

TIME TO KEEP THINKING

This book is biased and doesn't centre trans people

- **Hannah Barnes and the sources she cites are not neutral.** At least 6 of the clinicians interviewed were found to be associated with anti-trans groups that support conversion therapy. ¹
- **Suggesting "the science is not settled" is misleading.** No science is complete, but the key facts about trans healthcare *are* settled, such as that trans gender-affirming care broadly helps, while doing nothing isn't 'safe' or 'neutral'—it is gender *disaffirming* and harmful. ²
- **Just 1% of trans people regret gender-affirming care,** much less than the average of 14% of other surgery regrets (which don't have reactionary books). People who need this treatment understand and want it. ³
- **Puberty blockers are described in a biased way,** centring fear-mongering, uncommon uses and side-effects, rather than their many happy recipients (including for everyday uses like period pain). ⁴
- **Legal guidelines for minors' consent to medical decisions already exist.** Gillick Competency should apply to all healthcare. When underage women seek contraceptive care, their bodily autonomy is prioritized and taken into consideration. Minors are people too. ⁵
- **Did you notice nobody on stage was trans?** This event was a group of people discussing the rights of a minority they are not a part of. Trans people have also criticised the Tavistock Center for healthcare inefficiency. ⁶
- **Would you be comfortable with your estranged parents talking about your experience?** One whole chapter centres the parents' feelings while admitting the actual person, who is now an adult, is not in communication with them. **Time to think why.**

SOURCES:

1. Anti-trans NHS clinicians including key Barnes sources and their associated organisations are mapped here: <https://tinyurl.com/4azw8hpd>
2. The science confirming the positive impact of gender-affirming healthcare for kids: <https://tinyurl.com/4z6vacjs> and <https://tinyurl.com/4wu43mbk>
3. From a meta-analysis of 27 studies from around the world and nearly 8,000 patients: <https://tinyurl.com/2y3r7erv> Notably, this care in the UK required an average 95 week wait time: <https://tinyurl.com/2zmx7m9v>
4. The Lancet provides a more balanced view of puberty blockers, and the incredible harm caused by denying them to young trans people: <https://tinyurl.com/5xjhjn86>
5. Gender GP gives a good summary of the Gillick Competency test and its role in healthcare for trans youth: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz69c6c>
6. See: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3ne7k3> and <https://tinyurl.com/feddm9r7>

FURTHER READING:

- The majority of Tavistock clinicians (50 out of 85) find the Tavistock closure was politically motivated and will have a negative impact on children's healthcare. Here is their open letter: <https://tinyurl.com/yfdj9k9j>
- The non-profit Health Liberation Now provides good information about trans healthcare and the right-wing campaigns against it in the UK: <https://healthliberationnow.com>
- Well-sourced analysis of the problems with the Hannah Barnes book, see the "Puberty Blockers" podcast episode by Prominent Corrections, available here: <https://tinyurl.com/bcjde8fv>

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