

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 4:29 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: 2 June 2021 text for SUFWNZ complaints response.docx  
Attachments: 2 June 2021 text for SUFWNZ complaints response.docx

[REDACTED]  
This text has been approved by Mary and [REDACTED] to send out to people complaining about the SUFWNZ event being cancelled. Please use it in your Hybris responses to customers, which I hope you will be sending in the next 24 hours.  
Thanks  
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:09 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: Cancellation of Event

Kia Ora Ms Robertson,

I am disappointed to read that Christchurch City Libraries has decided to take a partisan stance in relation to an event of current community interest by refusing to allow "Speak Up For Women" to hold a public meeting in a library building.

Around the world, there has been a disturbing trend to silence anybody whose beliefs do not accord with those of a radical wing of the transgender rights movement. I do not believe it is appropriate for a community owned facility such as a library, to step in on one side of this debate. It is supremely ironic, when those advocates of extreme trans activism are actively campaigning to have books banned, yet is having its views adopted, seemingly uncritically by, of all places, a library. The further irony is that these calls to ban books by women, about the fundamental rights of and protections for women and girls, are occurring while vastly more offensive titles, such as "Mein Kampf", remain freely available.

This issue is important and must be able to be discussed. The "not for debate" approach being implemented is a chilling force in a society we wish to be open and democratic.

In the UK, policy around the housing of transgender (male to female) prisoners in women's prisons is being changed following assaults on women prisoners by transgender prisoners. In the UK, approximately half of trans-women incarcerated in the prison system are convicted sex offenders. This issue is real and open debate about it essential if good legislation is to be produced.

Increasingly, trans-women convicted for rape are appearing in criminal statistics as women, leading to an increase in the official statistics of "women" committing violent and sexual crimes. Again, this is important and we must be able to have these debates.

If such issues are unable to be discussed and just workable laws developed, we run the risk of similar experiences here. Trans people absolutely deserve to have their human rights respected, just as any other human being. But silencing debate on this subject will not enhance the rights of trans people. It encroaches on the rights of us all to freedom of speech, and potentially creates a gravely unjust state of affairs for women and girls.

I sincerely hope that you will reverse your decision in this case. Libraries as institutions pride themselves in being at the forefront of freedom of speech and information. I love our city's libraries and I would love to think I could be proud of their leadership on this issue.

Ngā Mihi,  
[REDACTED]

--

"All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."

Sarah Moore Grimke, abolitionist (1792-1873)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 2:24 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Customer complaints  
Attachments: Complaints received re Speak up for Women.docx

And finally, the customer complaints received to date in response to the event advertised by Stand Up for Women NZ, which was to have been held at Turanga.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch

PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154

[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

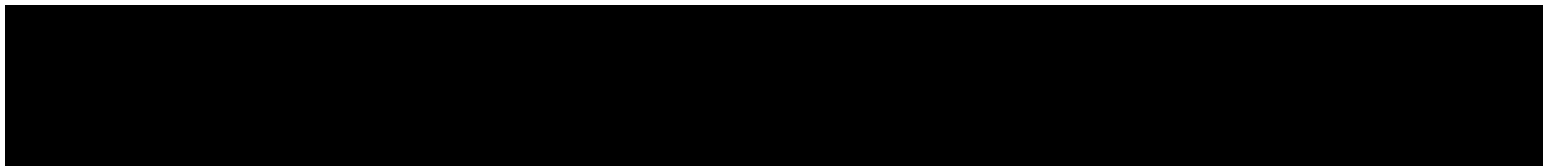
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**Christchurch**  
City Council 

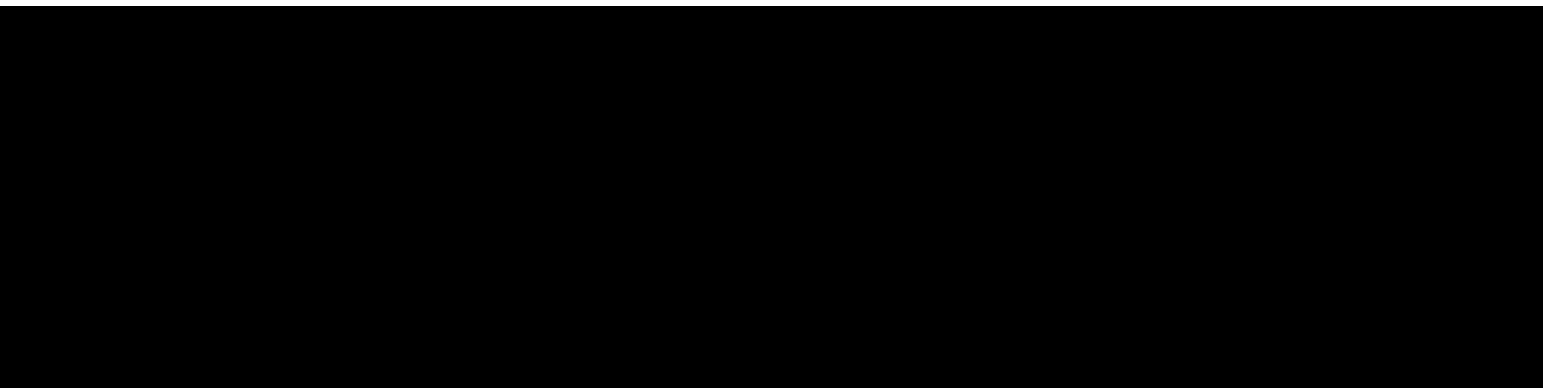
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:43 PM  
To: Councillors and Mayor; Baxendale, Dawn  
Subject: Daily Media Queries 27 May  
Attachments: Detailed Media Responses 27 May 2021.docx

Hello,

**\*\*This email may contain sensitive content and is intended for your information only\*\***



3. Libraries event: Mel Logan from Newshub requested a statement regarding the claim in a press release from Judith Collins in a statement relating to the Speak up For Women group event not being able to be held at Tūranga. We provided the attached response.
4. Libraries event: [REDACTED] from Newstalk ZB also requested a statement on the press release from Judith Collins. We provided the same response to other media.
5. Libraries event: [REDACTED] also from Newshub requested a statement from Christchurch City Libraries regarding why it cancelled the Speak Up for Women event being held at Tūranga. We provided the same response that was provided to other media.
6. Libraries event: [REDACTED] from The Press requested a statement from Christchurch City Libraries regarding why it cancelled the Speak Up for Women event being held at Tūranga. We provided the same response that was provided to other media. [REDACTED] then asked whether someone rang or wrote to the group to ask what the meeting was about, what other meetings are on at Tūranga next Tuesday, and does Council believe we have infringed on the group's human rights. We provided the attached response.



Regards,  
[REDACTED]  
News and Media Manager

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 5:12 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: DRAFT Notes for Mayor  
Attachments: RE: Turanga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Categories: [REDACTED] actioning, Important - Must Attend

A draft email to Mayor Dalziel's office:

Library management have this week declined a request by the group Speak up for Women NZ to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'. Libraries have received six written complaints about this proposed event.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

Speak up for Women have today appealed this decision in an email to Libraries and Information Manager Carolyn Robertson. They have asked Libraries to find them another venue, as they have just a week to secure a location for their event.

I have sought advice today from CCC's Legal team. That response is attached for your information. The legal opinion is that "the decision to cancel the venue hire is justifiable".

Carolyn Robertson has drafted a letter to Speak up for Women NZ. This letter contains an apology for not communicating our decision until this week, but also highlights the fact that customer complaints in recent days gave us a greater understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event. The letter will reiterate our position that this event cannot be held at a Christchurch City Libraries venue.

Carolyn, if you're happy for [REDACTED] to send this to Lianne's office, I will start drafting that letter, to be sent to them first thing tomorrow. OK?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch

PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154

[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 2:13 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Draft response for Mayor's messages re Venue cancellation

Hi [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

Here is a draft response that I started pulled together on Friday so we could use this as a starting point for our discussion this afternoon.

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

.....  
Kia ora ...

Thank you for your feedback about the cancellation of the Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event by Christchurch City Libraries Management.

At the time of the cancellation Libraries Management Team had received a number of complaints about this proposed event, they have since that time received more complaints. These complaints gave the us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Turanga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

After careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints received about the event, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, the Libraries Management Team made the decision that this event cannot be held at any of Christchurch City Libraries venue. We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

Our Libraries Management Team do not take such decisions lightly and value the importance of the right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

They then shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request. At the same time also advising that venue booking staff will be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. They also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

I am comfortable that in making their decision Christchurch City Libraries Management were focused on continuing to provide a safe environment for their staff and library users.

Ngā mihi

.....

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 11:40 AM  
To: Richardson, Mary; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Draft response to SUFWNZ complaints

Mary, [REDACTED]  
Here is an updated draft text for responding to customer complaints. [REDACTED] and Carolyn have reviewed this and are happy with the text. Please advise if you're ok with this wording, or if you require any changes. We will then get started on responding to the Hybris tickets.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]  
Kia ora ...

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above/below.

Thank you again for your feedback.

[FOR MAYOR'S MESSAGE ONLY: I am comfortable that in making their decision Christchurch City Libraries Management were focused on continuing to provide a safe environment for their staff and library users].

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 





From: Library  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 5:20 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: [Ticket: 420766]

Kia ora [REDACTED].

This email was assigned to you but the customer has been contacting FTL by phone as well and requesting a call back. [REDACTED] has phoned [REDACTED] back today and explained how she can give feedback via our Feedback form so there is no need for you to phone her again. I have reassigned the ticket back to our team and completed it with a note saying [REDACTED] has had a call back today.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]  
**Information Librarian**  
B FingerTip Library

[REDACTED]  
Library 180 Smith Street, 180 Smith Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: Hybris C4S Noreply <[noreply@my.ccc.govt.nz](mailto:noreply@my.ccc.govt.nz)>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:30 pm  
To: Library <[library@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:library@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: [Ticket: 420766] - A new ticket has been assigned to you.



Kia ora,

A new ticket has been assigned to you.

[Open ticket](#)

Ticket number 420766

Priority Normal

Subject compaliant

Incident category Complaint - Other

Object category Council Facilities

Description [REDACTED] is unhappy that the Speak Up for women talk has been cancelled. [REDACTED] feels that this has broken the Code of Conduct as the Christchurch City Council claims to support freedom of speech. [REDACTED] is asking to be contacted on [REDACTED] please.

Thank you,

Christchurch City Council

\* This is a system generated email. Please do not reply. \*

Contact us

03 941 8999

[Visit a Service Centre](#)

From: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] on behalf of Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2021 12:41 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: [ Ticket: 420970 ] LGOIMA request  
Categories: CCC action required

From: [OfficialInformation@my.ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficialInformation@my.ccc.govt.nz) <[officialinformation@my.ccc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@my.ccc.govt.nz)>

Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 9:47 AM

To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Fwd: [ Ticket: 420970 ] LGOIMA request



Dear All,

We have some further requests/complaints on he SUFW event.

The following is a LGOIMA from Women's Liberation Aotearoa.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information  
Official Information Team**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: May 28 16:48:10  
To: [officialinformation@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@ccc.govt.nz), [officialinformation@my.ccc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@my.ccc.govt.nz)  
Subject: LGOIMArequest

First name

[REDACTED]

Last Name

[REDACTED]

Organisation (if relevant)

Women's Liberation Aotearoa

Email address

[REDACTED]

Postal address

Day time phone number(s)

How do you prefer to be contacted? (please tick one)

Email

Please enter details of your request, being as specific as possible

Regarding your decision to cancel a booking made by Speak Up For Women to hold a public meeting to discuss BDMRB -legislation proposed by the Government- please advise:

- Who complained about the meeting (please provide evidence of complaints received)
- Who decided to seek legal advice, and when;
- When were the lawyers engaged;
- How much did the lawyers advice cost;
- When did CCC receive the advice;
- Who was involved in the decision to cancel the booking?
- What did the Police say when CCC consulted them about this issue?
- Which individuals and/or groups were consulted?

\*\*\*\*\*

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Christchurch City Council

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 3:43 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi everyone

A suggested response below for your signoff.

[REDACTED] – are you happy with the wording of the last response?

Carolyn – I presume this should be signed off by you?

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 3:24 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi [REDACTED]

Are you happy with the response below?  
Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?  
**Staff did their own background research into other 'Speak Up Women NZ' events.**

What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?  
**We have a range of bookings at Tūranga next Tuesday during the day and evening including workshops, a high school visit and a homework club. These are not public events and most are invite only.**

Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?  
**We sought internal legal advice about this. While the event is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.**

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:29 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi team – Please find the information from [REDACTED].

Hi

To my knowledge, nobody from CCL contacted SUFWNZ to ask what the meeting was about (we researched media coverage of other SFWNZ events)

We do have a range other bookings in Tūranga on Tuesday during the day and in the evening – including our ImpactED partners workshop, a high school visit, Te Putahi Centre for Architecture & City, and our Tongan homework club. NB these are not public events - ie most are invite only, but give a flavour of a typical day's venue bookings at Tūranga.

[REDACTED]

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:05 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Fwd: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

FYI [REDACTED]. Re the 3rd question, I will expect the answer is no but we could ask the lawyer who [REDACTED] liaised with for comment.

[REDACTED], you should be able to find his name from in my inbox via emails from [REDACTED].

Thanks  
Carolyn

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---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:58:53 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi [REDACTED]

We've had some follow-up questions regarding the Speak Up for Women NZ event.

Who can assist with the following questions?:  
Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?  
What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?  
Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Cheers  
[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:51 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Nick  
Can you please respond to the following:  
Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?  
What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?  
Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Thanks

On Thu, 27 May 2021 at 13:47, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Response below, if required it can be attributed to Carolyn Robertson – Head of Libraries and Information:

Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.

- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.



Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
Media Advisor  
News & Media

—

 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch 8013  
 PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
 Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:34 pm  
 To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
 Subject: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Kia ora [REDACTED]  
 I'm doing a story around the following:  
<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA2105/S00233/public-institutions-shouldnt-shut-down-healthy-debate.htm>  
 Could we please have some comment from CCC on behalf of the library as to why the meeting was disallowed?  
 Is this a political statement?  
 Reaction and reaction to the fact that goes against the principle of free speech.  
 Could we please have comment by 4pm this afternoon?  
 Many thanks  
 [REDACTED]

--  
Nga Mihi

[REDACTED]  
 Re: [REDACTED]  
 E [REDACTED]  
 Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand  
 PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



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Christchurch City Council

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

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--  
Ngā Mihi

██████████ ██████████  
Re ██████████

E ██████████ | P ██████████  
Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand  
PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



Think green: read on the screen

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:29 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi team – Please find the information from [REDACTED].  
Hi

To my knowledge, nobody from CCL contacted SUFWNZ to ask what the meeting was about (we researched media coverage of other SFWNZ events)

We do have a range other bookings in Tūranga on Tuesday during the day and in the evening – including our ImpactED partners workshop, a high school visit, Te Putahi Centre for Architecture & City, and our Tongan homework club. NB these are not public events - ie most are invite only, but give a flavour of a typical day's venue bookings at Tūranga.

[REDACTED]

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:05 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

FYI [REDACTED]. Re the 3rd question, I will expect the answer is no but we could ask the lawyer who [REDACTED] liaised with for comment.

[REDACTED], you should be able to find his name from in my inbox via emails from [REDACTED].

Thanks  
Carolyn

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From: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:58:53 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi [REDACTED]

We've had some follow-up questions regarding the Speak Up for Women NZ event.

Who can assist with the following questions?  
Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?  
What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?  
Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:51 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Nick  
Can you please respond to the following:  
Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?  
What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?  
Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Thanks

On Thu, 27 May 2021 at 13:47, [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Response below, if required it can be attributed to Carolyn Robertson – Head of Libraries and Information:

Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Thanks,

Media Advisor  
News & Media

Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch 8013  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [redacted] <[redacted]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:34 pm  
To: [redacted] <[redacted]>  
Subject: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Kia ora [redacted]  
I'm doing a story around the following:  
<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA2105/S00233/public-institutions-shouldnt-shut-down-healthy-debate.htm>  
Could we please have some comment from CCC on behalf of the library as to why the meeting was disallowed?  
Is this a political statement?  
Reaction and reaction to the fact that goes against the principle of free speech.  
Could we please have comment by 4pm this afternoon?  
Many thanks

Ngā Mihi

E [redacted] | P [redacted]  
Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand  
PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



Think green: read on the screen

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Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

Ngā Mihi

E [redacted] | P [redacted]  
Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand  
PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041





From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 12:36 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Draft response for Mayor's messages re Venue cancellation

Categories: Purple Category

Hi [REDACTED]  
Here is your starter for ten draft reply.

Cheers  
Carolyn

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 11:19 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Draft response for Mayor's messages re Venue cancellation

Kia ora ...

Thank you for your feedback about the cancellation of the Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event by Christchurch City Libraries Management.

At the time of the cancellation Libraries Management Team had received a number of complaints about this proposed event, they have since that time received more complaints. These complaints gave the team a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Their decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

After careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints received about the event, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, the Libraries Management Team made the decision that this event cannot be held at any of Christchurch City Libraries venue. They then shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request. At the same time also advising that venue booking staff will be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. They also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

I am comfortable that in making their decision Christchurch City Libraries Management were focused on continuing to provide a safe environment for their staff and library users.

Ngā mihi

.....

From: MayorsMessages  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:17 PM  
To: Richardson, Mary; Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Formal complaint re Christchurch City Libraries  
Attachments: SUFW Letter to Chch Mayor.pdf; RE: Turanga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June; SUFW Facebook Post.PNG; 188131337\_1127245897783572\_6457840897060902869\_n.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear All,

Please see attached letter of complaint from The Speak Up for Women Group. I have also attached a couple of Facebook shots of what they have posted.

It is an operational decision/matter so it will be a staff response. [REDACTED] legal advice is attached which will be useful in the response.

[REDACTED]/Carolyn could you please consider draft a response. Let me know if you would like it sent from the CE.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Contact Contact <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 11:54 AM  
To: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Formal complaint re Christchurch City Libraries

Dear Mayor Dalziel,

Please see our letter attached.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: Office of the CE  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 2:05 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Ltr re Speak up for Women from CE CCC  
Attachments: SUFW second letter to CCC.pdf

Hi All,

Attached is the SUFW response to the CE.

Note they have attached some explicit pictures on page three.

If we deem a response necessary, it would be that there were a number of complaints from different individuals. However, it might be best to leave it there. They have also submitted a LGOIMA request.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Contact Contact [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 7:58 AM  
To: Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: Ltr re Speak up for Women from CE CCC

Kia ora,

Please see our letter attached.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, May 28, 2021 at 4:36 PM Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora,

Please find attached a letter from the Chief Executive, Dawn Baxendale, in response to your letter (also attached).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**Team Leader Executive Support**  
**Executive Assistant to Chief Executive**

[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)  
Vice President, Assn of Administrative Professionals of NZ



\*\*\*\*\*

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<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

\*\*\*\*\*

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:05 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Newshub request ...

FYI

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:02 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Newshub request ...

Hi [REDACTED]

I've have sent the response below to all the media who've asked about the event.

It was signed off by Carolyn.

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:59 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Newshub request ...

Hi [REDACTED]

Here is the response from Carolyn Robertson, Head of Libraries and Information:

Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 9:31 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Media Enquiries <[MediaEnquiries@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MediaEnquiries@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Newshub request ...

Hi, I'm writing to request a statement / interview regarding the following claim, in a Press Release from Judith Collins, relating to the Speak Up For Women group.

It's disappointing a women's group has been blocked from holding an event at Christchurch City Libraries to discuss the proposed amendments to the Births Deaths Marriages Relationships Registration Bill, Leader of the Opposition Judith Collins says.

Christchurch City Libraries cancelled the group's event after receiving complaints from some people who do not wish the legislation to be discussed.

Thanks in advance, [REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] BROADCAST JOURNALIST

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ MOBILE [REDACTED] [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discoverycorp.co.nz)



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From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2021 12:42 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Official Information Act Request  
Categories: CCC action required

---

From: Official Information <[OfficialInformation@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficialInformation@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 4:35 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>; Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Official Information Act Request

FYI below.

We can discuss Monday.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 4:12 PM  
To: Official Information <[OfficialInformation@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficialInformation@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: FW: Official Information Act Request

Dear LGOIMA Team

I am forwarding this to you , as it was received by my Fingertip Library colleagues.

Can you acknowledge receipt?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Team Leader**  
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



---

From: Library <[library@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:library@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 4:06 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Official Information Act Request

From: Speak Up For Women <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 3:58 pm  
To: Library <[library@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:library@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Official Information Act Request

Kia ora Christchurch Libraries,

Please consider this email an Official Information Act request.

Please provide all correspondence (internal and external) related in any way to the booking Speak Up For Women made for 1 June 2021 at Christchurch Library.

Please also provide any information as to why this booking was cancelled and why the group was subsequently barred from all other Christchurch libraries.

Please provide the number of complaints that were received regarding the event or the group and how the Christchurch Libraries validated those complaints.

