words which are completely invented by the way, we weren't given them by the gods, have no value out of communicating information as concisely as possible.

Now which of these communicates the most information in the shortest time? 'Person X is a trans woman' or 'Person X identifies as a woman but is male in sex'? Now not only is the first once better at conveying information, it's not based on unfounded opinion like the second. The second makes a series of unsubstantiated claims reliant on how we define gender and sex.

The first lacks all of that. It conveys that this person does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. And it does that in a neutral fashion. But anyway, I feel I've made my point abundantly clear. If you use clips from a video titled 'Ben Shapiro DESTROYS Transgenderism And Pro-Abortion Arguments' to show where you agree with someone, don't get upset when that's noted in its full context.

5) Except they did say and I do quote; "We acknowledge that the ACA did a poor job showing our support by allowing Mr. Woodford to make appearances on our shows without

either addressing his controversial views on the air, or asking him to refrain from appearances until he released a clarifying statement on his channel.” EQ.

So your complaint seems to be with the fact that they made an evidence based judgement of your recent material which you disagree with. A judgement I have demonstrated to have been accurate. Also you haven’t made anything clear. Rather the opposite. As already noted, listing what mistakes you are currently aware of and what you specifically intend to apologise for, that would be making things clear. As it stands you haven’t done that.

Now it’s time to move on to discuss Woodford’s constant gaslighting. This is something he attempted to subdue me with in our messages to one another. The idea that trans people fighting for their rights and groups like the ACA supporting the LGBT+ community in their decisions is harmful to said community.

Now I’ve discussed similar things in my Faithless Forum video on Telltale atheist so that’s worth a watch to understand this a little more. [6] But I have to make clear. Any person that makes this argument has completely destroyed any credibility they have to talk on the subject of LGBT+ matters. If you make this argument you’re not just a fake ally who uses said label to try and avoid criticism, you are forwarding more anti-LGBT+ narratives.

If you want to see what is actually harming the LGBT+ community and indeed all disempowered communities, it’s responses like these. This is a form of victim blaming. If Woodford had come out and accepted responsibility for the transphobic nature of his video, the community would not be divided. Instead he has chosen his own ego over the wellbeing of the trans community.

We as trans people have lived our lives. We know what hurts us. And we know how to spot transparent bullshit like this. And yes, it does make me angry. I am in no way responsible for the damage you have caused both with and since the publishing of your video. Only you are. So you need to do the right thing and accept responsibility.

6) Except for the fact that you argued for the removal of trans women’s human rights through the application of prejudice, dehumanisation, and painting them as an active threat. The T is part of the LGBT+ community. You have actively sought to strip them of some of their human rights. That is you standing in opposition to that community whether you realised it or not. If you don’t like being called out on that, here’s an idea. Stop doing it. It’s a very simple solution.

7) You actively harmed the trans community. You dehumanised us. Painted us as a threat. Called for the removal of our rights. And yet us reacting on that basis is apparently hypersensitive. Meanwhile you being called out on said aforementioned actions , that’s an act which wounds you deeply.

Say hello to cis privilege. You get to martyr yourself over a simple callout whilst we have to accept the harm you’ve caused us. If we don’t just roll over and take it, you’ll accuse us of harming our community. Also, who cares if it was record breaking? That doesn’t justify your

actions. Do you realise how frustrating it is to respond to this self-pitying ego jerk without raising my voice in both disgust and anger? I tell you. It's really something.

8) If you want to pretend like you're an ally to the LGBT+ community, perhaps you shouldn't end on an anti-LGBT+ keynote. This idea that you being held accountable for what you do is part of some agenda, dogma, cabal, mafia, conspiracy, pretty much whatever buzzword they fancy on the day.

Could it possibly be that they acknowledge the harm you are causing because it's tangible and just wanted to distance themselves from that? Everyone keeps claiming I'm assuming Woodford to be a bad actor when I stated I hoped I was wrong in my original video and kept my cool for well over a month. Yet Woodford fails to consider that he is the wrong party in all this. Instead it must be some pro-trans dogma that has slain reason and overtaken the ACA.

