

**LETTER FROM FANS AGAINST CRIMINALISATION TO THE JUSTICE  
COMMITTEE, DATED 3 DECEMBER 2017**

Dear Convener

I watched the video recording of the evidence session from Tuesday of 7/11/17 and at 00:29:12 Mairi Gougeon MSP read out part of my evidence on behalf of FAC from the evidence session which took place on 3/10/17, in which I said:

*I do not know whether that reflects the situation more widely, because I was unable to establish that it did. We tried to correspond with the Scottish Women's Convention in particular, but it was unable to provide us with any details about where it had collected that evidence, how many women it represented, the age ranges involved or any basic statistics. We examined the evidence, but we were unable to establish any basis for it.*

(Official Report)

She then asked Debbie Figures from the Scottish Women's Convention if I had contacted the SWC to which Mrs Figures replied several times that I had not.<sup>1</sup>

I am concerned that the exchange between Mrs Gougeon and Mrs Figures has created a public and erroneous impression that I had misled the Committee. I wish to correct that impression by pointing out that I said, 'we tried to correspond' by which I meant FAC and its supporters, and not, 'I tried to correspond', as in me personally. The correspondence was in fact engaged in by a supporter of our campaign, Mikaela McKinley, who has kept us informed about her (unsuccessful) attempts to obtain any information about the nature of the evidence on which the SWC submission is based. She specifically advised the SWC that she was keeping us informed.

Mrs Figures replied to a direct question from Mary Fee about this in the evidence session and indicated that there had been at least two events which had specifically been arranged to collect information on the repeal of the OB Act and that their submission had been based on these consultations<sup>2</sup>.

*We recently held two events on the topic, one with young women of school age to 20 and another round-table discussion with women of a mixture of ages. We have had constant discussions about it as well—there is always talk about what is going on.*

Further communications have since taken place between the Chair of the SWC, Agnes Tolmie, and Mrs McKinley (15/11/17) in which Mrs Tolmie indicated that no such specific consultation(s) had taken place. This is consistent with the fact that all attempts by us to find any record of specific, recent, consultations organised by the

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<sup>1</sup> Strangely, she also intimated to the Committee that I had tweeted the SWC 'occasionally' in a negative way which is not true. I have never tweeted the SWC either negatively or in any other way.

<sup>2</sup> See Official Report at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11180> (roughly 8 pages down)

SWC in relation to the repeal of the Offensive Behaviour Act have been unsuccessful.

We hope that the Scottish Women's Convention will be asked to explain this discrepancy so that the Committee is able to properly weigh up all the evidence provided to it.

Finally, it is very disappointing, in all of the circumstances, that an attempt has been made to insinuate that I misled the committee. I therefore hope that this email clarifies matters and that the Committee are reassured that the evidence that I gave was factually correct.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Findlay  
Fans Against Criminalisation