Please provide any information on training that staff at Christchurch Libraries have received on human rights, freedom of speech, access to information, and impartial public service.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]  
Speak Up For Women



Robertson, Carolyn  
Monday, 31 May 2021 12:35 PM

To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
Subject: FW: Outstanding complaints  
Attachments: Christchurch Public Library: Denial of Legal Rights; Cancel Culture Alive and Well at Christchurch Libraries?: Speak Up for Women event; Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: [redacted] actioning

Hi [redacted]  
I have spoken with [redacted] about timeframes for managing these complaints and the LGOIMs and I suggest that you, [redacted] and [redacted] get together tomorrow if possible to develop a generic reply both for the Mayor's Messages and those coming straight to the library/via Hybris. [redacted] will send a meeting request.

[redacted] and I have also discussed timeframes which I will update you on when were at Fendalton tomorrow morning.






Many thanks  
Carolyn

---

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 12:02 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[redacted]>; [redacted] <[redacted]>  
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]>; [redacted] <[redacted]>  
Subject: Outstanding complaints

Hi All,  
Here are the outstanding complaints we have (separate to the LGOIMA requests).  
You have some of these already.

Regards,  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

      
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:25 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Proposed message for us to use on social media

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:17 pm  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Proposed message for us to use on social media

Kia ora koutou  
Thanks for this. I propose our library response is this – and we probably need to provide it to people at the desk who may be approached, and Fingertip Library who will likely get calls. I don't think we should mention staff and customer complaints in the mix:

Christchurch City Libraries assessed the request by the group Speak Up for Women to use Tūranga as a venue. The request does not comply with our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

If you wish to send feedback, please use the Council Feedback Form <https://my.ccc.govt.nz/apply/service/feedback-suggestions>

Our Customer Code of Conduct is viewable at <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/customer-code-of-conduct/>

Ngā mihi  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:06 pm  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: update Hosting at Turanga

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:05 pm  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: update Hosting at Turanga

Hi again

The highlighted information below was the response used to complaints coming in to the Mayor's Messages inbox about the event.

It was provided by [REDACTED] and may be useful for your social media response.

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 10:55 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Fwd: update Hosting at Turanga

Here is [REDACTED] statement that went out from the Mayor's messages in response to complaints received.

Cheers  
Carolyn

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:42 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: update Hosting at Turanga

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:29 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: Hosting at Turanga

Hi [REDACTED]


I'm just off to a health appointment, but will get onto this after 12. Our key message is: After we received complaints from customers and staff, we decided to decline this venue hire request. We assessed the request against our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

OK with you, Carolyn?

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

---

 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:21 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Hosting at Turanga

Hi Both,

Just closing the loop on this.

Attached are the three complaints we received on the Turanga booking issue. Is it possible for a short response to be provided on an operational level?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 12:38 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Categories: CCC action required

Hi both  
Here is the Chief Executive's reply to [REDACTED] that was sent on Friday afternoon which should be useful for shaping a generic response to the complaints.

Cheers  
Carolyn

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your letter of complaint from 27 May regarding the Council's decision to decline the booking for a proposed the Speak Up for Women event at Tūranga on 1 June.

As this is an operational matter, it is appropriate that I respond as the Chief Executive.

Once again I would like to apologise for the series of delays in which the Speak Up for Women event on Tuesday 1 June 6-7pm was handled by libraries staff. We accept that our decision was not communicated in a timely manner and that we should have responded sooner.

We acknowledge there was correspondence between library staff and your group regarding this booking but must reiterate that written confirmation for the event was not provided by library staff.

As a result of this failure, our venue booking staff will be looking to improve our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

After your advertising for the proposed event went out, the Council received at least ten complaints about this taking place at Tūranga. As a result of these complaints, staff did their own background research into other Speak Up for Women events. This gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to possible protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

You asked about the content of the complaints we received. Here is an example:

*I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.*

*SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.*

*SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.*

*In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".*

*"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.*

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable. Our Libraries do not take such decisions lightly and value the importance of right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect. In recognising the importance of the group's rights, the email sent to you on 26 May provided a link to other possible venues at which your event could be held. That link includes other Council venues, some of which are stand-alone function venues, and therefore a more appropriate space from Council's point of view.

It is worth noting here that Turanga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary. As Tūranga Manager [REDACTED] outlined in his email response to [REDACTED] on 24 May "We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and CC libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community".

Based on the information provided above, we do not consider that an investigation into this matter is warranted.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Baxendale

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 1:53 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 1:01 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Proposed Response

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your letter of complaint from 27 May regarding the Council's decision to decline the booking for proposed the Speak Up for Women event at Turanga on 1 June.

As this is an operational matter, it is appropriate that I respond as the **appropriate manager/Chief Executive**.

Once again I would like to apologise for the series of delays in which the Speak Up for Women Event on Tuesday 1 June 6-7pm was handled by libraries staff. We accept that our decision was not communicated in a timely manner and that we should have responded sooner.

We acknowledge there was correspondence between library staff and your group regarding this booking but must reiterate that written confirmation for the event was not provided.

As a result of this failure our venue booking staff will be looking to improve our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

After your advertising for the proposed event went out, the Council received at least ten complaints about this taking place at Turanga. As a result of these complaints, staff did their own background research into other Speak Up Women events. This gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Turanga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Turanga due to possible protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

You asked about the content of the complaints we received, an example is:

*I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.*

*SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.*

*SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.*

*In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".*

*"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.*

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While the event is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Turanga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable. Our Libraries do not take such decisions lightly and the importance of right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treating other library patrons with respect.

It is worth noting here that Turanga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary. As Turanga Manager [REDACTED] outlined in his email response to [REDACTED] on 24 May "We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and CC libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community".

We are mindful of the delay in responding to your request, and provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city facilities to assist in providing an alternative venue space.

Based on the information provided above, we do not consider an investigation into this matter is warranted.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Baxendale

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: MayorsMessages  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 8:11 AM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Speak Up for Women event  
Attachments: Re: Thank you for your email

Hi All,

We have two new complaints in the Mayor's Messages today regarding Turanga. The first is below. There is also an addendum attached.

Could we please consider a response.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:32 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Speak Up for Women event

Dear Mayor Dalziel

I intended to attend the Event outlined below and discover this had been banned by the city librarian citing that the content matter MAY BE in breach of the customer code of conduct. I ask you to provide evidence of anything this organisation has said or done that could possibly conflict with the library code of conduct.

It seems the breach at this point is against the group of women hosting the event and those of us wishing to attend.

While providing the breach which has been contravened please let me know what part of spinelessly capitulating to a minority fits within the freedom of speech I believe we still enjoy in New Zealand.

I am appalled at this behaviour - banning a group of women who wish to meet and discuss matters of concern to WOMEN and you, your Council who agree with this and the library administration should be ashamed. And those of you who are women should feel an even deeper shame.

In closing I ask you this - do you think without the courage of (for example) Kate Sheppard and in addition those who fought for equal rights for women in the 60's you would hold the position of Mayor of Christchurch? Perhaps a question for your fellow women councillors also. Those women were able to meet and discuss without any kowtowing to a minority or banning by a group such as has happened here.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

## Customer Code of Conduct

Welcome to Christchurch City Libraries.

### Your rights

You have a right to:

- Service that is friendly and helpful
- Be treated with respect
- A safe and welcoming environment

### Your responsibilities

When visiting the library:

- Respect the rights of others
- Treat library staff with courtesy
- Treat other library users with courtesy
- Treat library buildings and equipment with care

### Our responsibilities

Our libraries are here for the use and enjoyment of everyone and our responsibility is to ensure all visitors have a pleasant experience at the library. If you choose not to follow the code of conduct we may ask you to leave.

Thank you for your consideration of others at all times.

Sent from my iPhone

From: MayorsMessages  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 8:13 AM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet  
Attachments: Speak Up 4 Women

Here is the second below.

With addendum attached too.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 5:04 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Ahiahhi marie Mayor Dalziel,

We are writing with concern about an anti-democratic action undertaken by library staff at the Tūranga Library today.  
<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/news/venue/?fbclid=IwAR0ybt2uJxwEYqLa43CQbb-2PDDL4auW9dJaaVDggwYVZLkIcpwzZyFfb3A>

Their disingenuous quote stating that, 'The event **may** be in conflict with [Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.'

The irony of their banning of women who are wanting to discuss the upcoming legislation and impacts on females is noted. **This sort of anti-democratic action is unacceptable in a public body and we urge you to reverse this anti-democratic and fascist decision from council staff.**

As long-time Labour Party members, we are frankly appalled at this myopic and senseless adherence to rigid ideology that is sexist towards women. This is an ideology that is eroding New Zealand's democracy and women's rights.

In our view, the library staff have **NO RIGHT** to cancel a booking from a women's group that wants to discuss the upcoming BMDRR bill and its implications for women and girls.

Please ensure your prompt attention to this matter.

Nga mihi,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: MayorsMessages  
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 10:41 AM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn; Richardson, Mary  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Unlawful discrimination against feminist group – request to clarify elected official involvement  
Attachments: 20210531 ltr jhw christchurch city council lgoima.pdf

Importance: High

Hi All,

Please see attached. This is a LGOIMA request which would broadly fall within the scope of the other requests we have.

It also requests some information which we will not hold or require us to create an opinion, which we are not obligated to do.

I can write a message to Councillors saying this will be dealt with under the LGOIMA so there is no need to respond.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 June 2021 10:22 AM  
**To:** MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>; Keown, Aaron <[Aaron.Keown@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Aaron.Keown@ccc.govt.nz)>; Turner, Andrew <[Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz)>; Galloway, Anne <[Anne.Galloway@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Anne.Galloway@ccc.govt.nz)>; Chu, Catherine <[Catherine.Chu@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Catherine.Chu@ccc.govt.nz)>; McLellan-Dowling, Jake <[Jake.McLellan@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Jake.McLellan@ccc.govt.nz)>; Daniels, James <[James.Daniels@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:James.Daniels@ccc.govt.nz)>; Gough, James <[James.Gough@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:James.Gough@ccc.govt.nz)>; Chen, Jimmy <[Jimmy.Chen@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Jimmy.Chen@ccc.govt.nz)>; Coker, Melanie <[Melanie.Coker@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Melanie.Coker@ccc.govt.nz)>; Davidson, Mike <[Mike.Davidson@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Mike.Davidson@ccc.govt.nz)>; Cotter, Pauline <[Pauline.Cotter@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Pauline.Cotter@ccc.govt.nz)>; Mauger, Phil <[Phil.Mauger@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Phil.Mauger@ccc.govt.nz)>; MacDonald, Sam <[Sam.MacDonald@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Sam.MacDonald@ccc.govt.nz)>; Templeton, Sara <[Sara.Templeton@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Sara.Templeton@ccc.govt.nz)>; Scandrett, Tim <[Tim.Scandrett@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Tim.Scandrett@ccc.govt.nz)>; Johanson, Yani <[Yani.Johanson@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Yani.Johanson@ccc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Unlawful discrimination against feminist group – request to clarify elected official involvement  
**Importance:** High

Dear Councillors,

As you may be aware the precursor group to the Free Speech Union ensured an urgent review of Auckland Council's decisions to de-platform two controversial Canadian speakers from Auckland Council venues. That was in large prompted by outrageous public statements by Phil Goff that he had 'banned' the speakers.

As it turned out, Mr Goff had lied. Despite repeated public statements to the contrary, he in fact had nothing to do with the decision. Our application for injunctive judicial intervention changed to a more theoretical exploration of the duties Councils/CCOs have to adhere to the rights of freedom of speech.

Last month we received the Court of Appeal decision on the judicial review ([decision linked here](#)). It recognises that your Council is obliged to comply with NZ Bill of Rights Act and Human Rights Act when coming to these decisions about hiring of public venues.

It appears to us that your Council has ignored the law as set out by the Court of Appeal. Far from being some foreign provocateurs, this was a group of NZ citizens, a feminist group, wanting to gather to discuss a proposed bill before the NZ Parliament. Unlike the Auckland case, we are not aware of any bona fide threats that would trigger genuine health and safety concerns. In any case, the Council appears not to have engaged with, or even inquired of the group of their risk of holding the event. It has held many events, some controversial and high profile. But it has never seen violence or material protest.

Yesterday we announced that we will be seeking leave from the Supreme Court to appeal the Court of Appeal decision. This was prompted in part by the actions of your Council. It appears to us necessary in order for your sector to get the message that your political views, or personal uncomfortableness are irrelevant in terms of who can use publicly funded civic venues and who local communities are permitted to hear from.

We ask that the matters raised in the **attached** letter be treated with urgency, in particular the level of involvement by elected officials. We will not hesitate to name in court proceeding elected officials who were involved or complicit in the Council's breach of human rights law. Your speedy assistance in clarifying these matters is relevant to the decisions we make take in the coming days, and similarly may be relevant to issues of eventual costs. **In short, if you were not aware of the request to hold the event prior to the announcement by the Council to decline it, we need to know urgently.**

In the alternate, if you are on the side of freedom of speech and the right of your constituency to choose for themselves who they hear from, I invite you to make a [public statement](#) in a similar vein to the Leader of Opposition, or [join the Free Speech Union](#). Like the Free Speech Union, you are not backing the views of the speakers whose rights we defend. Because to only stand for speech you agree with, isn't standing up for free speech at all.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Acting Secretary | Free Speech Union  
[REDACTED]

**Free Speech Union (New Zealand) Incorporated** | PO Box 10512, The Terrace, Wellington 6143 | [www.fsu.nz](http://www.fsu.nz)

**The Free Speech Union is a registered trade union under the Employment Relations Act 2000. If you would like to stand with us to protect and promote free speech [click here to receive our updates](#).**



From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:05 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

FYI [REDACTED]. Re the 3rd question, I will expect the answer is no but we could ask the lawyer who [REDACTED] liaised with for comment.

[REDACTED], you should be able to find his name from in my inbox via emails from [REDACTED].

Thanks

Carolyn

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:58:53 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi [REDACTED]  
We've had some follow-up questions regarding the Speak Up for Women NZ event.

Who can assist with the following questions?:  
Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?  
What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?  
Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:51 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Nick

Can you please respond to the following:  
Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?  
What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?  
Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
On Thu, 27 May 2021 at 13:47, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED].  
Response below, if required it can be attributed to **Carolyn Robertson – Head of Libraries and Information:**  
Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.  
To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga. Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]  
**Media Advisor**  
News & Media

 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch 8013  
 PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
 [ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:34 pm

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I'm doing a story around the following:

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA2105/S00233/public-institutions-shouldnt-shut-down-healthy-debate.htm>

Could we please have some comment from CCC on behalf of the library as to why the meeting was disallowed?

Is this a political statement?

Reaction and reaction to the fact that goes against the principle of free speech.

Could we please have comment by 4pm this afternoon?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

--

Ngā Mihi

[REDACTED]

Re [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED] | P 027 2766347

Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand

PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



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Christchurch City Council

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

\*\*\*\*\*

--

Ngā Mihi

[REDACTED]

Re [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED] | P [REDACTED]

Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand

PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



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From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:23 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Hi, I've just seen this article from theOCE.

Carolyn

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:57 AM  
To: MayorsMessages; Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: Mayor's Office-Advisors: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Kia ora

This article gives a general background to legal issues that concerned the Auckland City Council owned body when it declined to host alt-right activists.

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/01-05-2021/a-final-legal-coda-to-aucklands-great-southern-molyneux-drama-of-2018/>

If you haven't followed this case it may provide useful background to a response.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED] | Principal Advisor (Policy) | Office of Mayor & Chief Executive

P: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]

---

From: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>

Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 9:40 AM

To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Mayor's Office-Advisors <[MayorsOffice-Advisors@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsOffice-Advisors@ccc.govt.nz)>; [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: FW: Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Hi Carolyn,

I see this came into the Mayor's Messages and Libraries inboxes.

I just wanted to make sure you were aware of it and there appears to be some history to it: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/117051427/whats-a-terf-anyway-behind-the-speak-up-for-women-debacle>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 8:48 PM

To: Library <[library@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:library@ccc.govt.nz)>; MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>

Subject: Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Kia ora,

I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue Turanga Christchurch Central Library on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June

SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.

SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.

In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".

"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

 Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:28 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Formal complaint re Christchurch City Libraries  
Attachments: SUFW Letter to Chch Mayor.pdf; RE: Turanga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June; SUFW Facebook Post.PNG; 188131337\_1127245897783572\_6457840897060902869\_n.jpg

Hi both

FYI. [REDACTED] can you please find out how long we have to respond.

Thanks

Carolyn

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From: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 2:16:48 PM  
To: Richardson, Mary [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Formal complaint re Christchurch City Libraries

Dear All,

Please see attached letter of complaint from The Speak Up for Women Group. I have also attached a couple of Facebook shots of what they have posted. It is an operational decision/matter so it will be a staff response. [REDACTED]'s legal advice is attached which will be useful in the response.

[REDACTED]/Carolyn could you please consider draft a response. Let me know if you would like it sent from the CE.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** Contact Contact [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 May 2021 11:54 AM

**To:** MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Formal complaint re Christchurch City Libraries

Dear Mayor Dalziel,

Please see our letter attached.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:10 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Media response for your review

Hi both

This looks fine to me. Do you have any suggested changes?

Please let me know ASAP so I can confirm with [REDACTED].

Cheers

Carolyn

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 11:56:07 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Media response for your review

Hi Carolyn

Here is a draft response to media inquiries about declining to host the Speak Up for Women event:

Here is the response from Carolyn Robertson, Head of Libraries and Information:

Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The event is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Let me know if you have any changes,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Manager News & Media  
News & Media

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

---

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 9:38 AM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: Richardson, Mary; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Newshub request ...

Hi there

How would you like to handle this media inquiry?

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 9:31 AM  
To: Contact; [mediaenquiries@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:mediaenquiries@ccc.govt.nz)  
Subject: Newshub request ...

Hi, I'm writing to request a statement / interview regarding the following claim, in a Press Release from Judith Collins, relating to the Speak Up For Women group.

It's disappointing a women's group has been blocked from holding an event at Christchurch City Libraries to discuss the proposed amendments to the Births Deaths Marriages Relationships Registration Bill, Leader of the Opposition Judith Collins says.

Christchurch City Libraries cancelled the group's event after receiving complaints from some people who do not wish the legislation to be discussed.

Thanks in advance, Mel

--

[REDACTED] BROADCAST JOURNALIST

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ MOBILE + [REDACTED] [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](http://DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ)



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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 10:35 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: Fwd: Newstalk ZB query - group event cancellation

And another one ...

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:33 AM  
To: [mediaenquiries@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:mediaenquiries@ccc.govt.nz)  
Subject: Newstalk ZB query - group event cancellation  
Good morning,

Hope everyone's having a good Thursday so far! I'm hoping you can help me out with a statement on the below release from Judith Collins (I've pasted it below the qs).

Was the women's group blocked from holding an event to discuss the proposed amendments to the Births Deaths Marriages Relationships Registration Bill at the Christchurch City library, and why?

What was the thinking behind this cancellation?

What complaints were received against the meeting?

Does this cancellation impinge on the group's right to freely discuss something like this in a public place?

Here's the release:

Public institutions shouldn't shut down healthy debate

It's disappointing a women's group has been blocked from holding an event at Christchurch City Libraries to discuss the proposed amendments to the Births Deaths Marriages Relationships Registration Bill, Leader of the Opposition Judith Collins says.

Christchurch City Libraries cancelled the group's event after receiving complaints from some people who do not wish the legislation to be discussed.

"Council buildings are there for everyone in the community to use, they shouldn't be picking and choosing who can hold events there based on what the discussion is," Ms Collins says.

"Part of being a healthy democracy means allowing community groups to discuss topics and legislation and hear from differing views.

"We expect New Zealand to be a cohesive a society where everyone is treated equally and where freedom of speech is maintained.

"Freedom of speech in a democracy means having to tolerate the expression of diverse views. It works in both ways, people are entitled to voice their views and others are entitled to criticise those views, but they should be able to speak nonetheless.

"Sometimes legislation will polarise New Zealanders, as we have recently seen with the End of Life Choice and Legalising Marijuana referendums. But that does not mean we should shut down the debate.

"The National Party will always support the rights of people to protest peacefully and we are firm advocates of freedom of expression and freedom of speech.

"It's important New Zealanders are engaged with politics and the speaking up on the legislation that matters to them. It's disappointing the Christchurch City Libraries has shut down the debate in this situation."

Would appreciate your help!

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST - NEWSTALK ZB

D: [REDACTED]



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---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 11:58 AM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: Fwd: Speak up for women event social media

Fyi

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---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 11:54:02 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Speak up for women event social media

Kia ora [REDACTED].  
We've had the first negative comments on social media today (on a Facebook post about documentaries) from "Rose Gray".  
"Shame on Christchurch City Libraries for cancelling Speak Up for Women NZ's meeting. What a misogynist thing to do- when women want to talk about our sex-based rights and free-speech and how they are threatened by the government's intended laws. What's next- book banning?"  
[REDACTED] said that he'd be sending through some wording for us to use in response but we haven't had anything and he is now on leave. Are you aware of any messaging that we can use? It's unlikely this will be our only complaint.

Digital Library Web Content Lead  
DDI: 03 941 7866  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Web: <http://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/>  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/christchurchlib>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchCityLibraries>  
Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/christchurchcitylibraries>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/christchurchlib/>

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 12:46 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Mary has approved your recommendation with the one proviso below.