Could I have possibly said transphobic things that harmed the trans community... No. It's the ACA that's wrong. Speaking of things I ignored. After me and Woodford reached an uneasy truce, I ignored him commenting in agreement with a thoroughly abusive and dishonest creator who has it in for me personally. I kept my cool as he kept moving the dates for the video.

For clarity, it was first supposed to be up for the start of May. Then within the first two weeks. Now it's apparently going to take another 10-20 days. But I kept my cool even though Woodford showed no signs wanting to help fix the damage he caused. I only lost it when he put his clarification video on hold to create a video in less than 48 hours to defend his damn ego.

Now in our messages to one another, ones I'm showing on screen that can be found in typed form in the transcript of my video, you kept making the same points there. You kept claiming that you're not transphobic. And I kept telling you to prove it. I can't keep pulling out teeth. You need to be proactive in fixing the damage you have caused.

Because currently all you are actually doing is wallowing in self pity over the fact that an apology without action is just empty words. Fact is you've not just harmed the trans community, but the ACA. There has already been a walkout. Part of this has been the result of Matt Dillahunty's refusal to uphold the ACA's mission statement.

Part of it has been the result of the abuse many of the moderators received when the audience you cultivated swarmed their pages and began to hurl anti-LGBT+ abuse. And I get that you tell them not to in this video. But you primed them for this in avoiding responsibility for the past month.

Had you shown them what to do rather than sit around on your hands, perhaps members of the ACA wouldn't have felt the need to create a support group just to deal with the damage you have caused. And yes, they're making lists of names. Not to go on a witch hunt. But to know who to avoid so they don't have to go through this pain again.

They're posting about how they're losing sleep and how much they're afraid of your audience. They're not plotting behind your back. The trans community and seemingly many others do not feel safe in the secular community. Thanks to actions by people like Woodford and other people's unwillingness to call out harm where it is present.

And whilst you love to paint yourself as the victim, all of this could have been avoided had you just removed the video when you were informed about its the factually void and harmful nature. But you chose personal gain over the wellbeing of the trans community and its members.

And that's on you. You either lied about doing the research, or what it contained, hurt countless people, and believe yourself the victim at being held accountable. Because that's all this ever was. You being held accountable. But as a cis het man you're so damn used to getting away with stuff, accountability feels like oppressive dogmatism. I mean let's just take a look at that thumbnail, another reason I doubt Woodford's apology. See, as much as Woodford's fans want to pretend he admits he's wrong, who did he pick to be himself in the thumbnail of this video? Well Galileo of course. A guy who was persecuted by the inquisition for being scientifically correct.

Fact is Woodford is no Galileo. He abused the science for personal gain at the cost of vulnerable people. He's closer to Andrew Wakefield than he will ever be Galileo. And it's time for him to do the right thing. It's time for him to be transparent, to take responsibility, and start fixing the harm he's not only caused the trans community but actively profiteered from.

But what do you lot think? Has Woodford shown a genuine desire to correct his mistakes? Can you do so without first acknowledging what those mistakes are? Does he need to ditch the self pity and start listening to the people he's harmed? Did I miss something you noticed? If so, please leave us a comment down below.

As always please check out our other videos. You can support EssenceOfThought by Patreon, and in doing so help us reach our goal of becoming ad-free. We'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who has given to the channel, giving a special thanks to Hannah Banghart, Matthew Kovach, Brad R, McGay, John Shoenrock, Daniel Martinez, Xanthe Braxton, Evan Himebaugh, Alexander Williams, Atlis V, and Doyle Jackson. And from myself and Udit, take care now.

References

[1] EssenceOfThought (2019) "Refuting The Anti-Trans Pseudoscience On Trans Athletes RE: Rationality Rules", YouTube.com

Accessed 12th May 2019;

<https://youtu.be/nE7chPseZKY>

[2] Rhetoric&Discourse (2019) "Quickie with Rationality Rules: Not Very Rational", YouTube.com

Accessed 12th May 2019;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cw4r3XuO9TE>

[3] United Nations Human Right Council (2019) "Elimination Of Discrimination Against Women And Girls In Sport", UN.org

Accessed 1st April 2019;

https://ilga.org/downloads/Elimination_of_discrimination_against_women_and_girls_in_sport.pdf

[4] Robbie Bryson (2019) "Transgender Teenager Slashed In Face And Verbally Abused In Witham", MaldonAndBurnhamStandard.co.uk

