I am concerned about various aspects of third sector funding. Policies are being influenced by organisations that are promoting ideologies that are putting women and children at risk.

Women still face structural disadvantage yet have no funded third sector representation (Engender are a mixed sex organisation (constitution states self-id) and in my view have stated they do not represent women sufficiently.

Funding for women’s groups appears to be conditional on having a transwomen inclusive policy, which prohibits any use of single-sex exceptions allowed under the Equality Act. These conditions should be removed as soon as possible. There are times and places when women need single SEX spaces.

Imbalance in funding, with LGBT groups heavily funded. Even within these organisations, there is a disproportionate focus on the T, indicating the remit is not fulfilled across the board.

SEX is a protected characteristic not gender, (gender reassignment is also protected) and the two are conflated with regards to funding.

Money does not always go to the correct place eg. Equality Network which is concerned with sexuality and transgender identity received considerable funding for support of Differences of Sex Development, which would have been better allocated to a charity concerned with these medical conditions.

Funding for advocacy organisations should be contingent on them demonstrating how they have consulted with the interest groups they claim to represent. Many new grassroots groups such as FWS and Women & Girls in Scotland were formed in response to Engender not being representative. Similar issues exist with Scottish Trans Alliance, in my view, not representing the views of many transsexual people.

No oversight across all the protected characteristics. Funding and influence often given to one area only with no consideration on how policies will impact on other vulnerable groups. For example, the LGBT Youth transgender guidance for schools which breached girls human rights, or changing room and toilet policies which have the effect of excluding women and religious service users. Third sector organisations often do not have legal expertise and have been found to give incorrect information.

Many equality organisations provide front-line services so should be subject to the same Public Sector Equality Duties as public bodies, including the need to conduct Equality Impact Assessments. The lack of these contributes to the failure to identify or address issues when there are competing rights.

Little accountability, outcomes of funding should be publicly reported and organisations in receipt of public money should be subject to Freedom of Information requests.