Cheers

Carolyn

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From: Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 12:43:15 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi – I agree with the approach  
However, I think you should remove this rationale “Our inability to guarantee the health and safety of staff and customers at Turanga.” The others are sufficient rationale

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 11:13 am  
To: Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi Mary  
I've just spoken to Carolyn and she appreciates you are busy but would like a response please to the request below from the “Speak Up for Women NZ” group.  
Carolyn agrees with the approach [REDACTED] has taken but just wants to ensure you are ok with this or if you have any concerns re the proposed approach?

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 21 May 2021 11:24 am  
To: Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi Mary  
Please see [REDACTED] recommendation that we decline a venue booking for the advocacy group, ‘Speak up for Women’ for the reasons he outlines below. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have considered this carefully and consider on balance that the risks (both H&S and reputational) could be significant. Can you please let me know whether you have any concerns with this approach before we decline the booking request?

We should let the group know today if possible.  
Thanks  
Carolyn

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 5:03 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Kia ora Carolyn  
The advocacy group 'Speak up for Women' has made a request to hire Spark Place at Turanga. They would like to hold a public talk here on 1 June from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. The hirer is [REDACTED], [REDACTED].  
The event is billed on the [Speak up for Women website](#) as “Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification”, and in their booking request they refer to it as “A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties”. We have some safety concerns about this event, based on past experience at Auckland Council (in 2019) and at Massey University (in 2020). See the following links:  
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/116447480/event-with-feminist-speaker-banned-from-twitter-moved-by-auckland-council-amid-safety-fears?rm=a>  
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/116640486/massey-university-cancels-controversial-feminism-2020-event-due-to-health-safety-and-wellbeing-concerns?rm=a>

- Options for managing this request are:
1. Accept the venue booking, and allow the event to go ahead at Turanga: Not recommended due to health, safety and wellbeing risks, and reputational risks.
  2. Offer the hirer an alternative CCC-owned venue, such as a suburban hall: We are exploring this further with Council colleagues. This may be an option, but would transfer many of the H&S and reputational risks to another part of CCC, which is not an ideal outcome.
  3. Decline the venue booking: This is our recommended action, based primarily on the reasons outlined below.


I recommend we decline the request to hire the venue to Speak Up for Women NZ, due to:

- Our concern about potential risk of disruption at Turanga due to protests by members of the public.
- Our inability to guarantee the health and safety of staff and customers at Turanga.
- The risk that Turanga and Christchurch City Libraries would no longer be regarded as a safe and welcoming space for one particular sector of the community. This risk is already highlighted in the customer written complaints received in recent days.
- The subject matter being potentially in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing “a safe and welcoming environment” and our expectation that all customers must “Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy”.
- The potential risk to the brand reputation of Spark (Spark is a Foundation Partner for Christchurch City Libraries, and their name is on this venue).

Written complaints have already been received this week from other library users. I have significant concerns around potential disruption and the likely physical and emotional safety impact for some staff and customers.

In this instance, I believe that safety and inclusivity outweighs freedom of expression. I recommend that we regretfully decline the request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold their event at Turanga.

Ngā mihi nui  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Turanga Library Manager  
Libraries and Information

 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Turanga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 10:55 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: update Hosting at Turanga

Here is [REDACTED] statement that went out from the Mayor's messages in response to complaints received.

Cheers  
Carolyn

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---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:42 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: update Hosting at Turanga

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:29 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: Hosting at Turanga

Hi [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Our key message is: After we received complaints from customers and staff, we decided to decline this venue hire request. We assessed the request against our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

OK with you, Carolyn?

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Library Manager  
[Libraries and Information](#)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

 Christchurch  
City Council

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:21 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Hosting at Turanga

Hi Both,

Just closing the loop on this.

Attached are the three complaints we received on the Turanga booking issue. Is it possible for a short response to be provided on an operational level?

Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:21 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: Hosting at Turanga  
Attachments: Speak Up For Women June Event; Are we hosting a hate group?; Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Hi Both,  
Just closing the loop on this.  
Attached are the three complaints we received on the Turanga booking issue. Is it possible for a short response to be provided on an operational level?  
Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 21 June 2021 11:44 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Letter from All Right Campaign Manager regarding event cancellation  
Attachments: LIU Letter from All Right campaign manager regarding cancelled event 2021-06-11.pdf

Hi Carolyn  
Please find attached a letter from the All Right campaign manager thanking us for barring an anti-transgender group from speaking at Tūranga.  
Cheers

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Team Leader Management Support/PA**  
Administration Team

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

---

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 1:13 PM  
To: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: LGOIMA request from [REDACTED]  
Attachments: [REDACTED] LGOIMA Request.docx

Hi both  
For your information.  
Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

---

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:00 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]  
Subject: message for social media approved

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Thank you very much for your professionalism and prompt attention to this matter  
Carolyn has approved the following message for use on social media. Please note the change in yellow from the original information sent. A message to all staff will follow.

Christchurch City Libraries assessed the request by the group Speak Up for Women to use Tūranga as a venue. **The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct**, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

If you wish to send feedback, please use the Council Feedback Form <https://my.ccc.govt.nz/apply/service/feedback-suggestions>

Our Customer Code of Conduct is viewable at <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/customer-code-of-conduct/>

[REDACTED]  
**Manager Programme and Learning**  
Programmes Events & Learning

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga, Central Library, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:45 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: message to all staff

Carolyn: with your approval we will send to TL and FIT first and then all staff. [REDACTED]

Kia ora koutou

You may be aware of media coverage on the Speak Up for Women's event. The following information is on our website and includes the key messages for staff.

Christchurch City Libraries assessed the request by the group Speak Up for Women to use Tūranga as a venue. The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

If you wish to send feedback, please use the Council Feedback Form <https://my.ccc.govt.nz/apply/service/feedback-suggestions>

Our Customer Code of Conduct is viewable at <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/customer-code-of-conduct/>

We extend our thanks to all staff, our web team and CCC News and Media team for dealing with this in a professional and clam manner.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 12:02 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Outstanding complaints  
Attachments: Christchurch Public Library; Denial of Legal Rights; Cancel Culture Alive and Well at Christchurch Libraries?; Speak Up for Women event; Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Categories: Suspicious email

Hi All,  
  
Here are the outstanding complaints we have (separate to the LGOIMA requests).  
  
You have some of these already.

Regards,  
  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 1:01 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Proposed Response

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your letter of complaint from 27 May regarding the Council's decision to decline the booking for proposed the Speak Up for Women event at Turanga on 1 June.

As this is an operational matter, it is appropriate that I respond as the **appropriate manager/Chief Executive**.

Once again I would like to apologise for the series of delays in which the Speak Up for Women Event on Tuesday 1 June 6-7pm was handled by libraries staff. We accept that our decision was not communicated in a timely manner and that we should have responded sooner.

We acknowledge there was correspondence between library staff and your group regarding this booking but must reiterate that written confirmation for the event was not provided.

As a result of this failure our venue booking staff will be looking to improve our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

After your advertising for the proposed event went out, the Council received at least ten complaints about this taking place at Turanga. As a result of these complaints, staff did their own background research into other Speak Up Women events. This gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Turanga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Turanga due to possible protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

You asked about the content of the complaints we received, an example is:

*I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.*

*SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.*

*SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.*

*In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".*

*"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.*

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While the event is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Turanga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable. Our Libraries do not take such decisions lightly and the importance of right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treating other library patrons with respect.

It is worth noting here that Turanga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary. As Turanga Manager [REDACTED] [REDACTED] outlined in his email response to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on 24 May "We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and CC libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community".

We are mindful of the delay in responding to your request, and provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city facilities to assist in providing an alternative venue space.

Based on the information provided above, we do not consider an investigation into this matter is warranted.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Baxendale

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 9:40 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Article on Stuff

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 9:39 am  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: Article on Stuff

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 9:35 a.m.  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Article on Stuff

Speak up for Women has made it to Stuff  
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125265969/christchurch-libraries-refuse-to-host-controversial-group>

Wanted to let you all know

[REDACTED]  
Business Operations Administrator  
Business Support

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73012, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)





Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi team – Please find the information from [REDACTED].

Hi

To my knowledge, nobody from CCL contacted SUFWNZ to ask what the meeting was about (we researched media coverage of other SFWNZ events)

We do have a range other bookings in Tūranga on Tuesday during the day and in the evening – including our ImpactED partners workshop, a high school visit, Te Putahi Centre for Architecture & City, and our Tongan homework club. NB these are not public events - ie most are invite only, but give a flavour of a typical day's venue bookings at Tūranga.

[REDACTED]

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:05 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Fwd: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

FYI [REDACTED]. Re the 3rd question, I will expect the answer is no but we could ask the lawyer who [REDACTED] liaised with for comment.

[REDACTED]. you should be able to find his name from in my inbox via emails from [REDACTED].

Thanks  
Carolyn

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:58:53 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Hi [REDACTED]

We've had some follow-up questions regarding the Speak Up for Women NZ event.

Who can assist with the following questions?:

Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?

What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?

Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:51 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Nick

Can you please respond to the following:

Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?

What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?

Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

On Thu, 27 May 2021 at 13:47, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Response below, if required it can be attributed to Carolyn Robertson – Head of Libraries and Information:

Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Thanks,

[Redacted]  
Media Advisor  
News & Media

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch 8013  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:34 pm  
To: [Redacted]; [Redacted] <[Redacted]>  
Subject: Comment for story around library not allowing Speak Up meeting

Kia ora [Redacted]  
I'm doing a story around the following:  
<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA2105/S00233/public-institutions-shouldnt-shut-down-healthy-debate.htm>  
Could we please have some comment from CCC on behalf of the library as to why the meeting was disallowed?  
Is this a political statement?  
Reaction and reaction to the fact that goes against the principle of free speech.  
Could we please have comment by 4pm this afternoon?  
Many thanks  
[Redacted]

--  
Ngā Mihi

[Redacted]  
Re [Redacted]

E [Redacted] | P 027 2766347  
Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand  
PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



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Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

\*\*\*\*\*

--  
Ngā Mihi

[Redacted]  
Re [Redacted]

E [Redacted] | P 027 2766347  
Press House, 158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand  
PO Box 4722, Christchurch 8041



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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 9:57 AM  
To: MayorsMessages; Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: Mayor's Office-Advisors; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Kia ora

This article gives a general background to legal issues that concerned the Auckland City Council owned body when it declined to host alt-right activists.  
<https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/01-05-2021/a-final-legal-coda-to-aucklands-great-southern-molyneux-drama-of-2018/>

If you haven't followed this case it may provide useful background to a response.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED] | Principal Advisor (Policy) | Office of Mayor & Chief Executive  
P: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]

---

From: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 9:40 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Mayor's Office-Advisors <[MayorsOffice-Advisors@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsOffice-Advisors@ccc.govt.nz)>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Concerns about an event at Tūranga Christchurch Central Library next month

Hi Carolyn,

I see this came into the Mayor's Messages and Libraries inboxes.

I just wanted to make sure you were aware of it and there appears to be some history to it: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/117051427/whats-a-terf-anyway-behind-the-speak-up-for-women-debacle>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 8:48 PM  
To: Library <[library@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:library@ccc.govt.nz)>; MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Concerns about an event at Tūranga Christchurch Central Library next month

Kia ora,

I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue Tūranga Christchurch Central Library on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June

SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.

SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.

In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".

"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.

Nga mihi,

[REDACTED]

---

 Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 9:47 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Customer waiting for a response re: Speak up for Women event venue

Thanks for putting me in the picture [REDACTED]. Sounds like an unpleasant experience for both you and [REDACTED]. I am wondering if it would be good for [REDACTED] to contact the customer. As the manager at Turanga it may mollify her to a degree that someone 'higher up' is dealing with the matter. At this stage though I certainly don't think it's a good idea to call [REDACTED] back until we are in possession of more information as we have nothing further to add and she is likely to become agitated again..

[REDACTED]  
**Team Leader Community Libraries A**  
**Upper Riccarton**  
**Acting Team Leader**  
**Fingertip Library**

[REDACTED]  
Upper Riccarton Community & School Library, 73 Main South Road, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 9:17 a.m.  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Customer waiting for a response re: Speak up for Women event venue

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for putting together some information about Tūranga no longer being the venue for an event organised by Speaking up for Women.

We have only had one customer ring so far, around 5pm last night. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wanted us to confirm that Tūranga had a booking for this event. [REDACTED] spoke with [REDACTED] and then while [REDACTED] was trying to find the information she wanted, [REDACTED] hung up and I picked up her call.

[REDACTED] said she felt we were being hostile and obstructive. We both explained she would need to talk to the event organiser. [REDACTED] said wanted confirmation that this event was booked at Tūranga from CCC. [REDACTED] was very insistant and both [REDACTED] and I found our interactions with her to be unpleasant and stressful.

[REDACTED] is expecting to be called back this morning. I can phone her back but was hoping to have some more information available to me before I do.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]  
Wāhi Pātōtō FingerTip Library

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 4:58 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: RE: Draft response for Mayor's messages re Venue cancellation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Important - Must Attend

Kia ora ...

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, the Libraries Management Team made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries Management Team then shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Our Libraries Management Team do not take such decisions lightly and we value freedom of expression, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

Thank you again for your feedback.

[FOR MAYOR'S MESSAGE ONLY: I am comfortable that in making their decision Christchurch City Libraries Management were focused on continuing to provide a safe environment for their staff and library users].

Ngā mihi

.....

[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 2:13 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Draft response for Mayor's messages re Venue cancellation

Hi [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

Here is a draft response that I started pulled together on Friday so we could use this as a starting point for our discussion this afternoon.

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

.....  
Kia ora ...

Thank you for your feedback about the cancellation of the Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event by Christchurch City Libraries Management.

At the time of the cancellation Libraries Management Team had received a number of complaints about this proposed event, they have since that time received more complaints. These complaints gave the us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

After careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints received about the event, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, the Libraries Management Team made the decision that this event cannot be held at any of Christchurch City Libraries venue. We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

Our Libraries Management Team do not take such decisions lightly and value the importance of the right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

They then shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request. At the same time also advising that venue booking staff will be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. They also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

I am comfortable that in making their decision Christchurch City Libraries Management were focused on continuing to provide a safe environment for their staff and library users.

Ngā mihi

.....





From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:48 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Media response for your review

Hi [REDACTED]  
I am happy to sign this off now.

Thanks very much  
Carolyn

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---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 11:56 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: Media response for your review

Hi Carolyn

Here is a draft response to media inquiries about declining to host the Speak Up for Women event:

Here is the response from Carolyn Robertson, Head of Libraries and Information:

Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.

There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Let me know if you have any changes,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Manager News & Media  
News & Media

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

---

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:26 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Media response for your review

Carolyn, [REDACTED] and I are in agreement this is sufficient information. You can sign off with Jos

We are just reading the web team info and will copy Jos into the response  
[REDACTED]

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:10 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Media response for your review

Hi both  
This looks fine to me. Do you have any suggested changes?  
Please let me know ASAP so I can confirm with [REDACTED].  
Cheers  
Carolyn

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---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 11:56:07 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Media response for your review

Hi Carolyn

Here is a draft response to media inquiries about declining to host the Speak Up for Women event:

Here is the response from Carolyn Robertson, Head of Libraries and Information:

Library management this week declined a request by the group 'Speak up for Women NZ' to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

Let me know if you have any changes,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Manager News & Media**  
News & Media

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

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**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:54 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: message to all staff

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm happy to approve this. Good to go now thanks.

Carolyn

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---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 12:52:42 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: message to all staff

Slight amendment

Carolyn: with your approval we will send to TL and FIT first and then all staff. [REDACTED]

Kia ora koutou

You may be aware of media coverage on the Speak Up for Women's event. The following information is on our website and includes the key messages for staff. [Please refrain for engaging in conversation with customers and refer media enquiries to the CCC News and Media team.](#)

Christchurch City Libraries assessed the request by the group Speak Up for Women to use Tūranga as a venue. The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

If you wish to send feedback, please use the Council Feedback Form <https://my.ccc.govt.nz/apply/service/feedback-suggestions>

Our Customer Code of Conduct is viewable at <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/customer-code-of-conduct/>

We extend our thanks to all staff, our web team and CCC News and Media team for dealing with this in a professional and clam manner.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:30 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Proposed message for us to use on social media

[REDACTED] and I have considered this and recommend the following change.  
We agree this information should be shared with frontline staff and FIT as a key message.  
Carolyn we need your sign off  
With thanks  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:17 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Proposed message for us to use on social media

Kia ora koutou  
Thanks for this. I propose our library response is this – and we probably need to provide it to people at the desk who may be approached, and Fingertip Library who will likely get calls. I don't think we should mention staff and customer complaints in the mix:

Christchurch City Libraries assessed the request by the group Speak Up for Women to use Tūranga as a venue. **The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct**, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

If you wish to send feedback, please use the Council Feedback Form <https://my.ccc.govt.nz/apply/service/feedback-suggestions>

Our Customer Code of Conduct is viewable at <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/customer-code-of-conduct/>

Ngā mihi  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:06 pm  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: update Hosting at Turanga

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:05 pm  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: update Hosting at Turanga

Hi again

The highlighted information below was the response used to complaints coming in to the Mayor's Messages inbox about the event.

It was provided by [REDACTED] and may be useful for your social media response.

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 10:55 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Fwd: update Hosting at Turanga

Here is Chris's statement that went out from the Mayor's messages in response to complaints received.

Cheers  
Carolyn

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---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:42 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: update Hosting at Turanga

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:29 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: Hosting at Turanga

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm just off to a health appointment, but will get onto this after 12. Our key message is: **After we received complaints from customers and staff, we decided to decline this venue hire request. We assessed the request against our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.**

OK with you, Carolyn?

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:56 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Cheyne, Judith; Richardson, Mary; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: RE: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Hi All,

I provided Dawn a draft copy as she is leaving for the weekend soon. She is happy with the response.

I can make the relevant changes (which are superficial) and provide a final copy.

A copy will be sent to Lianne for information this afternoon and a copy of the legal opinion and letters to Councillors in confidence on Monday.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:44 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.  
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has suggested the highlighted change and deletion (I agree with the proposed changes) otherwise we are happy with the draft.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:39 pm  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.  
Importance: High

Hi

I suggest adding the wording highlighted below – or something along these lines

Regards

[REDACTED]  
**Senior Legal Counsel – Public & Regulatory**  
Legal Services Unit



---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:19 pm  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.  
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED] and all  
Thanks for the draft response for Dawn to send to [REDACTED]. I have noted a few very small changes in the text below.

I have also confirmed that library staff did not confirm the booking in writing following written acceptance of the proposed place and time by a fellow SUFW member on 11 May.

Can you please either confirm that you are happy with draft below or suggest amendments asap then [REDACTED] will seek Dawn's sign off this afternoon.

Grateful thanks for your assistance,  
Carolyn

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 1:01 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Proposed Response

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your letter of complaint from 27 May regarding the Council's decision to decline the booking for proposed the Speak Up for Women event at Turanga on 1 June.

As this is an operational matter, it is appropriate that I respond as the Chief Executive.

Once again I would like to apologise for the series of delays in which the Speak Up for Women Event on Tuesday 1 June 6-7pm was handled by libraries staff. We accept that our decision was not communicated in a timely manner and that we should have responded sooner.

We acknowledge there was correspondence between library staff and your group regarding this booking but must reiterate that written confirmation for the event was not provided by library staff.

As a result of this failure, our venue booking staff will be looking to improve our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

After your advertising for the proposed event went out, the Council received at least ten complaints about this taking place at Turanga. As a result of these complaints, staff did their own background research into other Speak Up for Women events. This gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Turanga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Turanga due to possible protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

You asked about the content of the complaints we received. [Here is](#) an example:

*I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.*

*SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights. In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community". "Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.*

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While the event is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Turanga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable. Our Libraries do not take such decisions lightly and the importance of right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treating other library patrons with respect. [In recognising the importance of the group's rights, the email sent to you on \[26? May\] provided a link to other possible venues at which your event could be held. That link includes other Council venues, some of which are stand-alone function venues, and therefore a more appropriate space from Council's point of view.](#)

It is worth noting here that Turanga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary. As Turanga Manager [REDACTED] outlined in his email response to [REDACTED] on 24 May "We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and CC libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community".

We are mindful of the delay in responding to your request, and provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city facilities to assist in providing an alternative venue space.

Based on the information provided above, we do not consider [that](#) an investigation into this matter is warranted.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Baxendale

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:22 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Thanks [REDACTED] I saw some but not all these typos!

[REDACTED] has picked up a few more typos. Can you please alter them in the final draft for Dawn or I can update it once we have feedback from the others.

Many thanks  
Carolyn

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:05 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: RE: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Is somebody going to check it for typos? Few suggestions highlighted below

---

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 1:53 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 1:01 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Proposed Response to Speak Up for Women Event at Turanga.

Proposed Response

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your letter of complaint from 27 May regarding the Council's decision to decline the **booking for a proposed Speak Up for Women event** at Turanga on 1 June.

As this is an operational matter, it is appropriate that I respond as the **appropriate manager/Chief Executive**.

Once again I would like to apologise for the series of delays in which the Speak Up for Women **event** on Tuesday 1 June 6-7pm was handled by libraries staff. We accept that our decision was not communicated in a timely manner and that we should have responded sooner.