Accessed 8th March 2019;

https://www.maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk/news/north_essex_news/17540276.transgender-teenager-slashed-in-face-and-verbally-abused-in-witham/

[5] BBC (2019) "Transgender Teen Attacked In 'Hate Crime' In Witham", BBC.com

Accessed 8th March 2019;

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-47764844>

[6] Robbie Bryson (2019) "'Our Child Is Not A Freak': Family Of Transgender Teen Hit Out After Vicious Attack", BraintreeAndWithamTimes.co.uk

Accessed 8th March 2019;

https://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk/news/north_essex_news/17547613.our-child-is-not-a-freak-family-of-transgender-teen-hit-out-after-vicious-attack/

[7] Connor Lynch (2019) "Trans Teenager Attacked So Violently By School Bully She Is Left With A Boot Mark On Her Head", GrimsbyTelegraph.co.uk

Accessed 8th March 2019;

<https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/grimsby-news/trans-teenager-attacked-violently-school-2718414>

[8] Ella Braidwood (2019) "Trans Teen Left With Head Injury After Being Attacked In School Changing Room", PinkNews.co.uk

Accessed 8th March 2019;

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/04/04/trans-teen-head-injury-changing-room/>

[9] Ella Braidwood (2019) "Trans Community Hold Fundraiser For Trans Girl After She Was Assaulted At School", PinkNews.co.uk

Accessed 8th April 2019;

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/04/06/community-fundraiser-trans-assault/>

[10] Josh Milton (2019) "Trans Teen 'Strangled, Bullied, And Abused' At Scottish School", GayStarNews.com

Accessed 13th May 2019;

<https://web.archive.org/web/20190512030836/https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/trans-teen-strangled-bullied-and-abused-at-dundee-school/>

[11] EssenceOfThought (2019) "A Request For Those Attending Faithless Forum", YouTube.com

Accessed 12th March 2019;

<https://youtu.be/w9NBglYNFq4>

[12] Rationality Rules (2019) "You're Exactly Correct Lizzy...", Twitter.com

Accessed 11th May 2019;

<https://web.archive.org/web/20190511171210/https://twitter.com/RationalityRule/status/1127221211753263104>

[13] Rationality Rules (2019) "I've Been Denounced by the ACA (Atheist Community of Austin)", YouTube.com

Accessed 11th May 2019;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX_vOpX6mt4

[14] The Atheist Experience (2019) "Statement From The ACA Board Of Directors", Facebook.com

Accessed 14th May 2019;

[https://web.archive.org/web/20190514095308/https://www.facebook.com/atheistexperience/posts/2763582323657942?__xts__\[0\]=68.ARDqKi69z90iqFEmsZTVhwIYgDAW8R0mno7nQv1IEd3teGTW0UcHNGFXSpkhY22JOQ3aDuCpnIL4UKYFvyzdTBBJ0dAEq7ZjZLsgfPkGhGmJ888y8QI9zQaSyQGfLygLSb2z9yxxFuERHKGoZJQ8pDRlc3M9SGXKlwENVhaBY6xAdqC_v5D8IAXIOY7Vbh0I1DPS8OAKTs8FICZjMj0ILm8DYIr5nHKZS1tnNe8FmOWRf_Gx8UQtNVgv6d19KsoZFAR28NREe8SNhEoNVValBtcoLkeLJV6WATrrQ8F6sCrGEKgfYxMLkaZ_7FANwwGKQSDn8sg0vXV8AE9s7n3uw&__tn__=-R](https://web.archive.org/web/20190514095308/https://www.facebook.com/atheistexperience/posts/2763582323657942?__xts__[0]=68.ARDqKi69z90iqFEmsZTVhwIYgDAW8R0mno7nQv1IEd3teGTW0UcHNGFXSpkhY22JOQ3aDuCpnIL4UKYFvyzdTBBJ0dAEq7ZjZLsgfPkGhGmJ888y8QI9zQaSyQGfLygLSb2z9yxxFuERHKGoZJQ8pDRlc3M9SGXKlwENVhaBY6xAdqC_v5D8IAXIOY7Vbh0I1DPS8OAKTs8FICZjMj0ILm8DYIr5nHKZS1tnNe8FmOWRf_Gx8UQtNVgv6d19KsoZFAR28NREe8SNhEoNVValBtcoLkeLJV6WATrrQ8F6sCrGEKgfYxMLkaZ_7FANwwGKQSDn8sg0vXV8AE9s7n3uw&__tn__=-R)

