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## Rowling in the Deep: J.K. Rowling, Transphobia, and Reactionary Fandom

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# ROWLING IN THE DEEP: J.K. ROWLING, TRANSPHOBIA, AND REACTIONARY FANDOM

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BY MAKENA WARFIELD



# ACCIO © POTTER HEADS

A PODCAST BRINGING TOGETHER POTTER HEADS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.  
ALL THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ARE WELCOME



## OVERVIEW

J.K ROWLING, THE POPULAR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT AUTHOR WHO IS KNOWN FOR HARRY POTTER.

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SHE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE KNOWN FOR HER TRANSPHOBIC COMMENTS ON TWITTER AGAINST THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY.

THEY STARTED IN AUGUST 2019 AND CONTINUE TO REMAIN ONGOING ON TWITTER.

## TRIGGER WARNING

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- I would like to offer a trigger warning as I will be talking about topics of transphobia and suicide!

# JK ROWLING'S TRANSPHOBIC TWITTER BEHAVIOR (THEY SAY)

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- Her transphobic tweets started in 2019. It remains ongoing.
- "'People who menstruate.' I'm sure there used to be a word for those people. Someone help me out. Wumben? Wimpund? Woomud?" (JK Rowling, 2020)
- "War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength. The Penis is a Penis. The Individual Who Raped You Is a Woman" (J.K Rowling, 2021).

# TRANSPHOBIC BEHAVIOR CONTINUED

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- "Trans women AREN'T women if they're convicted double rapists, like Adam 'Isla Bryson' Graham. " (JK Rowling, 2022)
- Katie Dolatowski is a woman and Adam Graham is to be removed from the women's prison." (J.K Rowling, 2022)
- "It was recently discovered that those given transfusions of blood from the opposite sex had poorer outcomes, including fatalities. (Stumbled across this fact while researching my book Troubled Blood.)" (JK Rowling, 2023)

# FANDOM REACTIONS

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- Muggle Net and the Leaky Cauldron released statements after J.K Rowling announced her stance against the Transgender community.
- ....They wrote, "We find the use of her influence and privilege to target marginalized people to be out of step with the message of acceptance and empowerment we find in her books and celebrated by the Harry Potter community.
- Our stance is firm: Transgender women are women. Transgender men are men. Non-binary people are non-binary. Intersex people exist and should not be forced to live in the binary.
- We don't condone the mistreatment JKR has received for airing her opinions about transgender people, we must **reject her beliefs**" (Muggle Net and The Leaky Cauldron 2020)

# I SAY

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- JK Rowling uses her influence and privilege to target marginalized people.
- It is out of step with her message of acceptance and empowerment from her Harry Potter books.
- I believe that JK Rowling has missed **more than** one opportunity to apologize for her comments.
- I pose the question of what can be done about public figures and/or political figures when they are deemed problematic to society.



# FAN VS ANTI FAN

QUOTES PULLED FROM MY PODCAST

Sarah Campbell | they/them/theirs

- Identifies as nonbinary and queer.
- Is a fan but not fan of JK Rowling
- Harry Potter has moments of inclusivity.
- Cannot separate art from artist.
- Harry Potter remains important to them.
- Filtered through a "lense".

Jay Roan | they/them it/its 22

- An agender individual.
- Originally was a fan.
- Dislikes JK Rowling not just because of their transphobia but because of their antisemitic characters.
- Against the release of Hogwarts Legacy



# WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT THIS BECAUSE

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- It belittles the strength and the identity of the transgender community.
- The identities of the transgender community are at stake in the public eye.
- The transgender community is more at risk of violence from hate crimes.
- "82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth" (Ashley Austin)

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