We acknowledge there was correspondence between library staff and your group regarding this booking but must reiterate that written confirmation for the event was not provided.

As a result of this failure our venue booking staff will be looking to improve our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

After your advertising for the proposed event went out, the Council received at least ten complaints about this taking place at Turanga. As a result of these complaints, staff did their own background research into other Speak Up **for** Women events. This gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Turanga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Turanga due to possible protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

You asked about the content of the complaints we received, an example is:

*I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.*

*SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.*

*SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.*

*In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".*

*"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.*

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While **declining the booking** is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Turanga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable. Our Libraries do not take such decisions lightly and **value** the importance of right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and **treat** other library patrons with respect.

It is worth noting here that Turanga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary. As Turanga Manager [REDACTED] outlined in his email response to [REDACTED] on 24 May "We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and CC libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community".

We are mindful of the delay in responding to your request, and provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city facilities to assist in providing an alternative venue space.

Based on the information provided above, we do not consider an investigation into this matter is warranted.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Baxendale

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2021 1:04 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: RE: Speak Up for Women event

Hi both

It might be helpful if we talked around the table about this one. Could we get together early next week, perhaps?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2021 12:30 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Speak Up for Women event

Hi Both,

I have had a couple of responses on the Turanga complaints. One below might warrant a further response (see [REDACTED]'s point below).

Is there some further detail we can provide?

I will re-iterate that the Mayor is aware of this issue but as stated it is an operational matter and therefore an organisational response.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2021 9:06 AM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Speak Up for Women event

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED] | Principal Advisor (Policy) | Office of Mayor & Chief Executive  
P: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 4:46 PM  
To: Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: RE: Speak Up for Women event

The question that might be worth teasing out by the Library is how and what evidence the Library used to assess the SU4W event "may" be in conflict with the Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct. It seems to me that is a reasonable question to ask and have answered.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED] | Principal Advisor (Policy) | Office of Mayor & Chief Executive  
P: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]

---

From: Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 4:28 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: Speak Up for Women event

Hi [REDACTED],

FYI - does this warrant a response from Lianne or on her behalf?

Best,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 4:13 PM  
To: Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: Speak Up for Women event

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your response which is basically an attempt to completely ignore the breach of my rights under the Bill of Rights Act 1990 by the library when you chose to ban the event being held by Speak Up For Women. I have lodged a formal complaint on that issue with the City Council.

I addressed my email to Mayor Dalziel and asked specific questions of her which you have ignored. How did Speak Up For Women breach the Library Code of Conduct? That should be easy enough to answer. The second question is in the last paragraph of my email and I am interested in Mayor Dalziel's answer.

I look forward to receiving the answers and a response to the email I sent rather than the standard cut and paste response I feel you have provided.

While providing the breach which has been contravened please let me know what part of spinelessly capitulating to a minority fits within the freedom of speech I believe we still enjoy in New Zealand.

Sent from my iPhone

On 3/06/2021, at 1:39 PM, Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Council.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Ngā mihi

**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

<image003.jpg>

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From: <>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:32 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Speak Up for Women event

Dear Mayor Dalziel

I intended to attend the Event outlined below and discover this had been banned by the city librarian citing that the content matter MAY BE in breach of the customer code of conduct. I ask you to provide evidence of anything this organisation has said or done that could possibly conflict with the library code of conduct.

It seems the breach at this point is against the group of women hosting the event and those of us wishing to attend.

While providing the breach which has been contravened please let me know what part of spinelessly capitulating to a minority fits within the freedom of speech I believe we still enjoy in New Zealand.

I am appalled at this behaviour - banning a group of women who wish to meet and discuss matters of concern to WOMEN and you, your Council who agree with this and the library administration should be ashamed. And those of you who are women should feel an even deeper shame.

In closing I ask you this - do you think without the courage of (for example) Kate Sheppard and in addition those who fought for equal rights for women in the 60's you would hold the position of Mayor of Christchurch? Perhaps a question for your fellow women councillors also. Those women were able to meet and discuss without any kowtowing to a minority or banning by a group such as has happened here.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

## Customer Code of Conduct

Welcome to Christchurch City Libraries.

## Your rights

You have a right to:

- Service that is friendly and helpful
- Be treated with respect
- A safe and welcoming environment

## Your responsibilities

When visiting the library:

- Respect the rights of others
- Treat library staff with courtesy
- Treat other library users with courtesy
- Treat library buildings and equipment with care

## Our responsibilities

Our libraries are here for the use and enjoyment of everyone and our responsibility is to ensure all visitors have a pleasant experience at the library. If you choose not to follow the code of conduct we may ask you to leave.

Thank you for your consideration of others at all times.

Sent from my iPhone

\*\*\*\*\*

This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

The views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Christchurch City Council. If you are not the correct recipient of this email please advise the sender and delete.

Christchurch City Council

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

\*\*\*\*\*

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:16 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Speak up for Womens event

Kia ora

As per Carolyn's message, I suggest we publish this as a news item – then it's easily accessible for library staff from the website.

An on Desknet for our Frontline teams.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:09 pm  
To: Libraries and Information Unit <[LibrariesandInformationUnit@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:LibrariesandInformationUnit@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Speak up for Womens event

Kia ora koutou

You may be aware of media coverage on the Speak Up for Women's event. The following information is on our website and includes the key messages for staff. Please refrain for engaging in conversation with customers and refer media enquiries to the CCC News and Media team.

Christchurch City Libraries assessed the request by the group Speak Up for Women to use Tūranga as a venue. The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

If you wish to send feedback, please use the Council Feedback Form <https://my.ccc.govt.nz/apply/service/feedback-suggestions>

Our Customer Code of Conduct is viewable at <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/customer-code-of-conduct/>

We extend our thanks to all staff, our web team and CCC News and Media team for dealing with this in a professional and calm manner.

Ngā mihi  
Carolyn

**Carolyn Robertson**  
Head of Libraries & Information  
Libraries & Information Unit

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

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**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 2:21 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Libraries and Information Unit  
Subject: Speak up for Women event - information on the website

Kia ora koutou  
This message is on the website now. <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/news/venue/>  
You can find it by looking at "Library News" bottom left of the navigation.

It's also linked to from Desknet in the Communications tab.

Just a reminder to keep in mind the Council Social Media Policy and Guidelines <http://intranet.ccc.govt.nz/organisation/identity-guidelines-templates/media-and-social-media>  
In particular:

"All staff must ensure that they do not enter into any discussions on social media (including any website comments) regarding the Council, your work within the Council, or employment-related matters. This applies to both professional and personal accounts. While your personal account may not state that you work at the Council many people who follow your account on social media will be aware you work there."

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Team Leader Digital Library Web**  
Digital Library Web

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73015, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



---

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:09 pm  
To: Libraries and Information Unit <[LibrariesandInformationUnit@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:LibrariesandInformationUnit@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Speak up for Womens event

Kia ora koutou

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Christchurch City Libraries assessed the request by the group Speak Up for Women to use Tūranga as a venue. The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

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We extend our thanks to all staff, our web team and CCC News and Media team for dealing with this in a professional and calm manner.

Ngā mihi  
Carolyn

**Carolyn Robertson**  
Head of Libraries & Information  
Libraries & Information Unit

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



Hybris replies to Thursday 3 June reply:

[REDACTED]

**Ticket H00752461**

Reply received Mon 8 June:

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your cookie cutter reply. Unfortunately you have failed to address the library's decision to not uphold free speech. And somewhat ironically, you've decided that the safety of a group of protestors who have a history of violent threats such as rape and murder is more important than a group of women who want to discuss the issue of public consultation of proposed legislation, and who have always done so in a reasonable and rational way with no hint of violence or impingement on others rights.

I am very disappointed that you have failed to do your homework and have taken such a one sided view of this situation.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]

**Ticket H00751742**

Reply received Sun 6 June

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Tūranga Manager

Thank you for your reply to my enquiry. As an organisation that deals with the written word, it is a shame that you ignored my enquiry completely, rather sent a standard response that leaves many unanswered questions.

I asked the following:

1. what information do you have that the event MAY conflict with your CoC?
2. are you not breaching your own CoC by declining the request? You are telling women they are not welcome to discuss proposed legislation changes - a democratic right and something the government encourages?
3. are women included in your 'safe and welcoming environment for all'?
4. what does 'safe' and 'welcoming' mean in your CoC?

I must answer those questions for myself, based on your reply:

1. Tūranga had no information that the SUFW event would conflict with the CoC.
2. Yes, Tūranga breached its own Customer CoC

Our libraries are here for the use and enjoyment of everyone and our responsibility is to ensure all visitors have a pleasant experience at the library. If you choose not to follow the code of conduct we may ask you to leave.

If you needed to ask anyone to leave it would have been some of the complainants and others who wanted to protest but not attend an open event. It would not have been the SUFW group members. I understand from your answer that the risk posed was from the complainants not the group who booked the event.

3. I can only assume some women are included and some women are excluded
4. You clearly cannot define safe nor welcoming.

You have stated that 'we are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community'. Sadly, the message you have sent is that implied threat of protest is enough to close an event down, and that discussing proposed legislative change in New Zealand is deemed dangerous.

I hope you are aware that the Speak Up For Women event did occur at another venue. It was highly successful with the organisers having a productive discussion with the five, that is five, protestors who turned up. All attendees at the event were well-informed and able to discuss the proposed legislation.

Ngā Mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Ticket H00752357**

Reply received Sunday 6 June.

Dear [REDACTED], thank you for your reply.

I don't accept the reasons you lay out for the cancellation of Speak Up For Women's talk on June 1 at Turanga as being good reasons. Those reasons resulted in a fear-based decision to cancel the talk, and that's never a good decision, unless physical harm or loss of life are very real probabilities. A quick internet search has shown that at least one of those (but likely to be more upon further investigation) who complained about the event and threatened disruption, didn't even live in Christchurch. In the instance of SUFW's talk, the courageous thing to do would have been to deal with those who threatened to disrupt the event, not to punish those who had done no wrong.

However, I do understand that this may have been your first 'rodeo', and you had no better role models to fall back on other than that of capitulation to the threateners, as other libraries have done. Not all librarians have capitulated, though - some have stood strong such as the head librarian at Toronto Library, as one example -

[Controversy erupts after Toronto library refuses to ban speaker critical of transgender rights | News | Lifesitenews](#)

There are many women who find aspects of transgender ideology an unsafe ideology for women and girls - this NOT hyperbole, as you may be tempted to dismiss it as, but a very real concern. Going forward, I'd expect that you would respect any complaints and requests to cancel talks in libraries that promote this, in the same spirit that you cancelled Speak Up For Women's talk.

I love libraries and what they offer, and, apart from this current disappointment with management, will continue to appreciate the work that is done to make them wonderful places.

Thank you and regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]  
**Ticket H00752474**

Reply received Thursday 3 June

Dear [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

Thank you for your reply to the feedback I posted on your website. However I must say that the reasons you give for this anti-democratic action were contradictory and unconvincing.

You say, for example, that "Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account." But in that case, how did you arrive at the conclusion that "hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community"? If this bizarre and unjustified conclusion was not based on an assessment of the group and the expected nature of the event, then what on earth *was* it based on? What could possibly be 'unsafe' or 'unwelcoming' – to *anyone* in the community – about a women's organisation discussing the possible impacts of a proposed piece of legislation?

And for all your professed concern about offering a safe and welcoming space for the whole community, you appear not to be concerned with the kind of 'welcome' you are showing to these women, and the message *that* sends. What courtesy are you showing *them*? Where is the respect for *their* rights to gather in a publicly-owned and funded venue to discuss a law that affects them? Are they not part of the 'whole community' too?

Here's how the Christchurch City Libraries could have sent a message of welcome and respect to *all* members of the community – without denying anyone their rights to voice their opinions: You could have offered all those who objected to the SUFW meeting *the use of the same space to voice their side of the story* at a later date. Did that not occur to you as a solution?

These contradictory and insincere arguments show that ultimately, Christchurch City Libraries simply capitulated to the pressure of a small number of complaints from people who are seeking to silence the views of those they disagree with. This is a shameful day for Christchurch City Libraries.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

---



[REDACTED]

**Ticket H00752440**

Received Thursday 3 June.

Dear Christchurch Library,

Thanks for your reply to my complaint about denying Speak Up For Women the use of your facilities.

You write:

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There was a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

How on earth does a group of women discussing a bill before parliament in any way threaten "a safe and welcoming environment" ?

What possible reason do you have for asserting that they might not "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy"?

We are not talking about a lynch mob or a motorcycle gang here. Speak Up For Women is a respectable group of citizens, many of who I know personally. They have no record of menacing or abusing anybody. Speak Up For Women's weapons of choice are researched articles, petitions, letters and civilised discussions. Your characterisation of these women as some sort of undesirable anti social threat is as ludicrous as it is insulting.

If the library anticipated disruption from members of the public against the hui, the library should have considered two things.

First, there is, in this country a right to protest. It's not an abnormality. When it happens, life goes on. We are not in a social climate requiring everything shutting down at the slightest hint of a possible protest taking place. Even the largest protests in New Zealand are usually orderly and scarcely disruptive.

Second, the number of adult citizens incensed to the point of disruptive protest at the prospect of some women meeting to discuss a bill before parliament would, I venture, be miniscule. A small enough number to be contained by public security officers readily available to the library.

Your arguments don't stand up to scrutiny and quite frankly I can only wonder how you manage the normal day to day process of running a library at all.

Hoping that you reflect on your unreasonable decision and mend your behaviour towards future would be library users,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

**Ticket 421059**

**Response received Thursday 3 June**

Thurs 3/6 email to [REDACTED] immediately bounced back. Email address is correct.

---

**Ticket H00752578**

Response received Tuesday 8 June

Thank you [REDACTED].

The upshot is you privilege the rights of protestors over the rights of the general public....that is the 'hecklers' veto'.

Disappointing from a public library in 2021.

(I attended the meeting at Woolston Club. There was no fuss, just a committed presence from some high schoolers with placards.)

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 8:01 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: terf propagandist on Hapori

Just wanted to make you aware that a woman had been camped out for a long time in front of the Activity Space and had put around some flyers from Speak Up For Women. I picked them up in the normal course of tidying at night and asked if they were hers. She said yes but I could have them if I was interested. So I took them and put them in the trash like everything else I had picked up.

Just letting you know.

Thanks.

From: Hybris C4S Noreply <noreply@my.ccc.govt.nz>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:31 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [Ticket: 420766] - A new ticket has been assigned to you.

Please review it as soon as possible.



Kia ora,

A new ticket has been assigned to you.

[Open ticket](#)

Ticket number 420766

Priority Normal

Subject compaliant

Incident category Complaint - Other

Object category Council Facilities

[REDACTED] is unhappy that the Speak Up for women talk has been cancelled. [REDACTED] feels that this has broken the Code of Conduct as the Christchurch City Council claims to support freedom of speech. [REDACTED] is asking to be contacted on [REDACTED] please.


Thank you,

Christchurch City Council

\* This is a system generated email. Please do not reply. \*

---

## Contact us

 03 941 8999

 [Visit a Service Centre](#)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 11:34 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [Ticket: 421141] - SUFW event

Dear All,

As discussed the other request from [REDACTED]:

This is a request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for all information from 1 May 2021 to 28 May 2021 relating the the decision to accept and then cancel a booking made by the group Speak Up for Women for Tuesday, 1 June in Turanga. This includes:

- 1) All information relating to the decision to first accept and then cancel the booking including all emails, electronic messages (including text messages), and meeting minutes or notes, and advice supporting the decision to cancel the booking;
- 2) Copies of all complaints received about the booking, with information withheld as necessary in order to ensure the complainants are not identified; and
- 3) Copies of all resulting feedback received since announcing the cancellation of the booking, with information withheld as necessary to ensure the correspondent is not identified.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 



1 June 2021

Lianne Dalziel  
Mayor

Christchurch City Councillors

By email: mayor@ccc.govt.nz; aaron.keown@ccc.govt.nz; andrew.turner@ccc.govt.nz;  
anne.galloway@ccc.govt.nz; catherine.chu@ccc.govt.nz; jake.McLellan@ccc.govt.nz;  
james.daniels@ccc.govt.nz; james.gough@ccc.govt.nz; jimmy.chen@ccc.govt.nz; melanie.coker@ccc.govt.nz;  
mike.davidson@ccc.govt.nz; pauline.cotter@ccc.govt.nz; phil.mauger@ccc.govt.nz;  
sam.macdonald@ccc.govt.nz; sara.templeton@ccc.govt.nz; tim.scandrett@ccc.govt.nz;  
yani.johanson@ccc.govt.nz

## UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN OF THE SPEAK UP FOR WOMEN GROUP - BREACH OF DUTY TO UPHOLD RIGHTS UNDER NZ BILL OF RIGHTS ACT – ABUSE OF STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC FACILITIES.

1. This letter is a request for action, and a request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
2. Among the members of the Free Speech Union are members of the feminist group known as Speak Up For Women. They have asked us to help them secure their legal rights to freedom of speech and not to be discriminated against. They have provided copies of written communication with Council officers, and transcripts of some conversations. We think it is likely that you will have seen media coverage on the cancellation and the comments of your Library Manager, [REDACTED], that the subject of the group's meeting may be in conflict with the library's code of conduct, "particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment".

### Action sought

3. We ask you to ensure that you and each Councillor in your Council takes responsibility and accepts democratic accountability for the decision-making of your local authority as required by section 41(3) of the Local Government Act 2002, with respect to the matters later defined in this letter as the Decisions. Given the apparent breaches of law in aspects of the Decisions, we urge that you and your Councillors satisfy yourselves that the Chief Executive has properly understood and fulfilled their responsibilities under section 42 (2) of that Act, with respect to the Decisions.
4. It seems to us that compliance with the Human Rights Act, and the NZ Bill of Rights Act would result in a prompt reversal of the exclusions announced in the Decisions. A proper respect for your Council's rhetoric about diversity, inclusion and respect for human rights would result in an apology and express welcome to Speak Up For Women. It should extend to any women whose wish to hear what might be said at Speak Up For Women meetings has been vilified, expressly or implicitly, by the intolerant statements of your personnel.

## Information sought under the LGOIMA

5. We need information urgently to understand more about what appears to be unlawful abuses of power by your Council. From what has been said publicly, your Council has cancelled or refused to accept bookings for meetings in public meeting facilities to discuss controversial proposed law changes, essentially because your Council or some of its staff are hostile to, or afraid of, what they expect to be the views of women who might attend. From the additional material we have seen your staff have no evidence of anything other than peaceful advocacy from the women's group seeking to meet.
6. The Free Speech Union is considering what it can and should do to defend both the people who want to exercise their right to freedom of speech, and those who may want to know more about the proposals from the women concerned.
7. The Free Speech Union is a registered trade union formed for such purposes. You may find more about us at [www.fsu.nz](http://www.fsu.nz). We are the incorporation of the body formed to defend freedom of speech against Auckland Council gagging decisions, by sponsoring the case known as Goff's 'divisive speakers' ban case. We attach copies for your information of the recent Court of Appeal decision, and our notice of appeal to the Supreme Court.
8. The most pertinent points in the Court of Appeal judgment are in paragraphs [64] to [68]. An accessible summary by lawyers not involved in the case, of the effect of the decision can be read at [www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/cases/malcolm-bruce-moncrief-spittle-v-regional-facilities-auckland-ltd](http://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/cases/malcolm-bruce-moncrief-spittle-v-regional-facilities-auckland-ltd)
9. It appears to us that unlike Goff's 'divisive speakers' ban case, there was not even a realistic prospect of genuine threats to health and safety. It appears complaints were simply that. Speak Up for Women is not aware of any legitimate threats to their events or the safety of their personnel or venues. The group regularly hosts talks, the high water mark of disturbance being peaceful protest by its political opponents. In any case, from what we have seen the Council made no effort whatsoever to engage on these matters, seek reassurances from the organisers, or consider how Speak Up for Women's rights could be accommodated. Indeed, the Council refused to engage on the matters.
10. For convenience in this letter we refer to as and included in the term "Decisions", all and any of the:
  - (a) Research, communication, consideration, deliberation, discussion of councillors, council employees, council officers or council contractors or other advisors in this matter, paid or unpaid (all referred to in this letter in the term "council personnel");
  - (b) consultation within and outside the Council (including requests for advice or guidance or opinions) on what to do and how to proceed;

pertinent to or involved in responding to the Speak Up for Women booking booked for 1 June 2021 at Tūranga City Library Auaha Hihi/SparkPlace from 5.30pm to 7.30pm and the decisions to cancel and deny the requested uses of Council controlled facilities on the requested, or the alternative dates<sup>1</sup>.