[15] Rationality Rules (2019) "Ben Shapiro calmly EDUCATED by Stephen Woodford", YouTube.com

Accessed 1st April 2019;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAHJM9TcoYg>

[16] EssenceOfThought (2019) "Trans Atheist Starts Riot At Faithless Forum 2019",
YouTube.com
Accessed 12th March 2019;
<https://youtu.be/yUjDNF3IKQQ>

How Woodford's Video Was Transphobic - 00:55
How Woodford Could Start To Fix Things - 09:05
Response To Woodford's ACA Video - 14:09

Addressing Rationality Rules' Transphobia & The ACA's Statement

07:05
14:09
19:58
28:10
35:47

Following the Atheist Community of Austin's public statement on @RationalityRule ,
Woodford has gone out of his way to paint himself as a martyr. The truth is there were very
simple steps he could have taken to avoid all this. But he put his ego first.
<https://youtu.be/iX5buM7kRbU>

Following the Atheist Community of Austin's public statement on @RationalityRule ,
Woodford has gone out of his way to paint himself as a martyr. The truth is there were very
simple steps he could have taken to avoid all this. But he put his ego first.

I'd just like to point the hell I had making this video. I not only wrote, filmed, edited, and
uploaded this once. I noticed a video breaking mistake that meant I had to do the whole
thing again. What's more is that as I rendered the new video, we got hit by a two hour power
cut meaning I had to start again. And yet I prevailed, all so I wouldn't falsely report on
something I'd misread.
<https://youtu.be/iX5buM7kRbU>

rationality rules denounced, stephen woodford denounced, ACA rationality rules, ACA
stephen woodford, ACA bans rationality rules, atheist experience rationality rules, atheist
community of austin, trans, transgender, trans athletes, unfair advantage, transphobia, social
justice warrior, transgender athletics, transgender sport, transgender women athletics,
transgender women sport

Common responses

Citation required. All currently available evidence comparing cis women to trans women
shows no inherent advantage. Whilst there is still more research to be carried out, it's not
logical to strip a demographic of their human rights on the absence of evidence.

EssenceOfThought

Your recent display has demolished all confidence I have in your abilities to own your actions. Ignorance is not a shield against being transphobic, in fact it's a necessary component. You acted on fear without evidence, prejudice against trans women for the simple fact of who they are. The only correct course would have been to acknowledge your transphobia in said actions, and show how you are attempting to overcome it. Not pretending it doesn't exist.

Rationality Rules

"You acted on fear without evidence, prejudice against trans women for the simple fact of who they are."

This simply isn't true, Ethel. I've defended the LGBTQIA+ community many times in my short career, and I certainly don't harbour any fear. I'll be making this crystal clear in my upcoming video (which will come shortly after my response to the ACA).

You've got me so wrong here Ethel – I'm not your enemy. I'm someone who made a few mistakes due to ignorance of certain facts (which I'll be apologising for). I'm not this person that you're painting me to be... that is, someone who hates transpeople and wants to denigrate them. I honestly think that this feud between you and I is negatively impacting the LGBTQIA+ community, and I know that we both don't want that. My updated views will be out as soon as possible, but if you can't wait until then to further denounce me then so be it.

EssenceOfThought

Except as evidenced through your video, you did. Simply saying 'it isn't true' when I have video evidence just doesn't make a dent like you seem to believe. And I don't care about the lies you tell yourself to sleep at night. You either lied about doing your research or you lied about what you find. That's a fact since the impact of HRT on muscle mass and fat distribution is discussed in nearly every damn article on the subject. You cannot research the subject in any genuine fashion and miss that. So those are your only options.

You either acted without basis, utilising emotional appeals to catastrophe, or you did such knowing full well that it was a load of bollocks. And I've tried to keep things under control. When I saw the shit you posted to Noel's video, I kept my cool. When I saw that you'd failed to unlist your video or at the very damn least have the decency to edit it's title as I noted in my video, I kept my cool. But to see you try and bullshit your way out of taking responsibility for your transphobia, I won't let that one pass.

