

## Insert Your Name and Address

### Date

To:

**Insert your local library**

**Your local TDs**

**Your local councillors**

**Please see the email address at the end of this letter to copy/paste into the CC of the email**

I have recently been made aware of some shocking content in the books that children have access to in the libraries in Ireland. Please see a few of the examples below:

- 1) **Sex: An Uncensored Guide to Your Body, Sex and Safety by Nikol Hasler.** *What is fisting? "It does involve putting a whole hand in vagina (or anus) but the fingers are typically straight, with fingertips touching - not curled up in a fist shape. The person doing the fisting will (using lubrication and a rubber glove for safety) start with one finger, and then, with the other person's permission, gradually add another and another."*
- 2) **This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson:** On page 162, there is a step by step guide showing children how to meet an adult in their area through Grindr, a dating app. In the chapter, *The Ins and Outs of Gay Sex*, it teaches children how to give a "good handie" and "blowie."
- 3) **Trans Teen Survival Guide By Owl and Fox Fisher:** This book lets children know that hormones can be purchased on line and has photos showing how children can inject these cross sex hormones
- 4) **What's The T by Juno Dawson:** On page 225, the book teaches that *"When contemplating anal sex, some people douche or squirt a bit of water into their back passage so that sneaky poo nugs do not get in the way of sexyfuntime."*
- 5) **Sex Education A Guide To Life (on Netflix for 18+) by Laurie Nunn:** This book teaches children to *"Masturbate in the shower: It's the perfect place for a bit of self-love. Just make sure you clean up after yourselves, please. Try dry humping: No, I'm not taking the piss, it's currently very on trend. There's something very sexy about doing it, without actually doing it."*

As a library authority within the meaning and for the purposes of the provisions of the Public Libraries Act 1901 as amended by the 1947 Act, I hereby write to inquire whether or not children are being exposed to inappropriate reading material in your library.

Exposing children to such material may be in contravention to Section 10 of the Children First Act in 2015 ('2015 Act'), Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 ('1989 Act') and Article 24 (1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter').

I formally request the following:

- 1) Confirmation if any of the above books are in the library
- 2) For any of these books that are in the library, please advise the minimum age required to take out each book.
- 3) A copy of your library rental policy that shows what age a child must be in order to access each section in the library (e.g "Children", "Young Adult", "Adult")

- 4) A copy of the Risk Assessment conducted by the library to ensure that the exposure to highly sexual content and/or gender ideology would not harm children.
- 5) A copy of your Child Safeguarding Statement
- 6) In the event that you do have these books, and they are accessible to anyone under 18, the immediate removal of these books from the shelves pursuant to child protection legislation and in light of the Cass Report.
- 7) The library conduct a full audit of all books that children have access to ensure that all other books containing highly sexual and/or gender ideology content are moved to the adult section straight away.

I refer you to the Child and Family Agency's website and definitions of abuse which state that: "... *Showing sexually explicit material to children, which is often a feature of the 'grooming' process by perpetrators of abuse...*"

If sexually explicit material and/or material centred around gender ideology is currently being promoted for children, this would raise significant concerns surrounding compliance with the statutory provisions of the 2015 Act. I note the recent publication of the Cass Report by Dr Hilary Cass on the treatment of gender dysphoric children in the UK, in this regard. The Cass Report advises extreme caution with regards to socially or medically transitioning a child suffering from gender distress. This report, conducted over four years, leaves the reader in no doubt that libraries must remove all content containing gender ideology in order to safeguard and protect vulnerable children.

In a recent article for the Journal.ie, Dr Paul Moran, an Irish member of Dr Cass's team, states that "the Department of Health should reconsider some of the overly affirmative educational and training materials it is sending to schools and the prominent role it has given to activist organisations in policy development and teacher training". No child is born in the wrong body and no child can switch to the opposite sex. The truth is that the majority of children who suffer gender dysphoria are gay and a high proportion are also autistic.

### **CHILDREN FIRST ACT 2015**

No doubt you will be aware of your legal obligations, as a provider of a relevant service, to ensure, as far as practicable, that each child availing of the library service is safe from harm while availing of that service.

Schedule 1, Section 5 (a) of the 2015 Act defines a relevant service as providing any work or activity which consists of the provisions of:

'...educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children...'

In accordance with Section 10 of the 2015 Act, any provider of a relevant service shall ensure, as far as practicable, that each child availing of the service from the provider is safe from harm while availing of that service. The definition of "welfare" includes, in relation to a child, the moral, intellectual, physical, emotional and social welfare of the child. We trust that you are fully cognisant of your statutory obligations to undertake a Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement before displaying any written material in the children section of your library that is of such content that it may place them at risk of exposure to harm. Under Section 11 (3) a child safeguarding statement shall

include a written assessment of the risk and, in that regard, specify the procedures that are in place.

As the Child and Family Agency itself refers to exposure of sexually explicit material to children as demonstrative of an example of sexual abuse, it is our submission that it is irrefutable that the library had a statutory obligation to conduct a Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement PRIOR to displaying the books in question in the children's section.

### **UNITED CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD 1989**

Article 3 (1) of the 1989 Act stipulates: "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration".

### **CHARTER OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EU**

Article 24 (1) of the Charter contains the right of a child to be provided with care and protection necessary for his or her well-being. This reflects Article 3(2) of the United Convention on the Rights of the Child. The right of a child under Article 24 (1) must be respected and protected by EU bodies and by Member States.

Exposing children to such sexually explicit content and gender ideology is not in their best interests. A child's welfare is paramount, and the library must not sacrifice the welfare and best interests of children.

I await your prompt response on this matter.

**Your Name**

### **References:**

Cass Report: <https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/>

Children First Act: [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children\\_First\\_National\\_Guidance\\_2017.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Children_First_National_Guidance_2017.pdf)

### **CC'S TO ADD TO EMAIL:**

**Your school principal and board of management (the books may have been purchased by the school from the recommended *Rainbow List* when NCCA had it on their website)**

[roderic.ogorman@oireachtas.ie](mailto:roderic.ogorman@oireachtas.ie), [norma.foley@oireachtas.ie](mailto:norma.foley@oireachtas.ie), [helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie](mailto:helen.mcentee@oireachtas.ie), [secgen@education.gov.ie](mailto:secgen@education.gov.ie), [info@ncca.ie](mailto:info@ncca.ie), [ceo.office@hse.ie](mailto:ceo.office@hse.ie), [yoursay@hse.ie](mailto:yoursay@hse.ie), [health&wellbeing.strategy@hse.ie](mailto:health&wellbeing.strategy@hse.ie), [lgbt@into.ie](mailto:lgbt@into.ie), [generalinfo@into.ie](mailto:generalinfo@into.ie), [info@belongto.org](mailto:info@belongto.org), [office@teni.ie](mailto:office@teni.ie), [elaina@childrensbooksireland.ie](mailto:elaina@childrensbooksireland.ie), [jenny@childrensbooksireland.ie](mailto:jenny@childrensbooksireland.ie), [pressoffice@garda.ie](mailto:pressoffice@garda.ie), [info@tusla.ie](mailto:info@tusla.ie), [customer.services@anpost.ie](mailto:customer.services@anpost.ie), [info@librariesireland.ie](mailto:info@librariesireland.ie), [healthyireland@health.gov.ie](mailto:healthyireland@health.gov.ie), [info@childrensbooksireland.ie](mailto:info@childrensbooksireland.ie), [info@naturalwomenscouncil.ie](mailto:info@naturalwomenscouncil.ie)