11. It appears to us that the Decisions show your Council has breached section 21(1)(j) of the Human Rights Act. The comments attributed to Council officers in reports of the matter suggest a failure to comply with the obligations codified in that Act, and either an astonishing lack of understanding of the obligations of the Council under sections 14, 16 and possibly 17 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act, or a contemptuous indifference to that law.
12. We want to understand whether the events indicate also a culture of indifference to the law, or contempt for it, from those with higher management responsibility in the Council, or from you and any

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<sup>1</sup> As was suggested by Tūranga Bookings Coordinator, [REDACTED]

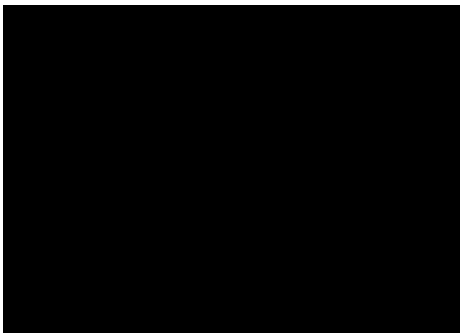
Councillors. If court intervention becomes necessary, we want to know which parties should most appropriately be regarded as responsible for the purposes of the Local Government Act and the Human Rights Act, as well as who should properly be identified in court. It could be important that the public generally to learn how your Council came to consider it was entitled to administer public meeting facilities with anything other than scrupulous political impartiality.

13. We have seen transcripts of the calls between the event organisers and [REDACTED], Tūranga Library Manager, where it is made clear that the cancellation came from “up the line”(presumably meaning senior management or elected officials).
14. We want to try to avoid blame falling on innocent Councillors. The high-handedness of the Decisions suggests the possibility of septic culture of open political bias. We want to understand whether specific training or collusion might be leading to the simultaneous emergence in several councils of political misuse of Council authority and assets against Speak Up For Women. We want to understand how such an attitude can disregard the likelihood that SUFW opinions are likely to be shared by many residents in your territory.
15. Accordingly, we request under the LGOIMA all information held that is, or relates to:
  - (a) How the Decisions were made;
  - (b) Who made them and precisely when;
  - (c) All reasons considered by the makers of the Decisions, whether or not they have been advised or announced as the reasons for the Decisions;
  - (d) Any advice sought or given, or positions taken on the Decisions by any persons more senior than those who made the Decisions, before or after they were made;
  - (e) The names and qualifications of any persons other than the makers of the Decisions who were consulted about the Decisions or informed of them before Speak Up for Women;
  - (f) Any reports or recommendations to the Mayor and/or Councillors or any of them and/or Chief Executive about the Decisions or intended Decisions;
  - (g) Any requests for reports or explanations or other information about the Decisions made by any Councillor or the Mayor (including staff in her Office);
  - (h) Any political alignments or affiliations of the persons involved in any of the foregoing that might be relevant to the reported staff anxiety about the views that might be expressed at the Speak Up for Women meeting, or the effect of those views on the staff or others;
  - (i) Information that shows how and on what basis Council personnel decided how to communicate decisions or intended decisions, or proposed decisions, and how to explain all or any of them and how to respond to enquiry, including media enquiry;
  - (j) Any codes, rules, guidance documents, standard operating procedures or templates, training manuals or notes or other sources of authority taken into account by the makers of the Decisions in relation to the Decisions.
  - (k) Any complaints received by the Council prior to the Decisions and actually considered by the Decision-maker(s) in coming to the Decisions, and how those complaints were communicated to the Decision-maker(s) and when;



- (l) No threats of violence have been communicated to Speak Up for Women, however if the Council did receive any, and these were communicated to and considered by the Decision-maker(s) in coming to the Decisions, please provide those details.
  - (m) Whether the Police, or security experts were consulted prior to the Decisions;
  - (n) Whether the LIANZA's Statement Intellectual Freedom was considered as part of the Decisions and whether the Council's Libraries remain a member;
  - (o) Who "we" refers to in the letter to Speak Up for Women from the Chief Executive of 28 May, and the date and time the specific date and time the internal legal advice was sought. We want to understand whether this was taken before or after the communication of the cancelation.
16. In the preceding paragraph "information" means, as the context permits, information in hard or electronic form, including of course emails, txts, and all other kinds of written correspondence. It includes documents, notes, minutes, memos, reports and statements. It extends to information held unwritten in the memories of relevant Council personnel, to the extent necessary for us to understand the situation and emergence of the Decisions.
17. In view of the urgency for us and our members affected by the Decisions, we ask that you provide the information as it comes to hand, without waiting to supply it all together. For this purpose each of the above sub-paragraphs is a separate request.
18. We would be happy to discuss any aspect of the requests in this letter. We have no desire to put you or your Council to pointless compliance expense, if discussion satisfies us that it is likely to be of little use to us or our members or the residents of your territory of that.

Yours faithfully,  
**Free Speech Union (New Zealand) Inc.**

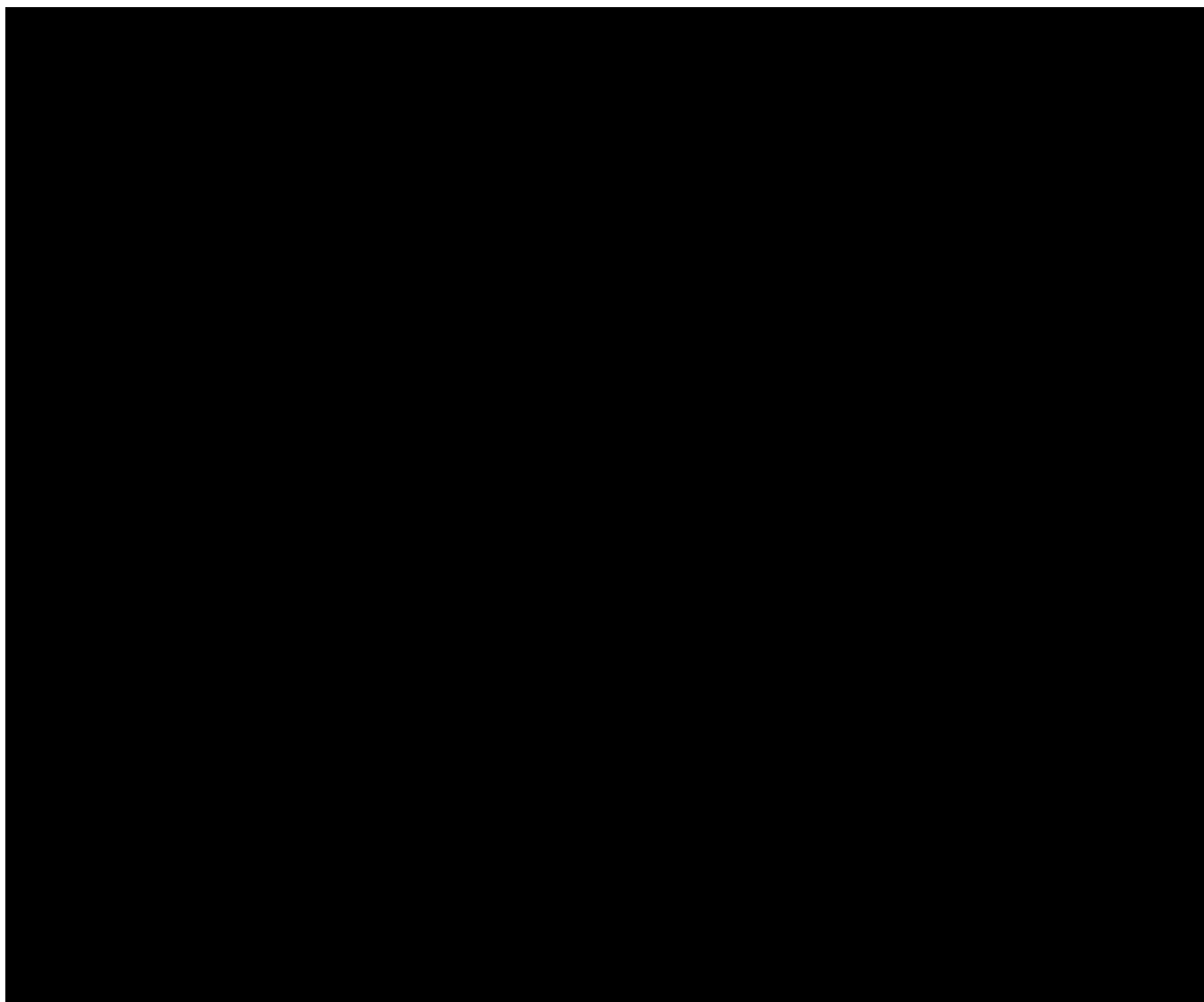


Complaints received re Speak up for Women

Date	Who	Text
25/5/21	[REDACTED] via Hybris (ticket H00749928)	<p>Details of other complaint: Event being held Details: Kia ora, I am writing to express my concern about an event that is apparently being hosted at Tūranga on the first of June SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. They use transphobic rhetoric and fringe 'science' to stir up fear and hatred of trans people. They stereotype trans women as predators and fetishists. I was so scared of being confronted by someone and I felt like such a freak that I didn't use a gendered public bathroom for 18 months after I started hormones. Many trans people in Ōtautahi have unstable housing situations and low incomes, they often need a safe space to access the internet and community information. Hosting an event such as this makes me as a trans person feel unwelcome, as it gives the impression that Tūranga feels that this discourse is relevant to the people of Ōtautahi. As a trans woman myself, I am dreading the consequences of giving these people a platform to speak. In the UK, where similar groups have had considerable lobbying power, 41% of trans people report being attacked or threatened with violence over the past five years, and 70% of trans people report avoiding places and situations out of fear of being assaulted, threatened or harassed[<a href="https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/trans_stats.pdf">https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/trans_stats.pdf</a>]. This has prompted Human Rights Watch to release a statement warning of the dangerous impact of the toxic rhetoric and media coverage around trans people[<a href="https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/17/joint-statement-rights-trans-people-uk">https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/17/joint-statement-rights-trans-people-uk</a>]. In Aotearoa, the Counting Ourselves survey [<a href="https://countingourselves.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Executive-Summary.pdf">https://countingourselves.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Executive-Summary.pdf</a>] found that 56% of trans people had seriously thought of attempting suicide over the last 12 months. 12% had made an attempt on their life over the preceding year. As you can imagine this is a vulnerable population. We are also a population that are dehumanised and othered by people who hope to stir up support for bigoted agendas. In Christchurch we have seen the end result of othering and dehumanisation. I trust that Tūranga will make the right decision for the people of Christchurch. Stand Up For Women is ostensibly a feminist group, but their only activity is to lobby against trans healthcare, try and prevent us from competing in sports, trying to scare us away from public spaces, and to advocate for conversion therapy for trans, non-binary or questioning rangatahi. Platforming them would make trans people feel less comfortable at Tūranga, and embolden a group that spreads hate speech and debunked science from an era when LGBT+ people were subjected to terrible abuse by the medical establishment. Thanks, [REDACTED]</p>
25/5/21	[REDACTED] via Hybris Ticket H00749927	<p>Details of other complaint: Event being held Details: Kia ora, I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue Tūranga Christchurch Central Library on the 1st of June SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights. In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community". "Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue. Nga mihi, [REDACTED]</p>
25/5/2021	Anonymous (Via Hybris, Ticket no. H00749925)	<p>Details: Good evening, I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June. SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights. In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community". "Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue. Thank you for your time.</p>
25/5/2021	[REDACTED], via Hybris, Ticket no. H00749922	<p>Details of other complaint: Event being held Details: Greetings to whomever it may concern, I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June. SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender</p>



## Detailed Media Responses 27 May 2021:



### 3. Here is the response from **Carolyn Robertson, Head of Libraries and Information:**

Library management this week declined a request by the group ‘Speak up for Women NZ’ to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as ‘Let’s Talk About Sex Self-Identification’.

To date we have received at least 10 complaints about this proposed event. These complaints gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries’ Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing “a safe and welcoming environment” and our expectation that all customers must “Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy”. We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

We shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of their request.

Our venue booking staff will be improving our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

We also provided the organiser with a number of nearby inner-city Christchurch venues (<https://nzvenues.co.nz/christchurch-venues>).

**6. Here is the response from Carolyn Robertson, Head of Libraries and Information:**

Did someone ring or write to the group to ask what the meeting was about?

Staff did their own background research into other 'Speak Up Women NZ' events.

What other meetings are on at the library next Tuesday?

We have a range of bookings at Tūranga next Tuesday during the day and evening including workshops, a high school visit and a homework club. These are not public events and most are invite only.

Do you believe you have infringed on their human rights?

We sought internal legal advice about this. While the event is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

[REDACTED] LGOIMA Request

Received 29/5/2021

Hybris ticket H00752786

Customer: [REDACTED]

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Details of other complaint: Possible unfair refusal for the women's group for the use of the library

Details: Tēnā koutou,

I would appreciate your responses to my comments and my request for information.

I read online about a group being banned from using the library. I obviously do not have the full details, but on the face of it banning Speak Up For Women from using the library seems inconsistent and unjustifiable under the NZBORA.

I also wonder if they were given a chance to explain their position (in response to the complaints you received) to the library before being told no as natural justice requires.

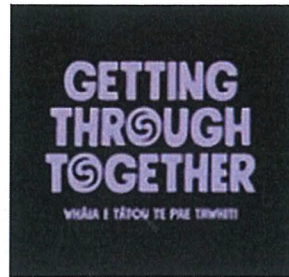
I would appreciate your thoughts to my above points.

I also request under LGOIMA that I will be provided with any information in relation to how the decision was made to ban the group from using the library in the first place.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

**ALL  
RIGHT?**



'All Right?' • c/o Community & Public Health • PO Box 1457 • Christchurch 8140

Carolyn Robertson  
c/o Christchurch City Council  
53 Hereford Street  
Christchurch 8013

11 June 2021

Tēnā koe Carolyn,

This message is on behalf of the 'All Right?' campaign thanking you for barring an anti-transgender group from speaking at Tūranga.

'All Right?' is a population-level mental health and wellbeing promotion campaign. The campaign began in 2013 following the Canterbury earthquakes and now leads the national 'Getting Through Together' campaign alongside the Mental Health Foundation.

Over the years, we've run sub-population campaigns to promote and activate the strengths of our different communities, using local research to inform development. Last year, we ran a campaign for and with the LGBTQIA+ community in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

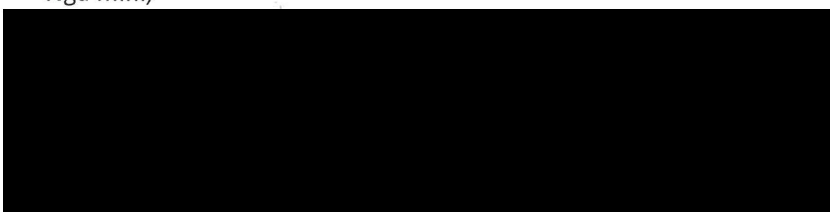
The research underpinning our campaign found transgender people in Ōtautahi face very high levels of discrimination. Transgender people were less likely to report feeling safe in public places like school and workplaces, and *none* of the 23 transgender respondents said they felt safe if they could not 'pass' as cisgender. One contributor said, 'The central city isn't safe for trans people at night.'

We also found how valuable allies are to this community. At the heart of allyship was taking steps to help people feel a sense of belonging.

**We would like to thank Christchurch City Council for being a good ally and protecting the safety, wellbeing, and sense of belonging for everyone in Ōtautahi.**

We've enclosed some of the campaign collateral for you, and a summary of the research that informed the campaign.

Ngā mihi,



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 12:10 AM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: Re: Thank you for your email

Thank you for replying. I'd like to be clear I am expecting a reply from the Mayor. I wrote on an extremely serious matter - the curtailment of freedom of speech

I look forward to hearing from  
mayor Dalziel

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 27/05/2021, at 4:32 PM, MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

On behalf of Mayor Lianne Dalziel, thank you for your email.

Please be assured that all correspondence is read and noted. Any significant issues are brought to the Mayor's attention as soon as that is possible.

Typical correspondence includes:

\*Invitations to events

\*Requests for letters of support

\*Operational requests in relation to services or regulatory matters

Invitations and request for letters of support will be dealt with by the Mayor's Office.

If your request relates to an operational matter then it will be referred to the Office of the Chief Executive.

If you are writing to express a personal view or copy the Mayor in on an issue, you may not receive further correspondence beyond this message, so therefore please consider this email acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

Kind Regards  
Office of the Mayor  
Christchurch City Council

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This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

The views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Christchurch City Council.

If you are not the correct recipient of this email please advise the sender and delete.

Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

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# CHRISTCHURCH LIBRARIES

#BDMRR

LET'S TALK ABOUT

SEX SELF-ID

demand  
public  
consultation

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 8:14 AM  
To: MayorsMessages; Gough, James  
Cc: Library  
Subject: Cancel Culture Alive and Well at Christchurch Libraries?

Dear Lianne Dalziel and James Gough

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125265969/christchurch-libraries-refuse-to-host-controversial-group>

So disappointing and frustrating to see "cancel culture" reaching New Zealand and stifling people's right to reasonable freedom of speech.

I'm not familiar with this particular group but based on the Press report it appears that their concerns are the stuff of perfectly legitimate debate and are concerns that are probably shared by many who might like the opportunity to express them without being cancelled.

It's particularly concerning to see organisations like our library, supposedly the repository of human knowledge, caving in to the bullying that now happens whenever a group of activists with an agenda decides that their view is the only view that is allowed to be expressed. I'm guessing these groups will largely consist of young people who have been sold the party line by teachers and lecturers who in turn dare not deviate from it. As a result, those young people have never learned to test their views via the type of debate that was common back in my university days. It's therefore hardly surprising that we now have a generation who refuse to accept that other people are entitled to differing views and that, shock horror, the majority may actually have something worthwhile to contribute to the debate.

Every minority has the right to be heard and treated with respect but that doesn't mean that they have the right to dictate terms to the majority.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 8:54 AM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: Christchurch Public Library

Dear Ms Dalziel

I write to express my concern regarding the Public Library's decision to deny a feminist group the opportunity to use Library facilities to speak on the topic of transgenderism. I note the Library's stated reasons included, without any hint of irony, that the meeting might conflict with the libraries code of conduct: "*Particularly our commitment to provide a safe and welcoming environment*" I don't know if the group "Speak Up for Women" felt safe, but they could hardly have felt welcomed by the Library or its staff.

It is hardly the place of public servants, be they elected or employed by the public to impose their own ideological purity test upon those seeking to use the Library's rate payer funded services. We still live in a liberal pluralistic democracy where people are free to express their ideas, as guaranteed by the New Zealand Bill of Rights; the public being equally free to consider all viewpoints on merit.

Hopefully you can communicate my concern to the Library and in future we can look forward to the Christchurch Public Library adopting a more generous approach to groups and individuals seeking to use their facilities. What ever happened to celebrating diversity with tolerance and inclusion, or does that only apply to those people and groups who affirm their personal dogmas? I'm confident Library staff would expect better treatment for themselves should they find themselves in the same situation.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 1:46 PM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: DEMOCRACY  
Attachments: CCC.pdf

Please find attached my open letter to the CCC in response to the cancellation of a speaking event at the Christchuh library.

I am a taxpayer and expect full consideration given to my letter. I also expect a response and I expect this letter to reach the top officials of the council.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 3:00 PM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: Denial of Legal Rights

Madame Mayor,

I wish to lay a formal complaint concerning the behaviour of the City Library management. I believe they have capitulated to pressure from a fringe group in society and denied the legal rights of an established women's group to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. Specifically the library management have cancelled a public meeting which was to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> June by the group "Speak up for Women" at the library which was to discuss the group's legitimate concerns regarding impingement of women's rights through the gender self-identification clauses in the proposed Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill scheduled to be heard this year. This is an appalling and frightening attack on free speech by the Library management. I cannot find words to describe my alarm that a public body such as this would deliberately prevent public debate of proposed legislation which affects 50% of the population. This behaviour is an affront to the basic rights of every resident of Christchurch and of New Zealand and I implore you to take steps to rescind the decision with some urgency and to ensure that it never happens again.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: Contact Contact [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 11:54 AM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: Formal complaint re Christchurch City Libraries  
Attachments: SUFW Letter to Chch Mayor.pdf

Dear Mayor Dalziel,

Please see our letter attached.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 10:43 PM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: Freedom of Speech Restriction

Kia Ora Ms Dalziel

I am writing to lodge my protest at the Christchurch City Council preventing the Speak Up for Women NZ meeting that was to be held in one of the meeting rooms at Turanga recently, as reported on Stuff (27 May 2021). I believe this to be an appalling decision and a gross contravention of freedom of speech. I may not agree with what the group says or stands for but it has a right to meet and discuss ideas. To say it was based on the library's "... commitment to provide a safe and welcoming environment". My interpretation of that statement being that people in opposition to the group would protest and cause difficulties for library staff, so because of the protesting groups behaviour you contravene the rights of a group's freedom of speech from meeting. I wonder if it had been the other way round, ie if members of the LGBTQI+ community were meeting and the Speak Up for Women group had said they would protest, if the council would be so quick to cancel the meeting; I suspect not.

As a citizen of Christchurch and a long term ratepayer the council has no right to determine on my behalf who has the freedom of speech in council building's. I acknowledge that when it comes to 'hate speech' that is a line crossed, but as a society we haven't had that debate as yet as to where that line is; but this was not about hate speech, and so the council stepped way outside its right in determining on my behalf who can speak in council buildings and who can't. I believe the council staff who were involved in making this decision should be issued with a formal employment warning and chastised for their behaviour. Of course I don't expect that will happen, given this councils lack of openness to date.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Baxendale, Dawn  
Sent: Thursday, 10 June 2021 12:53 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: cancel

For your info... will you draft a response (if required)?