What you stated in that video was transphobic. When you made it, you were transphobic. You may not have realised this, your realisation is irrelevant in the exact same fashion as Christians who claim they're not homophobic, they just "don't think that gay stuff is acceptable for children". You actively caused harm, not just to me. Not just with the hundreds of your fans who emboldened by what you had said launched endless transphobic,

homophobic, and ableist attacks on me. You've done a great deal of damage to the trans community as a whole.

And yeah, I know you'd like to play pretend. Like it never fucking happened. We don't get to play that pretend game. When we're dragged to the ground and kicked in the head because the media keeps blasting people with messages that we're dangerous, that we're a threat to women, that we're stealing what is rightfully theirs, that's reality. If we don't get to pretend like your transphobia doesn't exist, then neither do you. The only ethical course of action was to acknowledge your prejudice and show us a genuine desire to tackle it. With this you have killed all hopes of that. The trans community will never be able to trust you again.

As for your appeal to the impact this has on the LGBT+ community, you lost the right to talk about what's best for us when you decided to make us out a threat. We don't give two shits about what you think is best for us. As proven you can't be trusted to hold our best interests in mind. In fact you can be trusted to hold the exact opposite as you do everything to save your own skin. Our blood is on your hands. You can either seek to make actual amends or you can continue this farce. Make up your fucking mind and stick with it.

Rationality Rules

Please, Ethel, you've got to stop equating me with real violent bigots that have physically and severely hurt you. Don't you see? By putting me on the same level as them you're legitimizing them? Because people see what I said as reasonable, or close to reasonable, and when they see you demonize me the same way you demonize actual nasty transphobic assholes, they no longer trust you... and in some cases they also lose trust in the LGBT community (which is devastating).

I made mistakes. I'll admit what I got wrong, and apologise for my ignorance, language, and endorsement of other commentary, but I'm telling you... I don't, and have never, harboured any fear or prejudice against transpeople. There's a reason why I didn't mention transmen in sport, and that's because I don't see a big issue. What I was trying to convey (and failed... which, again, I'll apologise for) is that people that have experienced male puberty have, more often than not, a significant athletic advantage over those who haven't (even if they take hormones, etc). My mistake was to draw the line at gender... I should have drawn the line at virilization, and substantiated that position. Instead, I advocated a position that doesn't allow transwomen to compete as their gender, and that was very wrong of me.

Look... I'm seriously not this monster you're making me out to be. For the sake of a community that we both wish to see happy, can't you now admit that you got something wrong?

EssenceOfThought

"Please, Ethel, you've got to stop equating me with real violent bigots that have physically and severely hurt you."

Now where did I do that? You create them. Embolden them. Given them the veneer of justification to do what they want. I didn't claim you were out there stabbing trans children. All I pointed to was the fact that your actions feed the culture of trans hysteria that results in that. No matter how much you beg me to stop pointing that out, that doesn't go away. If people see what you said is reasonable even though you know it's false, here's what you do.

Remove the lie and counter it in a future video, or at the very least make clear that it is a lie. You could have changed the title of that video to 'This video was proven false' with a few clicks of a button. But even after I showed you the active damage present with what you did, you fucking sat there and lashed out in self pity when the ACA called you out on your shit. You could also do the grown up thing and accept the fact that you are transphobic and want to work on it. I say are due to your refusal to admit to its demonstrable fact, let alone challenge it.

The only reason certain people no longer trust me is because you and your friends are maintaining the lie they want to hear. That's on you. Gaslight me all you like. I'm not responsible for your shit. If you came out and admitted what you are and made strides to change that, maybe their views would change too. And those who refuse. Well I doubt I had their trust to begin with.

You can tell me what you want all day. It doesn't change the matter of what you are and what you did. You acted out of prejudice. Spun fear from it. And trans people are the ones to suffer from it. Throughout this you've claimed not to be the monster you believe I'm making you out to be. Throughout this I've replied with a single request. Prove it. You don't get to come out of this with trans people thanking you for the steps you've made whilst keeping the shittier elements of your audience happy. Just like me when I came out, you're faced with a choice. Do you stand with the trans community, or those who would use your work to literally destroy it.