Thanks

J

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 10 June 2021 11:41 AM  
To: Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Cc: Baxendale, Dawn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: cancel

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thanks for your response, but I'm afraid it's just confirmed my concerns. While bending over backwards to justify your actions on the basis of some unknown 'code of conduct', you haven't answered my question about how it fits with the library's own public claim that it "supports diversity and aims to be representative of all our Christchurch communities." Is it the case that diversity and representativeness apply only when they happen to coincide with views and activities that the library approves of?

Let's cut to the chase here. A perfectly legitimate group made a perfectly legitimate booking of ratepayer facilities for the purpose of political discussion, and then a few complaints from that group's political opponents about being offended resulted in the booking being cancelled. This is a shameful surrender to the thug's veto which has made Chch look like a haven for intolerance and illiberalism. It's also exposed Chch ratepayers to financial risk, as I see the Free Speech Union is intending to launch legal action.

You say that you need to balance freedom of expression "with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect." With respect, this is nonsense. Everybody is offended by something, so freedom of expression is completely meaningless if it doesn't include the freedom to offend or to tell people what they don't want to hear. Denial of this fundamental truism is what led to the US culture wars and the rise of the unspeakable Trump. Is that your objective for Chch?

Yours etc,

[REDACTED]

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From: Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Date: Friday, 4 June 2021 at 11:58 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: cancel

Kia ora [REDACTED].

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Chief Executive.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues. Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 6:09 PM  
To: Baxendale, Dawn [REDACTED]  
Subject: cancel

Dear [REDACTED]

I am appalled by the library's decision to cancel the room booking of a feminist group. Apparently motivated by '10 complaints', it makes a laughing stock of the library's claim that it "supports diversity and aims to be representative of all our Christchurch communities". More importantly, it undermines the very foundations of democracy by denying a platform for discussion of proposed legislation.

By caving into mob rule, this has put Christchurch into the same shameful category as Auckland and Massey.

Yours in mortification,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 3:55 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Cancellation of Event

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
I am sending you a copy of my reply to [REDACTED] complaint in case he has also submitted one through Hybris or Mayor's Messages.

Regards  
Carolyn

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From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 3:49 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Cancellation of Event

Kia ora [REDACTED]  
Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, library management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above/below.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Kind regards  
Carolyn

**Carolyn Robertson**  
Head of Libraries & Information  
Libraries & Information Unit

 [REDACTED]  
 Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
 PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
 [ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

  
Christchurch  
City Council

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:09 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
Subject: Cancellation of Event

Kia Ora Ms Robertson,

I am disappointed to read that Christchurch City Libraries has decided to take a partisan stance in relation to an event of current community interest by refusing to allow "Speak Up For Women" to hold a public meeting in a library building.

Around the world, there has been a disturbing trend to silence anybody whose beliefs do not accord with those of a radical wing of the transgender rights movement. I do not believe it is appropriate for a community owned facility such as a library, to step in on one side of this debate. It is supremely ironic, when those advocates of extreme trans activism are actively campaigning to have books banned, yet is having its views adopted, seemingly uncritically by, of all places, a library. The further irony is that these calls to ban books by women, about the fundamental rights of and protections for women and girls, are occurring while vastly more offensive titles, such as "Mein Kampf", remain freely available.

This issue is important and must be able to be discussed. The "not for debate" approach being implemented is a chilling force in a society we wish to be open and democratic.

In the UK, policy around the housing of transgender (male to female) prisoners in women's prisons is being changed following assaults on women prisoners by transgender prisoners. In the UK, approximately half of trans-women incarcerated in the prison system are convicted sex offenders. This issue is real and open debate about it essential if good legislation is to be produced.

Increasingly, trans-women convicted for rape are appearing in criminal statistics as women, leading to an increase in the official statistics of "women" committing violent and sexual crimes. Again, this is important and we must be able to have these debates.

If such issues are unable to be discussed and just workable laws developed, we run the risk of similar experiences here. Trans people absolutely deserve to have their human rights respected, just as any other human being. But silencing debate on this subject will not enhance the rights of trans people. It encroaches on the rights of us all to freedom of speech, and potentially creates a gravely unjust state of affairs for women and girls.

I sincerely hope that you will reverse your decision in this case. Libraries as institutions pride themselves in being at the forefront of freedom of speech and information. I love our city's libraries and I would love to think I could be proud of their leadership on this issue.

Ngā Mihi,  
[REDACTED]

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Monday, 5 July 2021 3:33 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Feedback - Library - policies

Hi [REDACTED]  
Please see my reply to [REDACTED] below. Grateful thanks to you and [REDACTED] for your valuable input.

Kind regards  
Carolyn

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From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Monday, 5 July 2021 3:31 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Feedback - Library - policies

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 10 June. As the Head of Libraries for Christchurch City Council, I am responding to your formal complaint. In doing so I want to address two specific points: first the issues you raise in relation to the Bill of Rights Act 1990 and second the decision to decline the booking for Speak Up for Women (SUFW) event on 1 June 2021.

In making this decision, we sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment for library patrons and our staff, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City libraries venue. The decision to decline this venue hire was not based on any conscious or unconscious bias towards SUFW but was based solely on the following rationale:

- The potential conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". There was a concern that if the event was allowed to proceed as planned and a protest did eventuate this may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- The potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public and the inability of Libraries Management to guarantee the safety of library staff, patrons, meeting participants and protesters.
- Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and events hire is secondary to that primary purpose.

We have advised the event organisers that our venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby alternative inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

In making this decision staff looked at other examples where protests on issues have caused disruption in public spaces, including examples where SUFW events drew protest. The threat of protest, possible disruption and our inability to guarantee the safety of staff and the wider public were the primary reasons why we made the decision to decline SUFW's booking to hold the event at Tūranga.

While frontline public library staff may be called upon from time to time to manage anti-social behaviour or to de-escalate conflict situations, Tūranga is not resourced to manage any escalation of conflict around larger, potentially contentious events. The Libraries Management Team made the decision with the information available, and in the knowledge that Christchurch has other, more appropriate, venues for this event. These situations can be upsetting and potentially dangerous to members of the public and staff.

As explained in our response to the SUFW organisation, Libraries Management were concerned that by hosting this event Christchurch City Libraries could not guarantee a safe and welcoming environment for all. This was not about SUFW's organisational aims or messages, it was about protecting the safety and health of staff and customers at Tūranga. In recognising the importance of the group's rights to present their message and, as previously confirmed, Libraries staff provided SUFW with a link to what were considered more suitable venues at which the event could be held.

The Council holds no view on SUFW and what they may discuss at public meetings: this was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

To assist, the Council is currently compiling the relevant information the Council holds on this matter under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. I would be happy to make this information available to you should you wish.

Yours sincerely  
Carolyn

**Carolyn Robertson**  
Head of Libraries & Information  
Libraries & Information Unit

[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council

Council staff member: [REDACTED] Feedback: Ata mārie, I want to make a formal complaint about how Christchurch City Libraries chose to not allow a women's group to meet and discuss women's rights (as they are presently laid out in the HRA 1993) because this decision has impacted my Democratic and Civil Rights under the Bill of Rights Act 1990. I was intending on going along to this meeting at Tūranga on June the 1st to listen to the opinions and ideas of the speakers. I am a member of Christchurch City Libraries, a local resident, and I am interested in maintaining women's hard fought for legal rights in Aotearoa New Zealand. The rights that I feel have been most directly violated are: 13 My right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion - "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief, including the right to adopt and to hold opinions without interference." I wanted to engage in some thinking about beliefs at the meeting. 14 My right to freedom of expression - "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form." I wanted to seek and receive information and ideas at the meeting. 15 My right to manifestation of religion and belief - "Every person has the right to manifest that person's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, or teaching, either individually or in community with others, and either in public or in private." I believe in women's rights and should be able to attend meetings in support of women's rights. I do not understand what is objectionable about a group of women meeting to discuss women and girls retaining human rights on the basis of our sex. There was no risk to safety in any form. The cancellation of the meeting meant I could no longer attend. I would like to request a meeting with [REDACTED] to discuss this violation of my human rights so that we can try and resolve this problem without involving the Human Rights Commission. I want to request that, to remediate the situation, the lesbian community group I am involved with be allowed to hold a meeting at Tūranga where we kōrero about how the proposed changes to the BDMRRA impact lesbian rights, free of charge. I believe this would make up for the opportunity that was taken away from the women's (including lesbian) community by the unlawful and unjust cancellation by [REDACTED]. My email address is [REDACTED]. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and/or attending a meeting. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 11 June 2021 11:20 AM  
To: Office of the CE; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Speak Up for Women event

Importance: High

Hi

Please see the following email in reply from [REDACTED] to Andrew's email. She says not received any emails relating to her formal complaint.

Is there any time frame for the answers to [REDACTED] questions?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Executive Assistant to Deputy Mayor  
Office of the Mayor and Chief Executive

[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
ccc.govt.nz



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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 10 June 2021 6:15 pm  
To: Turner, Andrew <[Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: Speak Up for Women event

Thank you Andrew and I await the response to the questions I posed. I have not received any email relating to my formal complaint. I had a phone call from [REDACTED] at the library which was merely telling me she phoned due to the manager being with his unwell wife.

I appreciate your follow up and your request to be copied into the answers to my questions. Without raising this with you I would say my experience thus far and response to my formal complaint falls well short of good practice. I have received no email correspondence.

Do you have any idea when the email answering my questions will be provided?

Regrettably we cannot retrace time and make a different decision. My questions are raised hopefully to prevent any future shutdown of the rights I outlined in my emails.

As I said - I appreciate your follow up.

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

On 10/06/2021, at 2:37 PM, Turner, Andrew <[Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for raising the issue of City Libraries and the Speak up for Women event with me at the art exhibition opening on Tuesday evening, and for your subsequent email following up on that conversation.

As I noted on Tuesday evening, whilst this is a matter in which I am interested and which I was happy to discuss, it is operational in nature and is therefore for management to respond to. For that reason I referred the four very specific questions you raised with me to staff. These questions are currently with the office of the Chief Executive at Council and a response to them will be sent to you. I have asked to be copied into the response when it is sent. I would expect this response will then answer the questions satisfactorily, but if you feel there is a need for any further information at that time, please advise.

I am advised that your complaint #420766 has resulted in a response from libraries staff and from the office of the Chief Executive. There is a follow up request, which it is acknowledged still has a response outstanding.

One the matter of the email you sent to the Mayor, the Mayor is aware of the email and its content. As an operational matter, it was referred to the office of the Chief Executive, as I have needed to do the same with the matters raised in your subsequent email to me.

I thank you again for raising these matters with me, and will maintain oversight of the awaited responses I refer to above. If there is anything further I can do to assist please advise.

Regards

Andrew Turner  
Deputy Mayor  
Councillor - Banks Peninsula Ward  
Christchurch City Council  
E: [andrew.turner@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.turner@ccc.govt.nz)  
P: 021 1593100<<tel:021%201593100>>

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 10:26 pm  
To: Turner, Andrew <[Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.Turner@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Fwd: Speak Up for Women event

Dear Andrew

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me at the opening of the Art Exhibition - The Longest Night - at the Eastside Gallery.

As discussed I had serious concerns about the Christchurch City Library decision to cancel the Speak Up For Women Event.

Below is the email thread to Mayor Dalziel. For completeness I will forward under separate cover my emails to Council members. Communication with the library was by phone call and was entirely unsatisfactory.

My questions, which we discussed briefly, are:

What was the identified risk(s) which caused library management to cancel the event?

Who brought the perceived risk(s) to the attention of the library management?

Who on the Library staff reported feeling unsafe and why specifically did they feel unsafe?

Which parts of the Library Code of Conduct were breached by Speak Up For Women?

I would like to add that Speak Up For Women have never caused any disruption or disturbance when holding their meetings nor had any complaints as a result of any of their meetings taking place.

When we were speaking about this you agreed that of all places libraries should be upholding the right of freedom of speech. That is far from what happened on this occasion.

For reference my formal complaint number is 420766.

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind regards

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: 3 June 2021 at 4:42:03 PM NZST  
To: [OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)<<mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz>>  
Subject: Speak Up for Women event

Kia Ora [REDACTED]  
Thank you for your response which is basically an attempt to completely ignore the breach of my rights under the Bill of Rights Act 1990 by the library when you chose to ban the event being held by Speak Up For Women. I have lodged a formal complaint on that issue with the City Council.

I addressed my email to Mayor Dalziel and asked specific questions of her which you have ignored. How did Speak Up For Women breach the Library Code of Conduct? That should be easy enough to answer. The second question is in the last paragraph of my email and I am interested in Mayor Dalziel's answer.

I look forward to receiving the answers and a response to the email I sent rather than the standard cut and paste response I feel you have provided.

[REDACTED]  
While providing the breach which has been contravened please let me know what part of spinelessly capitulating to a minority fits within the freedom of speech I believe we still enjoy in New Zealand.

Sent from my iPhone

On 3/06/2021, at 1:39 PM, Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Council.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Ngā mihi

■

■ ■  
Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer  
Official Information Team

<image003.jpg>

From: ■  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:32 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz<mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>>  
Subject: Speak Up for Women event

Dear Mayor Dalziel

I intended to attend the Event outlined below and discover this had been banned by the city librarian citing that the content matter MAY BE in breach of the customer code of conduct. I ask you to provide evidence of anything this organisation has said or done that could possibly conflict with the library code of conduct.

It seems the breach at this point is against the group of women hosting the event and those of us wishing to attend.

While providing the breach which has been contravened please let me know what part of spinelessly capitulating to a minority fits within the freedom of speech I believe we still enjoy in New Zealand.

I am appalled at this behaviour - banning a group of women who wish to meet and discuss matters of concern to WOMEN and you, your Council who agree with this and the library administration should be ashamed. And those of you who are women should feel an even deeper shame.

In closing I ask you this - do you think without the courage of (for example) Kate Sheppard and in addition those who fought for equal rights for women in the 60's you would hold the position of Mayor of Christchurch? Perhaps a question for your fellow women councillors also. Those women were able to meet and discuss without any kowtowing to a minority or banning by a group such as has happened here.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely  
■

Customer Code of Conduct

Welcome to Christchurch City Libraries.

Your rights

You have a right to:  
· Service that is friendly and helpful  
· Be treated with respect  
· A safe and welcoming environment  
Your responsibilities

When visiting the library:  
· Respect the rights of others  
· Treat library staff with courtesy

- Treat other library users with courtesy
  - Treat library buildings and equipment with care
- Our responsibilities

Our libraries are here for the use and enjoyment of everyone and our responsibility is to ensure all visitors have a pleasant experience at the library. If you choose not to follow the code of conduct we may ask you to leave.

Thank you for your consideration of others at all times.

Sent from my iPhone

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This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

The views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Christchurch City Council. If you are not the correct recipient of this email please advise the sender and delete.

Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz><<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>>

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Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 10 June 2021 5:29 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn  
Subject: [REDACTED] response

[REDACTED]

Below is a suggested response to the [REDACTED] 3/6/2021 email to the Chief Executive.

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

As explained in their initial response to the SUFWNZ organisation, Libraries Management were concerned that hosting this event would mean Christchurch City Libraries couldn't guarantee a safe and welcoming environment for all. This was not about SUFWNZ's organisational aims or messages, it was about protecting the safety and health of staff and customers at Tūranga.

Frontline public library staff are regularly called upon to manage anti-social behaviour or to de-escalate situations of conflict between members of the public. Tūranga is not resourced to manage any escalation of conflict around larger, potentially contentious events. The Libraries Management Team made the decision with the information available, and in the knowledge that Christchurch has other, more appropriate, venues for this event.

Our Tūranga staff care about their community, and the Libraries Management team does not take decisions such as our June 2021 SUFWNZ one lightly. Our role is to protect our citizens and staff from harm.

Yours sincerely...

[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]

Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

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**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 3:05 PM  
To: Office of the CE  
Subject: Re: Cancel Culture Alive and Well at Christchurch Libraries?  
Categories: Deep Purple

Thank you [REDACTED]  
Just as I suspected - in plain English (a rare commodity these days) you were intimidated by a minority activist group who were likely to cause trouble because they cannot tolerate any view that differs from their own. So freedom of speech was the loser on the day - a very sad state of affairs.  
Regards  
[REDACTED]

On 3/06/2021 1:42 pm, Office of the CE wrote:

Kia ora Pauline  
Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Council.  
At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue. The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.  
The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.  
Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.  
It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.  
Thank you again for your feedback.  
Ngā mihi  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

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From: P [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 8:14 AM  
To: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>; Gough, James <James.Gough@ccc.govt.nz>  
Cc: Library <library@ccc.govt.nz>  
Subject: Cancel Culture Alive and Well at Christchurch Libraries?  
Dear Lianne Dalziel and James Gough

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125265969/christchurch-libraries-refuse-to-host-controversial-group>

So disappointing and frustrating to see "cancel culture" reaching New Zealand and stifling people's right to reasonable freedom of speech.  
I'm not familiar with this particular group but based on the Press report it appears that their concerns are the stuff of perfectly legitimate debate and are concerns that are probably shared by many who might like the opportunity to express them without being cancelled.  
It's particularly concerning to see organisations like our library, supposedly the repository of human knowledge, caving in to the bullying that now happens whenever a group of activists with an agenda decides that their view is the only view that is allowed to be expressed. I'm guessing these groups will largely consist of young people who have been sold the party line by teachers and lecturers who in turn dare not deviate from it. As a result, those young people have never learned to test their views via the type of debate that was common back in my university days. It's therefore hardly surprising that we now have a generation who refuse to accept that other people are entitled to differing views and that, shock horror, the majority may actually have something worthwhile to contribute to the debate.  
Every minority has the right to be heard and treated with respect but that doesn't mean that they have the right to dictate terms to the majority.  
Regards  
[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
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Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>  
\*\*\*\*\*



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 26 June 2021 6:34 PM

To: Office of the CE

Subject: Re: DEMOCRACY

Categories: [REDACTED]

Palmerston North Library also cancelled a booking.

SUFW with the help of the Free Speech Union took the case to court and WON a judicial review.

It is a huge win for free speech and a win against the sort of cancel culture that the CCC also enabled.

Here are the main findings of the Court decision

*There is sufficient evidence before me at this stage to be clear that SUFW cannot rationally be described as a "hate group" in the sense that term can be relevant in making decisions about the extent to which a particular group should be allowed to exercise its rights of free speech and freedom of assembly.*

*I consider the Council's ultimate decision involved a significant failure to recognise SUFW's right to freedom of speech and freedom of peaceful assembly*

*I consider the Council's decision involved a serious failure to recognise the BORA rights of SUFW and its members.*

*I consider the cancellation of the agreement reached with the Library, for the reasons and on the terms put forward by the Council, could not be considered a rational and reasonable limitation on those rights.*

Here is the ruling

<https://speakupforwomen.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WHITMORE-Daphna-Kaye-v-Palmerston-North-City-Council-reasons-judg-20210624.pdf>

TAKE NOTE

I hope they go after the CCC .

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 1:28 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Άλλοω με το τρανσλατε

- The event IS WITHOUT QUESTION in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer MEANINGLESS Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a POLITICALLY DRIVEN environment" and our expectation that THE RIGHTS OF PEACEFUL WOMEN, HOLDING AN OPEN DEMOCRATIC DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION - THAT WILL AFFECT ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS - IN A RESPECTFUL AND LAWFUL MANNER must be PROHIBITED if a TINY PETULANT GROUP OF HOSTILE THUGS IMAGINE THE EVENT may send a message that CHRISTCHURCH City Libraries no longer offer 'SAFE' WHATEVER THE HELL THAT MEANS and 'WELCOMING' WHATEVER THE HELL THAT MEANS space for the whole community.
- There is a ONE HUNDRED PERCENT risk of a KERFUFFLE due to ANIT-DEMOCRATIC HOSTILE NEEDY SELFISH NARCISSISTIC THUGS at CHRISTCHURCH CITY LIBRARY being UTTERLY INTOLERANT AND INFLEXIBLE in public.
- It is worth noting here that CHRISTCHURCH'S somewhat of a library, but ITS POLITICS IS PRIMARY.

Your letter is an insult to democracy.

You DO NOT believe in free expression. You have proven that you are NOT WELCOMING to everyone.

YOU ARE PUTTING THE NOISE and UNFOUNDED CLAIMS OF THUGS BEFORE PEACEFUL LAW ABIDING citizens.

If these THUG'S have ISSUES they are not a SOCIETY'S PROBLEM.

YOUR ACTIONS ARE REPREHENSIBLE, your letter is garbage, and you do NOT belong in the role you are in.

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 11:07 AM Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED].

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Chief Executive.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Ngā mihi

█

█ █

**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

—

From: █  
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 1:46 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: DEMOCRACY

Please find attached my open letter to the CCC in response to the cancellation of a speaking event at the Christchuh library.

I am a taxpayer and expect full consideration given to my letter. I also expect a response and I expect this letter to reach the top officials of the council.

█ █

\*\*\*\*\*

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Christchurch City Council

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

\*\*\*\*\*

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 1:28 PM  
To: Office of the CE  
Subject: Re: DEMOCRACY

Categories: [REDACTED]

Άλλοω με το τρανσλάτε

- The event IS WITHOUT QUESTION in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer MEANINGLESS Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a POLITICALLY DRIVEN environment" and our expectation that THE RIGHTS OF PEACEFUL WOMEN, HOLDING AN OPEN DEMOCRATIC DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION - THAT WILL AFFECT ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS - IN A RESPECTFUL AND LAWFUL MANNER must be PROHIBITED if a TINY PETULANT GROUP OF HOSTILE THUGS IMAGINE THE EVENT may send a message that CHRISTCHURCH City Libraries no longer offer 'SAFE' WHATEVER THE HELL THAT MEANS and 'WELCOMING' WHATEVER THE HELL THAT MEANS space for the whole community.
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Your letter is an insult to democracy.  
You DO NOT believe in free expression. You have proven that you are NOT WELCOMING to everyone.  
YOU ARE PUTTING THE NOISE and UNFOUNDED CLAIMS OF THUGS BEFORE PEACEFUL LAW ABIDING citizens.  
If these THUG'S have ISSUES they are not a SOCIETY'S PROBLEM.

YOUR ACTIONS ARE REPREHENSIBLE, your letter is garbage, and you do NOT belong in the role you are in.

On Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 11:07 AM Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Chief Executive.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 1:46 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: DEMOCRACY

Please find attached my open letter to the CCC in response to the cancellation of a speaking event at the Christchuh library.

I am a taxpayer and expect full consideration given to my letter. I also expect a response and I expect this letter to reach the top officials of the council.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 3:54 PM  
To: Office of the CE  
Subject: RE: Denial of Legal Rights

Categories: Deep Purple

You have been totally hoodwinked by a minority group of activists who represent less than 2% of the population and who will do anything to shut down debate on issues that may prevent the passing of the BDM&RR bill which contains clauses that significantly affect the rights of women, clauses which have NOT been subject to public consultation by the way. All they need to do is cry "unsafe" and you ban any discussion on the affects this might have on ALL women and girls, thereby failing utterly to "provide a safe and welcoming environment" to representatives of 50% of the population.

Have you ANY evidence of past disruptive or discourteous behaviour on the part of Speak up for Women which justifies any limitation on their legal rights? I know you have not because there has been none. The same cannot be said for the transgender activists. If there was any threat it was from that group not from anything Speak up for Women "may" have discussed.

Every spineless capitulation to this cancel culture simply legitimises the dangerous madness they promote. That is exactly what you have done. I hope you can sleep at night because I am completely disgusted at the gullibility and gutless decision making of our public officials. I cannot find sufficient words to express my frustration at this travesty and the implications it has for free speech and informed debate in New Zealand. We are doomed.

Thank you for your response.

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From: Office of the CE [<mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz>]  
Sent: 03 June 2021 13:45  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Denial of Legal Rights

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Council.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received **a number of complaints (<10?)** about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event **may be** in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing **"a safe and welcoming environment"** and our expectation that all customers must **"Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy"**. We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga **due to protests by (...who???)** members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, **protect the rights of others (1.2% vs 50%!!!!???)** and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and **what they may discuss** at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer  
Official Information Team

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 3:00 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Denial of Legal Rights

Madame Mayor,

I wish to lay a formal complaint concerning the behaviour of the City Library management. I believe they have capitulated to pressure from a fringe group in society and denied the legal rights of an established women's group to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. Specifically the library management have cancelled a public meeting which was to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> June by the group "Speak up for Women" at the library which was to discuss the group's legitimate concerns regarding impingement of women's rights through the gender self-identification clauses in the proposed Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill scheduled to be heard this year. This is an appalling and frightening attack on free speech by the Library management. I cannot find words to describe my alarm that a public body such as this would deliberately prevent public debate of proposed legislation which affects 50% of the population. This behaviour is an affront to the basic rights of every resident of Christchurch and of New Zealand and I implore you to take steps to rescind the decision with some urgency and to ensure that it never happens again.

Yours sincerely

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 1:08 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary; [REDACTED]  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Draft response to SUFWNZ complaints

Hi All,

I am happy with the draft response.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 11:40 am  
To: Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Draft response to SUFWNZ complaints

Mary, [REDACTED]

Here is an updated draft text for responding to customer complaints. [REDACTED] and Carolyn have reviewed this and are happy with the text. Please advise if you're ok with this wording, or if you require any changes. We will then get started on responding to the Hybris tickets.

Many thanks  
[REDACTED]

Kia ora ...

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above/below.

Thank you again for your feedback.

[FOR MAYOR'S MESSAGE ONLY: I am comfortable that in making their decision Christchurch City Libraries Management were focused on continuing to provide a safe environment for their staff and library users].

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2021 9:50 PM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: Re: Freedom of Speech Restriction

Kia Ora [REDACTED]  
Thank you for your reply.  
Of all places the Library (along with Universities) should be a place where Freedom of Speech is particularly valued, where obstacles are overcome to demonstrate the value of a free and democratic society places in Freedom of Speech. However it appears that Christchurch City Libraries at the first sign of dissension simply didn't stand staunch on valuing Freedom of Speech. I believe it has set a dangerous precedent.  
I acknowledge the arguments you put forward that some protesters, note not the SUFWNZ, might cause disruption to library staff and so you pulled the booking. Using that logic if a quiet reticent person came into the library and some bullies entered and caused disruption by haranguing that quiet reticent person then you would remove the quiet reticent person because they attracted the bullies. I'm also not assured that if the two groups here were reversed in their roles, ie the SUFWNZ were the protestors and the LGBTQI+ were meeting, if the Library would make the same decision. All I can say is shame on the organization for their behaviour.

[REDACTED]  
From: MayorsMessages  
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:12 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Freedom of Speech Restriction

Kia ora Denis  
Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Turanga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Council.  
At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.  
The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Turanga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Turanga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Turanga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Turanga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.  
The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues. Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.  
It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.  
Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 10:43 PM  
To: MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Freedom of Speech Restriction

Kia Ora Ms Dalziel  
I am writing to lodge my protest at the Christchurch City Council preventing the Speak Up for Women NZ meeting that was to be held in one of the meeting rooms at Turanga recently, as reported on Stuff (27 May 2021). I believe this to be an appalling decision and a gross contravention of freedom of speech. I may not agree with what the group says or stands for but it has a right to meet and discuss ideas. To say it was based on the library's "... commitment to provide a safe and welcoming environment". My interpretation of that statement being that people in opposition to the group would protest and cause difficulties for library staff, so because of the protesting groups behaviour you contravene the rights of a group's freedom of speech from meeting. I wonder if it had been the other way round, ie if members of the LGBTQI+ community were meeting and the Speak Up for Women group had said they would protest, if the council would be so quick to cancel the meeting; I suspect not.  
As a citizen of Christchurch and a long term ratepayer the council has no right to determine on my behalf who has the freedom of speech in council building's. I acknowledge that when it comes to 'hate speech' that is a line crossed, but as a society we haven't had that debate as yet as to where that line is; but this was not about hate speech, and so the council stepped way outside its right in determining on my behalf who can speak in council buildings and who can't. I believe the council staff who were involved in making this decision should be issued with a formal employment warning and chastised for their behaviour. Of course I don't expect that will happen, given this councils lack of openness to date.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
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Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

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From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Monday, 21 June 2021 12:23 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Speak Up for Women event

Hi [REDACTED]  
I think this reads well. Given the reply is not on behalf of the Mayor, we haven't responded to [REDACTED] second question about whether she would hold her office without the effort of Kate Sheppard. [REDACTED] may still feel we are not addressing this point. I am fine with the reply going from either OCE or me, whichever we think is the most appropriate channel (noting [REDACTED] may not be happy unless the reply comes from the Mayor herself).

Happy to discuss if needed and [REDACTED] may wish to comment when he returns to work tomorrow.

Cheers  
Carolyn

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 21 June 2021 12:11 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Speak Up for Women event

Thanks [REDACTED]

I have had a further play below. Further thoughts?

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 17 June 2021 5:00 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Speak Up for Women event

Hi [REDACTED]

I know I've only been copied in but I think you could remove a lot of the unnecessary phrases.

I'm happy to chat to you about this in the morning.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 17 June 2021 3:53 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Speak Up for Women event

Hi Carolyn and [REDACTED]

Please see the proposed response to the ongoing complaint from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I have added a little more detail but want to make sure it is accurate.

I am happy to send it from the OCE or would you like it to come from Head of Libraries (more from a complaint perspective?)

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and related complaint (#420766) you raised directly with the Libraries Team. This response addresses both matters.

First I reiterate that the decision to decline the Speak Up For Women (SUFW) on 1 June was an operational decision and therefore it is appropriate it is investigated by senior Council staff on behalf of the Chief Executive. The Mayor became aware of this issue after the decision was made.

In making this decision staff looked at other examples where protests on issues have caused disruption in public spaces, including examples where SUFW events drew protest. The threat of protest and possible disruption was the reason why Libraries Management made the decision to decline its booking to hold the event at Tūranga.

As explained in their initial response to the SUFWNZ organisation, Libraries Management were concerned that hosting this event would mean Christchurch City Libraries couldn't guarantee a safe and welcoming environment for all. This was not about SUFWNZ's organisational aims or messages, it was about protecting the safety and health of staff and customers at Tūranga. In recognising the importance of the group's rights to present their message, Libraries staff provided a link to SUFW providing other possible venues at which the event could be held.

It is important to note that frontline public library staff are regularly called upon to manage anti-social behaviour or to de-escalate situations of conflict between members of the public. Tūranga is not resourced to manage any escalation of conflict around larger, potentially contentious events. The Libraries Management Team made the decision with the information available, and in the knowledge that Christchurch has other, more appropriate, venues for this event. These situations can be upsetting and potentially dangerous to members of the public and staff.

To assist, the Council is currently compiling the relevant information the Council holds on this matter under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. I would be happy to make this information available to you should you wish.

I have also copied in Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner, who I understand you have also approached to discuss this matter.

I hope this explains the matter.

Kind regards,  
...

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 4:13 PM  
To: Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: Speak Up for Women event

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your response which is basically an attempt to completely ignore or breach the Bill of Rights Act 1990 by the library who chose to ban the event being held by Speak Up For Women. I have lodged a formal complaint on that issue with the City Council.

I addressed my email to Mayor Dalziel and asked specific questions of her which you have ignored. How did Speak Up For Women breach the Library Code of Conduct? That should be easy enough to answer. The second question is in the last paragraph of my email and I am interested in Mayor Dalziel's answer.

I look forward to receiving the answers and a response to the email I sent rather than the standard cut and paste response I feel you have provided.

While providing the breach which has been contravened please let me know what part of spinelessly capitulating to a minority fits within the freedom of speech I believe we still enjoy in New Zealand.

Sent from my iPhone

On 3/06/2021, at 1:39 PM, Office of the CE <[OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora  
Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event. As this relates to an operational matter I am responding on behalf of the Council.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

Thank you again for your feedback.

Ngā mihi

**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team  
<image003.jpg>

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:32 PM

**To:** MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Speak Up for Women event

Dear Mayor Dalziel

I intended to attend the Event outlined below and discover this had been banned by the city librarian citing that the content matter MAY BE in breach of the customer code of conduct. I ask you to provide evidence of anything this organisation has said or done that could possibly conflict with the library code of conduct.

It seems the breach at this point is against the group of women hosting the event and those of us wishing to attend.

While providing the breach which has been contravened please let me know what part of spinelessly capitulating to a minority fits within the freedom of speech I believe we still enjoy in New Zealand.

I am appalled at this behaviour - banning a group of women who wish to meet and discuss matters of concern to WOMEN and you, your Council who agree with this and the library administration should be ashamed. And those of you who are women should feel an even deeper shame.

In closing I ask you this - do you think without the courage of (for example) Kate Sheppard and in addition those who fought for equal rights for women in the 60's you would hold the position of Mayor of Christchurch? Perhaps a question for your fellow women councillors also. Those women were able to meet and discuss without any kowtowing to a minority or banning by a group such as has happened here.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

## Customer Code of Conduct

Welcome to Christchurch City Libraries.

### Your rights

You have a right to:

- Service that is friendly and helpful
- Be treated with respect
- A safe and welcoming environment

### Your responsibilities

When visiting the library:

- Respect the rights of others
- Treat library staff with courtesy
- Treat other library users with courtesy
- Treat library buildings and equipment with care

### Our responsibilities

Our libraries are here for the use and enjoyment of everyone and our responsibility is to ensure all visitors have a pleasant experience at the library. If you choose not to follow the code of conduct we may ask you to leave.

Thank you for your consideration of others at all times.



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 23 June 2021 2:02 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: SUFW LGOIMAs

Hi [REDACTED]  
I think we've now loaded everything into a single location. You'll find it at:  
S:\CI - LIBRARIES\LIU Administration and Reporting\Document Collation\LGOIMA - Temp  
I'm hoping you can access this? Let me know if that's not the case.  
Thanks

[REDACTED]  
**Tūranga Library Manager**  
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 23 June 2021 2:00 PM  
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
Subject: SUFW LGOIMAs

Hi Both,  
Just to note the LGOIMA requests are due Monday. How are we coming along with the information?  
Regards,

[REDACTED]  
**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch  
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 12:10 AM  
To: MayorsMessages  
Subject: Re: Thank you for your email

Thank you for replying. I'd like to be clear I am expecting a reply from the Mayor. I wrote on an extremely serious matter - the curtailment of freedom of speech

I look forward to hearing from  
mayor Dalziel

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 27/05/2021, at 4:32 PM, MayorsMessages <[MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz)> wrote:

On behalf of Mayor Lianne Dalziel, thank you for your email.

Please be assured that all correspondence is read and noted. Any significant issues are brought to the Mayor's attention as soon as that is possible.

Typical correspondence includes:

- \*Invitations to events
- \*Requests for letters of support
- \*Operational requests in relation to services or regulatory matters

Invitations and request for letters of support will be dealt with by the Mayor's Office.

If your request relates to an operational matter then it will be referred to the Office of the Chief Executive.

If you are writing to express a personal view or copy the Mayor in on an issue, you may not receive further correspondence beyond this message, so therefore please consider this email acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence.

Kind Regards  
Office of the Mayor  
Christchurch City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

The views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Christchurch City Council. If you are not the correct recipient of this email please advise the sender and delete.

Christchurch City Council  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

\*\*\*\*\*

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 5:25 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [Ticket: H00751849] - Citizen has replied to feedback - Update for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]  
I agree with you that there is nothing more we can say or do in response to [REDACTED] complaint beyond rescinding our decision, which we are not doing. I think it is appropriate for you to draw a line under this and close out the ticket.

[REDACTED] as a double check, would you mind casting your eye over the communications below in case you have a different view and advice based on your handling of the complaints that have come via the OCE?

Many thanks  
Carolyn

**Carolyn Robertson**  
Head of Libraries & Information  
Libraries & Information Unit

[REDACTED]  
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
[ccc.govt.nz](http://ccc.govt.nz)

**Christchurch**  
City Council

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 11:03 AM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [Ticket: H00751849] - Citizen has replied to feedback - Update for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] complaint:  
Details of other complaint: Denial of legal rights Details: I wish to lodge a formal complaint that the management of the city library have colluded with a fringe group in society to deny the legal rights of a established women's group to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. I refer to the cancellation of a public meeting to be held on the 1st June by the group "Speak up for Women" which was to discuss their legitimate concerns regarding impingement of their rights through the gender self-identification clauses in the proposed Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill. This is an appalling attack on freedom of speech which is not only frightening but should be of grave concern to all residents of the city of Christchurch and of New Zealand. I ask the Library management to rescind their decision.

My response:  
(see below)

[REDACTED] subsequent response:  
[REDACTED]

You will see my responses/questions to your statements below in red.

But if you can't give me any real answers to the questions, please don't bother. There really is little point in repeating transparent pc nonsense that doesn't actually *mean* anything.

I am frankly disgusted at your behaviour in this instance.

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your feedback about Christchurch City Libraries Management declining a Tūranga venue hire for the 'Speak up for Women NZ' event.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City Libraries venue.

The decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.

Please explain in what way you thought the event "may be in conflict with the Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct" and what evidence did you have that made you think there might be a conflict? As far as I am aware, Speak up for Women has NEVER treated anyone with anything other than courtesy or in any way disrespected the rights of others. And how on earth would hosting the event send a message that the library no longer offers a safe and welcoming space for the whole community? Speak up for Women wanted to discuss the effect of proposed law changes on the rights of women. Cancelling the event sent a huge message that the library is not interested in the rights of women - who are 50% of the whole community!!! The fact of the matter is that the transgender activists don't want this bill discussed because the more people find out about it, the more likely opposition to the law changes will grow. So they cry "unsafe" and probably threw in "hate speech" for good measure and you responded on cue. Congratulations.

- There was a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

Please explain to me exactly what the risks were from "members of the public".

As you are no doubt aware, the meeting went ahead at a Community Club. Speak out for Women, and those members of the public (mainly women) who came to listen, conducted themselves in a dignified and civilised manner. The small group of transgender people, most of whom seemed to be only just out of nappies, sat at the back of the room and tried to disrupt the discussion by screaming and ranting unintelligible slogans. They did not succeed by the way. And no one was harmed. So which of these two groups were the ones who did not treat other users with courtesy and respect?

- It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary.

But they are bookable event spaces are they not? As long as you're not going to discuss anything some people might not like of course!

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

The Libraries shared the reasons with the organisers for declining to host the event, and sincerely apologised for the series of delays in the handling of the request. We advised the event organisers that venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued CLEARLY IT IS NOT, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect – so which group would you ban? The dignified, civilised ones or the screaming, ranting ones?.

It is important to note that Christchurch City Libraries hold no view on SUFWNZ and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely



Subject FBK\_LIBRARY Policies

Incident  
category Complaint - Other

Object  
category Libraries

Contact  
customer

Description Details of other complaint: Denial of legal rights Details: I wish to lodge a formal complaint that the management of the city library have colluded with a fringe group in society to deny the legal rights of a established women's group to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. I refer to the cancellation of a public meeting to be held on the 1st June by the group "Speak up for Women" which was to discuss their legitimate concerns regarding impingement of their rights through the gender self-identification clauses in the proposed Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill. This is an appalling attack on freedom of speech which is not only frightening but should be of grave concern to all residents of the city of Christchurch and of New Zealand. I ask the Library management to rescind their decision.

Thank you.

\* This is a system generated email. Please do not reply. \*

From: Robertson, Carolyn  
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 5:22 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [Ticket: H00757129] - A new ticket has been assigned to you.

Hi [REDACTED]  
This looks good thank you. I have one very small change highlighted below, otherwise good to go.

Just to confirm, are you suggesting this should come from Libraries? If so, I am happy for it to go out under my name.

Cheers  
Carolyn

---

From: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 4:17 PM  
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: FW: [Ticket: H00757129] - A new ticket has been assigned to you.

Hi Carolyn and [REDACTED]

How does this approach sound?

Changes from [REDACTED] added below.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 3:37 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [Ticket: H00757129] - A new ticket has been assigned to you.

Hi [REDACTED]

I have nothing to add on the BORA but wonder if the health and safety issue needs to be emphasized more.

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021 2:08 pm  
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hi All,

I have added some points to the complaint below. Chris/Carolyn - as per the process this may need to come from you as the Libraries Team.

Ron do we need anything further on the BORA?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 10 June. As the Head of the Libraries Team, I am responding to your formal complaint. In doing so I want to address two specific points: first the issues you raise in relation to the Bill of Rights Act 1990 and second the decision to decline the booking for Speak Up for Women (SUFW) event on 1 June 2021.

In making this decision, we sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable.

Libraries do not take such decisions lightly. Freedom of expression is highly valued, however we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment for library patrons and our staff, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect.

At the time the Libraries Management Team declined this hire, we had received a number of complaints about this proposed event. After careful consideration of the issues raised in these complaints, as well as the Libraries Customer Code of Conduct, Libraries Management made the decision that this event could not be held at any Christchurch City libraries venue. The decision to decline this venue hire was not based on any conscious or unconscious bias towards SUFW but was based solely on the following rationale:

- The potential conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". There was a concern that if the event was allowed to proceed as planned and a protest did eventuate this may ~~We were~~ ~~conscious~~ that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- The potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public and the inability of Libraries Management to guarantee the safety of library staff, patrons, meeting participants and protesters.
- Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and events hire is (remove very much) spaces secondary to that primary purpose.

We have advised the event organisers that our venue booking staff would be improving the timeliness and responsiveness in the future. The event organiser was provided with a web link to nearby alternative inner-city Christchurch meeting venues.

In making this decision staff looked at other examples where protests on issues have caused disruption in public spaces, including examples where SUFW events drew protest. The threat of protest, and possible disruption and Libraries Management's inability to guarantee the safety of staff and the wider public were the primary reasons why Libraries Management made the decision to decline SUFW's booking to hold the event at Tūranga.

While frontline public library staff maybe called are regularly called upon from time to time to manage anti-social behaviour or to de-escalate situations of conflict situations between members of the public. Tūranga is not resourced to manage any escalation of conflict around larger, potentially contentious events. The Libraries Management Team made the decision with the information available, and in the knowledge that Christchurch has other, more appropriate, venues for this event. These situations can be upsetting and potentially dangerous to members of the public and staff.

As explained in our response to the SUFW organisation, Libraries Management were concerned that by hosting this event Christchurch City Libraries could not guarantee a safe and welcoming environment for all. This was not about SUFW's organisational aims or messages, it was about protecting the safety and health of staff and customers at Tūranga. In recognising the importance of the group's rights to present their message, and as previously confirmed Libraries staff provided a link to SUFW with a link to what were considered more suitable other possible venues at which the event could be held.

The Council holds no view on SUFW and what they may discuss at public meetings. This was not taken into account. The decision to decline the booking was made purely on the basis of the reasons stated above.

To assist, the Council is currently compiling the relevant information the Council holds on this matter under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. I would be happy to make this information available to you should you wish.

Yours etc.



Kia ora,

A new ticket has been assigned to you.

[Open ticket](#)

Ticket number H00757129

Priority Normal

Subject FBK\_LIBRARY - Policies

Incident category Complaint - Council Staff Member

Object category Libraries

Council staff member: [REDACTED] Feedback: Ata mārie, I want to make a formal complaint about how Christchurch City Libraries chose to not allow a women's group to meet and discuss women's rights (as they are presently laid out in the HRA 1993) because this decision has impacted my Democratic and Civil Rights under the Bill of Rights Act 1990. I was intending on going along to this meeting at Tūranga on June the 1st to listen to the opinions and ideas of the speakers. I am a member of Christchurch City Libraries, a local resident, and I am interested in maintaining women's hard fought for legal rights in Aotearoa New Zealand. The rights that I feel have been most directly violated are: 13 My right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion - "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and belief, including the right to adopt and to hold opinions without interference." I wanted to engage in some thinking about beliefs at the meeting. 14 My right to freedom of expression - "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form." I wanted to seek and receive information and ideas at the meeting. 15 My right

Description to manifestation of religion and belief - "Every person has the right to manifest that person's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, or teaching, either individually or in community with others, and either in public or in private." I believe in women's rights and should be able to attend meetings in support of women's rights. I do not understand what is objectionable about a group of women meeting to discuss women and girls retaining human rights on the basis of our sex. There was no risk to safety in any form. The cancellation of the meeting meant I could no longer attend. I would like to request a meeting with [REDACTED] to discuss this violation of my human rights so that we can try and resolve this problem without involving the Human Rights Commission. I want to request that, to remediate the situation, the lesbian community group I am involved with be allowed to hold a meeting at Tūranga where we kōrero about how the proposed changes to the BDMRRA impact lesbian rights, free of charge. I believe this would make up for the opportunity that was taken away from the women's (including lesbian) community by the unlawful and unjust cancellation by [REDACTED]. My email address is [REDACTED] I look forward to hearing your thoughts and/or attending a meeting. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe, [REDACTED]

Thank you,

Christchurch City Council

\* This is a system generated email. Please do not reply. \*

## Contact us

 03 941 8999

 [Visit a Service Centre](#)



PRESS RELEASE: Christchurch Council caves to 'thugs' veto'

Christchurch 26 May 2021 - Speak Up For Women, a women's group, have been barred from holding events at Christchurch City Libraries.

The group is holding community events around the country, throughout June, to discuss the sex self-identification clauses within the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill, which the Government has indicated is to be passed this year.

"Christchurch City Libraries has sent a clear message that their customers can't talk about legislation or politics here. The people of Christchurch deserve their right to freedom of assembly and speech to be recognised and respected in the libraries that belong to them" Speak Up For Women spokesperson [REDACTED] says.

The venue was booked in early May, the group says. Three weeks later, they received an email from Library management saying that the Library was refusing the booking, as "the subject matter of this event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment."

Ms Blackmore says, "Interfering with democracy and thwarting the rights of the people of Christchurch is the real offense happening here. The beliefs of a small handful of people are now held in higher regard than the Bill of Rights. The people of Christchurch should be deeply concerned."

"We have encountered this kind of thing before, where a few political opponents target a venue to stop us from being able to meet and talk there. We challenge the Library to produce evidence of anything our organisation has said or done that could possibly conflict with their Code of Conduct."

"It is shocking that activists are able to exert such control over central and local government organisations. They mischaracterise us and our reasons for wanting to have these discussions when really we are just women who want to discuss how this Bill would impact women and girls."

"We will be announcing a new venue for our Christchurch meeting later this week."



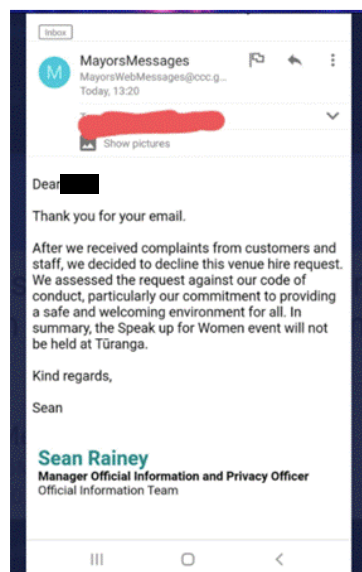
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 6:08 PM  
To: MayorsMessages; MayorsMessages; speakupforwomen.nz@gmail.com  
Subject: Speak Up 4 Women  
Attachments: Screen Shot 2021-05-27 at 5.44.16 PM.png; Screen Shot 2021-05-27 at 5.45.08 PM.png

Attention [REDACTED],

It has come to our attention that you have denied a women's group a room to discuss the upcoming BMDRR bill.

We see from your response to this person (who then publicly posted the response from you on Twitter) that you appear to respond to random complaints from activists rather than facts and reason. This is profoundly anti-democratic and unacceptable from a city council representative.

There is deep irony regarding your choice to BAN A WOMEN'S GROUP without any checking of the veracity of the accusations. You followed this up with your lack of acumen in regards to checking out the type of people making complaints (see below for the Twitter account for this complainant - I haven't included any of their images but I can assure you that they are vile).



Your "inclusive" policy is a total joke as you have excluded a group of women who are wanting to discuss an upcoming bill in parliament. It would have been pertinent and sensible to investigate the group and find out the facts rather than listen to random activists who regularly post pictures of their penis on public social media.

It is vital in a democracy that people have access to factual information and a diversity of ideas. It is the role of public libraries to stock a range of books, not just those that are activist approved.

You will need to find the courage to overturn this decision as women make up 50% of Christchurch ratepayers and we won't let this matter rest.

Toronto public library refused to bow to activists when pressured recently. You will need to follow in their rather braver footsteps.

<https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/.../statement...>

Regards

[REDACTED]



Follow

Basically what it says on the tin. Alt of \_\_\_\_\_ . 18+ only please, minors DNI.  
Definitely NSFW.

 Joined April 2021

**5** Following   **14** Followers

Not followed by anyone you're following

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

Apr 19



Inbox



MayorsMessages

MayorsWebMessages@ccc.g...

Today, 13:20



Show pictures

Dear 

Thank you for your email.

After we received complaints from customers and staff, we decided to decline this venue hire request. We assessed the request against our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. In summary, the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

Kind regards,

Sean

**Sean Rainey**

**Manager Official Information and Privacy Officer**  
Official Information Team



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 5:04 PM  
To: MayorsMessages; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Ahiah Marie Mayor Dalziel,

We are writing with concern about an anti-democratic action undertaken by library staff at the Tūranga Library today.

<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/news/venue/?fbclid=IwAR0ybt2uJxwEYqLa43CQbb-2PDDL4auW9dJaaVDggwYVZLkIcpwzZyFfb3A>

Their disingenuous quote stating that, 'The event **may** be in conflict with [Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.'

The irony of their banning of women who are wanting to discuss the upcoming legislation and impacts on females is noted. **This sort of anti-democratic action is unacceptable in a public body and we urge you to reverse this anti-democratic and fascist decision from council staff.**

As long-time Labour Party members, we are frankly appalled at this myopic and senseless adherence to rigid ideology that is sexist towards women. This is an ideology that is eroding New Zealand's democracy and women's rights.

In our view, the library staff have **NO RIGHT** to cancel a booking from a women's group that wants to discuss the upcoming BMDRR bill and its implications for women and girls.

Please ensure your prompt attention to this matter.

Nga mihi,

[REDACTED]



27 May 2021

Sent to: [mayor@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@ccc.govt.nz)

Dear Mayor Dalziel,

We are writing to formalise a complaint against Christchurch City Libraries' decision to cancel an event that was to be held at Tūranga Christchurch Central Library - Auaha Hihī / Spark Place Room on Tuesday 1 June, 2021 from 6pm to 7pm.

We received an email from Tūranga Library Manager, [REDACTED], on Monday 24 May 2021, one week out from the event, cancelling our booking and stating that: "the subject matter of this event *may* be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct." [emphasis added]

We appealed this decision to Head of Libraries & Information, Carolyn Robertson via email on Tuesday 25 May 2021 and received a response from Ms Robertson on Wednesday 26 May 2021 stating:

"a number of customer complaints received over the past week did give us a greater understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event. We have already shared those reasons for declining to host your organisation's event, and we stand by our decision."

We do not believe that Christchurch City Libraries have adequately communicated their objections to the content of our event. Indeed, no one at Christchurch City Libraries requested that we supply information on the proposed content, speakers, or format of the event. At no point were we given the opportunity to challenge or respond to any negative misconceptions applied to our group or the subject matter of our event, as this was never explained to us.

At no time were we advised of the content of these alleged complaints, or even a summary of them. As we cannot know what the nature of these complaints are, we believe that we have been subject to prejudicial treatment; unable to supply a response to accusations that have clearly informed the decision to cancel our event.

In addition, we booked this meeting in good faith, one month out from the event on Saturday 1 May 2021 and we are shocked that after three weeks had elapsed our event was cancelled very late in the day.

We have paid for advertising our event, distributed posters in the community and some members have purchased flights and accommodation, in order to attend. We currently do not have an adequate way to communicate this change to those who wish to attend as we did not sell tickets to the event.



There is also the issue that neither [REDACTED], nor Ms Robertson have appropriately explained how Speak Up For Women have breached the Customer Code of Conduct. We were never given the chance to outline the content of our event nor the opportunity to modify said content to bring it in line with this policy.

Speak Up For Women is running a nationwide tour of public talks to raise awareness of the issues with sex self-identification and to highlight the undemocratic process regarding the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill that is currently before Parliament. This was to be the subject matter of our event and we are shocked that Christchurch City Libraries finds New Zealander's discussing current legislation so objectionable as to infringe on our right to free assembly and expression/speech afforded to us under the Bill of Rights Act 1990, S14 & 16.

The Bill of Rights Act provides: "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form." And "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly."

In a democratic and free society we may all disagree at times with the beliefs or politics of other people. We believe that Christchurch City Libraries has thwarted our right to assemble peacefully and freely discuss a piece of legislation that could directly impact our lives.

We request that you take this complaint seriously and request that an investigation be undertaken into this egregious infringement of individual rights by Christchurch City Libraries, as an organisation, and by extension, Christchurch City Council.

We look forward to hearing from you,

[REDACTED]  
Speak Up For Women

We have just witnessed a thug's veto in Christchurch City.

A very small group of hostile people wailed loud enough to force the cancellation of a public discussion at the public library. They presumed to foretell what would be said at the meeting. And, gazing further into their crystal ball, decided their feelings would be harmed.

If this is how things are going to be, we need to ask what sort of world do we want to live in?

You either believe in free speech and the democratic rights of all people to speak, assemble, listen, read and discuss ideas, or you don't.

What side are you on?

Should a tiny number of people be allowed to control public conversation in New Zealand?

Thugs who intimidate, control and silence other people are enemies of free and open society. They offer nothing, they do nothing and they have no capacity for reasoned debate.

They force discussion UNDERGROUND, they sabotage DEMOCRACY and they BREACH the civil liberties of other citizens.

They are selfish narcissists who expect the world to revolve around their little set of needs.

FREE and open debate is ESSENTIAL to a functional democracy.

So wake up New Zealand.

DO YOU WANT A FUNCTIONAL DEMOCRACY or do you want fascism?

In appeasing to these thugs, the CCC has proven itself to be weak, very political and anti-democratic.

In banning SPEAK UP FOR WOMEN from holding a PUBLIC discussion at the Christchurch Library they are complicit in the thug's intent of breaching the civil liberties of others.

It is hugely concerning to know that our public library, built and operated with taxpayer money IS NOT available as a forum to ALL New Zealand citizens.

It is also unimaginably sinister that our TAXES pay the salaries of people within the CCC who have taken it upon themselves to act as the MORAL arbiters of society who pick and choose who is worthy of being heard and who is not.

The situation is utterly frightening.

We did not vote for people to laud over our public offices like religious freaks or for moral guidance to be administered by bureaucrats.

SPEAK UP FOR WOMEN want to discuss IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION.

It is in the interest of ALL OF SOCIETY to hear what they have to say.

Gender SEFD ID is an INCREDIBLY important issue.

If the government allows men to 'identify' as women on their birth certificate simply according to their feelings, the ramifications for WOMEN and GIRLS cannot be overstated.

It a key for biological men to colonise women's sports, scholarships, restrooms, schools, sports and prisons.

The integrity of sex-based institutions that exist to PROTECT and safeguard our women and girls will be abolished.

Women's rights are being stripped from them by politicians who REFUSE open debate.  
Women who speak up with logical open discussion get shouted down, they called despicable names and have threats thrown at them.  
Things are SO HARD for women.

This legislation must be openly debated, and people must be able to speak openly on this issue without FEAR of persecution.

These thugs have deliberately mis-represented SPEAK UP FOR WOMEN.  
They are NOT a hate group.

They are a group of caring women, who live in a democracy, who are standing tall for women and girls as they bring a discussion on SELF ID legislation into the public arena.  
There is nothing wrong with what they are doing.  
They MUST BE supported.

What side are you on?

Do you care about women and girls?

Or is New Zealand full of complacent sheep who have not woken up to the seriousness of this legislation?

It is not a crime to stand up for WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

The CCC MUST change position and start to act in a functional democratic manner.

All citizens must be free to use OUR PUBLIC VENUES for public discourse.

There is NO SUCH THING as 'harm' being caused by a public meeting.

This lame and insipid excuse is pure fantasy, total stupidity and obscene emotional blackmail.  
MORE HARM is caused when voices are silenced.

The feelings of 'offended people' are NOT societies responsibility.

People need to grow up, learn to deal with life and the necessity of conflicting opinions.

The person or persons responsible for this decision are not fit for public office.

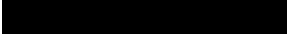
The CCC MUST withdraw this ban and welcome SPEAK UP FOR WOMEN.

ALL city councils and public venues including libraries must be available for all public dialogue.






28 May 2021

  
Speak up for Women

Email: 

Tēnā Koe 

I refer to your letter of complaint from 27 May regarding the Council's decision to decline the booking for a proposed the Speak Up for Women event at Tūranga on 1 June (attached).

As this is an operational matter, it is appropriate that I respond as the Chief Executive.

Once again I would like to apologise for the series of delays in which the Speak Up for Women event on Tuesday 1 June 6-7pm was handled by libraries staff. We accept that our decision was not communicated in a timely manner and that we should have responded sooner.

We acknowledge there was correspondence between library staff and your group regarding this booking but must reiterate that written confirmation for the event was not provided by library staff.

As a result of this failure, our venue booking staff will be looking to improve our timeliness and responsiveness in the future.

After your advertising for the proposed event went out, the Council received at least ten complaints about this taking place at Tūranga. As a result of these complaints, staff did their own background research into other Speak Up for Women events. This gave us a better understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event at Tūranga.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to possible protests by members of the public.

We gave careful consideration to the issues raised in the complaints we received about the event, as well as our own Customer Code of Conduct, and made the decision that this event cannot be held at one of our Christchurch City Libraries venues.

You asked about the content of the complaints we received. Here is an example:

*I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.*

*SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.*

*SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.*

*In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".*

*"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.*

We sought internal legal advice about hosting this event. While declining the booking is a limitation on the group under the Bill of Rights Act (rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly), the inability of the Tūranga staff to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of opposition to the event, the limitation on those rights was considered justifiable. Our Libraries do not take such decisions lightly and value the importance of right to freedom of expression, however, we need to balance this with our ability to provide a safe and secure environment, protect the rights of others and treat other library patrons with respect. In recognising the importance of the group's rights, the email sent to you on 26 May provided a link to other possible venues at which your event could be held. That link includes other Council venues, some of which are stand-alone function venues, and therefore a more appropriate space from Council's point of view.

It is worth noting here that Tūranga's primary purpose is a library, and its events spaces secondary. As Tūranga Manager [REDACTED] [REDACTED] outlined in his email response to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on 24 May "We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and CC libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community".

Based on the information provided above, we do not consider that an investigation into this matter is warranted.

Ngā mihi nui



Dawn Baxendale  
**Chief Executive**



## Speak Up for Women

31 May 2021

Sent to: OfficeoftheCE@ccc.govt.nz

Dear Dawn Baxendale,

Thank you for your letter dated Friday 28 May.

The example complaint that you provided in your letter is from a vexatious person, [REDACTED], who is based in [REDACTED], not Christchurch.

[REDACTED] campaigned to have people complain to our booked venues to prevent us from meeting. You can see in figure 1 the public post on [REDACTED] Facebook page encouraging people to complain.

On Twitter, [REDACTED] then boasted about succeeding in getting Christchurch City Libraries to cancel our booking, as can be seen in figure 2.

A quick glance at [REDACTED] Twitter feed reveals a self-confessed 'pervert' and exhibitionist, figure 3.

The subject of our events is sex self-identification law which would allow males unmitigated access to women's spaces, services, and opportunities. It is no wonder that [REDACTED] and others wish to prevent this conversation taking place.

Christchurch City Libraries has cancelled a feminist event at the behest of a 'perverted' male. I hope you join me in appreciating the bitter irony of this.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Figure 1 – [redacted] campaigning to have SUFWs event venues cancelled.

This post is public, please share far and wide

Sooo... The anti-trans hate group, "Speak Up for Women" is touring the country next month to spread their hateful rhetoric about us.

We want to make sure the venues that are hosting it are aware that they're hosting a hate group and encourage them not to. Many of these are community venues and should not be used to host events that promote hatred and violence against a vulnerable section of the community

If you'd like to write to the venues and local government involved, here's a form letter below you can send in, particularly if the venue is in your community. E-mail addresses to send to are at the end of the post

You can put your name at the bottom and send it in as is but it may help to tweak the first paragraph to clarify specifically the event you're referring to. I'll include details below.

And thanks so much to the people who helped me with feedback or assistance. I'd like to mention you by name but don't want to make anyone but myself a target so I won't, but thank you

=====

Kia ora,

I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.

SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.

SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.

In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".

"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.

Nga mihi,  
-your name-

=====

And the venue details, dates, and e-mails are below

Christchurch - Tūranga Christchurch Central Library - Auaha Hīhi / Spark Place Room - 1st of June  
library@ccc.govt.nz  
mayor@ccc.govt.nz

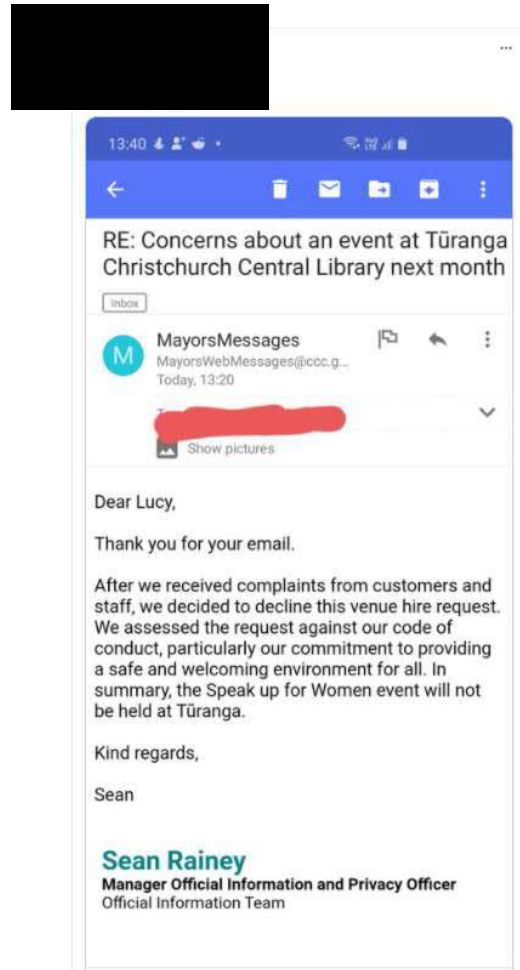
Nelson - Trafalgar Street Hall - 9th of June  
sle@clmz.co.nz  
mayor@ncc.govt.nz

Napier - Hawkes Bay Club - 15th of June  
info@hawkesbayclub.nz

Dunedin - Dunedin Public Library - 17th of June  
dpvenue@dcc.govt.nz  
mayor@dcc.govt.nz

Auckland - Studio One Toi Tu - 28th of June

Figure 2 – [redacted] bragging about having SUFW's events cancelled.



Note: 'TERF' is a misogynistic slur used to intimidate, shame and silence women. For examples of how it is used, see [terfisaslur.com](http://terfisaslur.com)

Figure 3 - examples of [REDACTED] recent tweets:

