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JK Rowling Threatens To Sue Amnesty International Into Oblivion For Expressing An Opinion About A Charity She Funds

from the *so-very-free-speechy* dept

Fri, Jul 17th 2026 10:59am - **Mike Masnick**

Free Speech

JK Rowling **has spoken about** how she wrote the first Harry Potter book while she was employed at Amnesty International and how much that experience influenced her writing, and how she learned "the power of human empathy" from working there. Rowling was also, you'll recall, one of the high profile signers of the infamous **Harper's Letter** on "open debate."

Now she's threatening to **bankrupt Amnesty International** for expressing an opinion about Beira's Place, a "women only" charity Rowling created.

Amnesty International UK had **released a report**, expressing its well-supported opinion about so-called "anti-rights actors," specifically calling out a number of groups that it believed, through their statements or actions, sought to "restrict human rights by undermining human rights protections in law and practice." It had a section on "anti-gender" efforts by some groups which have targeted trans rights and pointed out that:

> *"Human rights are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. When the rights of one group are restricted, protections for others can also be weakened, even where the effects are not immediately visible."*

This should be a fairly non-controversial statement. But, the report named a number of organizations that it deemed to be "gender critical," which are, in effect, organizations that have — through their words or actions — done damage to trans rights in particular, and the wider LGBTQ+ space.

No matter your stance on any of this, expressing an opinion about an organization should be seen as part of their free speech and… what's the term Rowling used in the Harper's letter? Right, "open debate."

But, no, not here. One of the organizations that Amnesty mentioned was Beira's Place, which Rowling helped create as an organization to provide support for female victims of sexual violence. However, aligned with Rowling's **transphobic** views and **campaigning**, the organization proudly insists that it is for "women only." Beira's Place and the constant verbiage surrounding it about being for "women only" have certainly contributed to the sense that it is another part of Rowling's transphobic mission to diminish and deny rights of transgender women.

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To look at Rowling's X feed, for example, is to witness a near never-ending stream of gleefully obnoxious and petty attacks on trans people who speak up for their own rights. I'd post examples, but I'd rather not give any more attention to that sort of hateful messaging.

Thus it's entirely reasonable to have and express the opinion that Beira's Place and other operations that refuse to recognize the rights of trans women (and trans men) are "anti-rights." I mean, literally part of Beira's Place's messaging to the world **has been its anti-trans stance**.

After all, as the statement above notes, when you deny rights to one group, you are weakening rights for all. And, look, even if you somehow agree with Rowling, if you *actually* believed in free speech and "open debate" you should at least support Amnesty UK in expressing their opinion that being anti-trans is being anti-rights.

But Rowling seems to absolutely loathe any actual "open debate" regarding her views towards the trans community. Thus, she spoke out angrily about the Amnesty report, leading to a media fury, and causing the organization **to pull it down**. She has also **demanded an apology** and **threatened to sue** the organization:

> *Lawyers acting for the centre have threatened Amnesty with court action unless it permanently withdraws the report, publicly apologises to the blacklisted groups and commissions an external investigation into how it came to be published.*
>
> *The letter said: "The [Amnesty] report has wrongly labelled all associated with Beira's Place, including those accessing support as anti-rights bigots who are seeking to weaken human rights.*
>
> *"This is a shocking way to describe those who are seeking help to overcome the trauma of sexual violence. There is no basis for these allegations, and our client, with the support of its founder JK Rowling, will not sit back and allow the reputation of Beira's Place or those who access its support to be tarnished in this way."*

And to make it clear she seeks to burden Amnesty UK with as many costly lawsuits as possible, she's offering to fund other organizations that wish to sue Amnesty International UK over this report.

That's her tweeting:

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aabsurdity: I keep *not quite* putting myself through the inconvenience of switching. But gosh I'm sick of Microsoft.

intelati: The Steam Deck is what prompted me to try it, dual booted for a bit, but linux does 99.9% of anything I do.

Should any of the women's organisations targeted by Amnesty UK's recent 'anti-rights' blacklist wish to take legal action, applications can be made to the JK Rowling Women's Fund.

So much for free speech and open debate, huh?

Rowling has a right to express her own bigotry and hateful views. But Amnesty International and anyone else should also be able to express their opinion that by her words and her deeds she is doing real harm to the rights of trans people worldwide. But Rowling is making every effort to shut that down.

I am sure that Rowling and her supporters will claim, ridiculously, that because she views Beira's Place and her other anti-trans activism as "pro-women's rights" that it is somehow defamatory to call it anti-rights. But that's why it's a protected opinion. Whether or not one's views and actions are pro or anti-rights is, inherently, an opinion.

My opinion is that Rowling is a hateful, angry woman who has done tremendous harm to some of the most marginalized people in the world for no reason at all, and her wink wink nod nod "I'm just supporting women's rights" bullshit as cover for that is both craven and pathetic. She has contributed to a hateful, anti-rights movement that has put millions of people at greater risk. That she is now seeking to effectively silence and potentially destroy the organization that she, herself, claims was so valuable in getting her to understand the value of human empathy is a particularly sad statement on where her life has taken her.

Meanwhile, I'm still waiting for literally any of her Harper's Letter co-signers to call out her attacks on the organization's speech, and threats to their existence for expressing an opinion she doesn't like. Apparently, that kind of "open debate" is too much?

Filed Under: **defamation**, **free speech**, **human rights**, **jk rowling**, **lgbtq**, **terfs**, **trans rights**
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aabsurdity: Same.

imatool13: I switched to Linux from macOS as my daily driver a while ago. Modern Linux is fairly simple now (for nominally technical folks). When I saw how many more games I could play on Linux than macOS I got the Steam Deck, that thing rules.

John Roddy: Wired is removing the paywall that would've stopped people from reading the articles they're now being sued over.

aabsurdity: Heh

BentFranklin: What if we ban computers from using kids instead? https://indieweb.social/@jbz/116...

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Kinetic Gothic July 17, 2026 at 11:09 am

This seems to be a very long winded and expensive effort on Rowling part to show she doesn't know what a blacklist actually is.

It's not like Amnesty International has the economic or governmental ability to force anyone not to do business with these organizations against their will.

Reply View in chronology

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:12 am

Transphoba destroys an otherwise normal person from the inside out. It is a brainrot that rips apart someone's soul and replaces it with a hatred so unyielding and all-consuming that it damn near becomes that person's entire personality. God, imagine actually hating trans people because they're brave enough to take charge of their fucking body and live in it the way they want to live in it. Imagine being that much of a motherfucking coward.

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[2]

Thad (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:21 am

INSIDER

Re:

It's been wild to see people like Graham Linehan just completely set fire to their careers, reputations, and even marriages by deciding hating trans people should be their entire personality.

OTOH you've got people like Dawkins who were always a little problematic (the New Atheists always had an Islamophobia problem that they disguised as "no no we hate all religions equally") but still seen as pro-human rights but who've gone completely mask-off.

Reply View in chronology

[2]

David July 17, 2026 at 11:57 am

Re: Well, sexual conversion _is_ unnatural

So are all cosmetic operations. So are all psychopharmaceutics. Whereas rape and murder and theft are quite natural but have been poo-pooed by pretty much all societal or religious orders because they just aren't a good fit for living together in large settlements.

Like with much of the "Christian" cherry-picking of the Torah, the selectivity with which the fundamentals pick one thing to be annoyed at while being accepting of others seems based more on pragmatism (what minority is lacking enough powerful representation that it is a convenient target for hating upon?) than logic.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[3]

Arijirija July 17, 2026 at 7:41 pm

Re: Re: well, on quite the other paw ...

a certain number of people are born as chimera, with cells from unborn twins incorporated into their bodies. While another percentage of people are born with the external appearance of the opposite sex while having internal organs of the actual physical sex they are. And let's not get into handedness and how some people having differing degrees of handedness – myself, for one, grew up wondering if I was right- or left-handed, before I realized that I have a lesser degree of ambidexterity, and I do some things with my left hand that are just easier for me to use that hand. There's a lot of crap around that has no basis in physical reality, and I can't see the point of making a big fuss about it – better to allow gender reassignment surgery and have people happy, rather than target such people and make them unhappy, and everybody around them unhappy as well …

Reply View in chronology

[2]

That One Guy (profile) July 17, 2026 at 1:03 pm

INSIDER

Re:

Hate is one hell of a drug, and it's victims show just how corrosive and harmful it is both for the addicts and those around them on a daily basis.

Reply View in chronology

[2]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 1:05 pm

Re:

I used to have an online friend who willingly succumbed to his internalized transphobia, and it completely wrecked him intellectually and morally.

I first knew this person as a trans woman. In the online community where I encountered her, she got along with everyone very well and quickly made friends, especially with the queer people in that community. However, she had some serious internalized transphobia, and she refused to confront it. Instead, she doubled down. She willingly burned many bridges by making transphobic comments toward non-binary people, and she also betrayed the goodwill of other trans people who weren't non-binary. Around this time, she decided to detransition.

I left that online community for unrelated reasons. However, when I encountered him again a couple years later in a sub-community (long after he detransitioned), I found out just how much damage transphobia caused to him. He went down the right-wing pipeline and became a huge Charlie Kirk fan. Shortly after the assassination, he feebly defended Charlie Kirk, but no one else was on his side. The way he handled discussions about Charlie Kirk (or even politics in general) revealed that over the past few years, he became incredibly stupid and unwilling to have honest discussions. Critical thinking skills were just completely gone. I had to address strawman argument after strawman argument and local fallacy after logical fallacy. I can't be friends with people who are this dishonest, hateful, and stupid.

I don't know how I should feel. On the one hand, it's tragic for him to succumb to his internalized transphobia, but on the other hand, he willingly did this to himself and willingly burned those bridges.

I don't understand why transphobia is so effective at frying people's brains, but the speed at which it fries brains is impeccable. If someone can enlighten me on why this is the case, I'd love to learn.

Collapse replies (10) Reply View in chronology

[3]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 17, 2026 at 3:27 pm

Re: Re:

I don't know how I should feel. On the one hand, it's tragic for him to succumb to his internalized transphobia, but on the other hand, he willingly did this to himself and willingly burned those bridges.

You can't save people who don't want to be saved. The best thing you could've done for yourself is separate yourself from him before he dragged you down with him.

> *I don't understand why transphobia is so effective at frying people's brains*

It requires a certain frame of thinking that is ripe for going down right-wing pipelines. First, you have to believe that trans people existing—not doing crimes, not hurting people, but merely existing as transgender—is doing some kind of harm to society. From there, the path leads to queerphobia, misogyny, and eventually fascism. Transphobia fries people's brains precisely because it is a hatred that isn't rooted in anything more than social constructs. One could make (weak-as-fuck) arguments about homosexuality being "dangerous" because of the spread of diseases like AIDS; that at least attacks some kind of action rather than a state of being. Compare that to transphobia, which relies not on any factual data about trans people being more criminally active or whatever, but on vibes about social orders and gender roles that have been shoved into our brains since we were children.

Overly religious people fall hard into that pipeline of hatred because it's easy to justify hate with "God says it's wrong". Even nominally pro-queer liberals can steer toward that pipeline by saying they have "concerns" about trans women in women's sports. Inoculating yourself against that shit requires you to be so pro-trans that you don't leave room for that hatred to burrow into your soul.

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[4]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 11:02 pm

Re: Re: Re:

Thanks, I appreciate your knowledge. I particularly enjoy deconstructing the mindsets behind certain attitudes and political movements.

Reply View in chronology

[3]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 6:32 pm

Re: Re:

> *I don't understand why transphobia is so effective at frying people's brains, but the speed at which it fries brains is impeccable. If someone*

can enlighten me on why this is the case, I'd love to learn.

I suspect it's because transphobia implicitly carries the most regressive beliefs along with it.

- A person's identity and social status are determined by their birth; attempting to deviate from this essential nature is wrong and/or delusional. What else should be determined at birth — one's partner? wealth? ability? caste?
- The social norms surrounding gender are correct and inhere in people's bodies. What other unexamined social norms are correct and inherent — sexism? homophobia? racism? *any* casual but widespread bigotry/foolishness?
- The dumbest, vilest people on earth are right about this pivotal issue. What else are they right about — science? history? economics? politics?

Transphobia is not be entirely unique here, but unlike other forms of bigotry, nobody has been memetically vaccinated against it. One can easily be a sexist, racist, homophobe in today's society, but these stupidities have been substantially publicly contested for longer. Adopting them means rejecting a widespread, if less popular, counter-meme. Transphobia, on the other hand, has only been contested — in most people's minds — by a small handful of people, for the last ten or twenty years. Any public contestation comes from lukewarm elites who fail to spread the most potent counter-memes and instead fall back on weak platitudes.

Collapse replies (4) Reply View in chronology

[4]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 11:04 pm

Re: Re: Re:

Thanks, I haven't thought about it that way before. It makes a lot of sense.

Reply View in chronology

[4]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 18, 2026 at 6:31 am

Re: Re: Re:

I'd also wager that transphobia is more prevalent and harder to fight against because it involves hating people for **changing themselves** in an "unacceptable" way. Transitioning from one gender to the other kind of smashes all the social norms around gender identity, which really fucks with some people's heads—notably conservative religious folks, who often have rigid ideas about gender roles.

Collapse replies (2) Reply View in chronology

[5]

Anonymous Coward July 18, 2026 at 7:43 am

Re: Re: Re:[2]

Transitioning from one gender to the other

“Transitioning” is a weird phrase, given that many of these people had never come out as having gender, nor done anything to support such a view, till the “transition”. Others may have perceived a person as having gender, but usually that was just sexism and some pretense.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[6]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 18, 2026 at 10:20 am

Re: Re: Re:[3]

many of these people had never come out as having gender

Most people don’t usually “come out” as the gender they were assigned at birth because…well, why would they? The whole point of gender as a social construct is that we’re supposed to know by social cues—mostly appearance—whether someone’s a boy or a girl. Transgender people upend those cues, which is a big reason why some people use “trap” as a slur for trans people. It’s also the big reason trans people existing breaks some people’s brains: It means the social cues and gender roles we’ve grown up with and accepted as part of society are blurring in ways that, to some people, feel so unacceptable that trans people simply **must** be an “enemy” of all that is good and virtuous.

Reply View in chronology

[3]

David July 18, 2026 at 7:27 am

Re: Re: That one's easy:

I don't understand why transphobia is so effective at frying people's brains, but the speed at which it fries brains is impeccable. If someone can enlighten me on why this is the case, I'd love to learn.

It is the same with almost all zealots: they feel guilty about not being able to convince themselves of a "truth" that is supposed to be an inherent governing part of their identity, so they try making up for it by promoting an environment which would encourage punishment for their aberration.

I actually believe that people more often than not initially become priests in order to get homosexuality or pedophilia under control. Quite a few just figure out afterwards that the strict catholic teachings don't help in practice for getting away from temptation and end up with "oh well, I tried".

It's not logical, it's human. At some point of time you just have to accept that this pattern does not bother about being illogical and counterproductive.

Reply View in chronology

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Replies are hidden.

[2]

Anonymous Coward July 18, 2026 at 6:54 am

Re:

Hahaha, you want to see someone who was absolutely shattered by Transphobia, take a look at Tatsuya Ishida and his webcomic "Sinfest"

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[3]

Stephen July 19, 2026 at 7:58 am

Re: Re:

He was a big fan of JK Rowling

Sometimes references hed when she'd said something transphobic

He's devolved into full on fellating World War Two Nazis now though

Reply View in chronology

Thad (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:17 am

INSIDER

My opinion is that Rowling is a hateful, angry woman who has done tremendous harm to some of the most marginalized people in the world for no reason at all, and her wink wink nod nod "I'm just supporting women's rights" bullshit as cover for that is both craven and pathetic.

It's worse than that. She's intentionally feeding the "trans women are predators" narrative.

Collapse replies (8) Reply View in chronology

[2]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 12:34 pm

Re:

Every accusation is a confession with people like J.K. Rowling. After all, she was a friend of Jeffrey Epstein.

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[3]

Strawb (profile) July 17, 2026 at 2:59 pm

Re: Re:

I'm all for lambasting Rowling's opinions, but it should at the very least be done factually. Based on the existence of her name in the Epstein files released so far, there's no credible evidence that they were friends.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

This comment has been flagged by the community. Click here to show it.

[2]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 2:05 pm

Re:

hateful, angry woman … She …

Why is it important to call out Rowling's sex here? This basically feeds into the very narrative being criticized. If people are gonna divide society into "women" and "men", of course that'll raise the question of who belongs in which group. But except when trying to procreate, or in certain matters of health, it shouldn't matter at all.

Collapse replies (4) Reply View in chronology

[3]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 17, 2026 at 3:35 pm

Re: Re:

Why is it important to call out Rowling's sex here?

Assuming you're not acting in bad faith by asking this? I have an answer for you.

Riley Gaines went all-in on transphobia after she tied for fifth with a trans woman during a swim meet. She managed to get a measure of victory with the Supreme Court's recent decision on banning trans women from women's sports. After that victory, her right-wing brethren at the Heritage Foundation started talking about **doing away with women's sports altogether**.

Being a right-winger won't protect cis women from the kind of right-wing men who want to turn cis women into stay-at-home broodmares and trans women into ashes. Trans women are women and trans rights, like women's rights, are human rights. Cis women who attack trans women and their rights are setting the stage for their own rights to be curtailed on the basis of sex/gender identity. Why **shouldn't** someone be able to point that out, even if only implicitly?

Collapse replies (2) Reply View in chronology

[4]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 8:29 pm

Re: Re: Re:

Cis women who attack trans women and their rights are setting the stage for their own rights to be curtailed on the basis of sex/gender identity.

Yes, but isn't that the point? Society decided "on paper", decades ago, that it was wrong to discriminate on the basis of sex. And then prompty ignored all of that when it came to washrooms, military drafts, single-sex gyms, "ladies' nights", sports, and so on.

So now Rowling comes out and says that, actually, those anti-discrimination laws were a mistake and it *should* be legal for rights to be curtailed on the basis of sex. I strongly disagree with that, but I also don't see why Rowling being a woman (in the sense of sex, not gender) makes any difference. Would it be better if the person fighting for bigotry had a Y chromosome?

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[5]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 18, 2026 at 10:25 am

Re: Re: Re:[2]

I also don't see why Rowling being a woman (in the sense of sex, not gender) makes any difference.

It's important because in attacking trans women, she's personally helping to set the stage for men more powerful than her to curtail **her** rights. Not that trans women's rights are any less important than anyone else's rights, but Rowling might try reading all the writing on the wall—the stuff written by pro-trans feminists, trans people, and queer people in general—that says "after they're done with us, they'll be coming for you". Her wealth, race, and status as a cisgender woman may buy her some extra privilege. It won't save her forever, though. The misogynistic fascists will eventually come for her rights, and she'll have no one to speak up for her because **why would she**.

Reply View in chronology

[3]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 10:12 pm

Re: Re:

That's not what's happening, and you know it. Fuck off, troll.

Reply View in chronology

Whoever (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:18 am

Billionaires

The pattern is quite clear: most people who become billionaires either always were or become assholes.

Most appear to want to pull any ladders up behind them, while assailing those who are not billionaires for their failure to achieve this status.

Collapse replies (19) Reply View in chronology

[2]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:23 am

Re:

Power never corrupts; it only ever reveals.

Collapse replies (9) Reply View in chronology

[3]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 10:04 pm

Re: Re:

I have to disagree.

I mean, yes, power is going to attract people who want to abuse that power. And yes, even if people *don't* seek out power explicitly for that goal, it's going to reveal their preferences for things that would have always wanted to do but didn't have the influence, or money, or impunity to do so before without consequence. It's not "power reveals" that I disagree with.

What I disagree with is that power itself doesn't corrupt.

I think every person has a bit of the contrarian in them. The nonconformist. The person who wants to be something other than what society tells them to be. There's something that feels *good* about doing what the world tells you that you can't, or mustn't. And the bigger the taboo, the bigger the thrill.

Which is where impunity becomes like a drug. The rich have the ability to break society's rules on a whim, and not face any consequence for it. But if you break a rule too often without getting caught and punished, well, it starts to lose its thrill. So they have to find a bigger taboo to transgress against to get the same high.

And if "having to perform ever-more-deplorable acts in order to keep pace with the personal hedonic treadmill that impunity keeps someone on" doesn't fit the phrase "power corrupts," then I don't know what could.

Collapse replies (3) Reply View in chronology

[4]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 18, 2026 at 11:09 am

Re: Re: Re:

What I disagree with is that power itself doesn't corrupt.

I don't think it corrupts because the people most likely to abuse power already had that kind of personality. By using (and abusing) their power, they shed more of the inhibitions that separate the personality they're "supposed" to show and the personality that lies beneath that façade. Power reveals by stripping away the glamour and showing people for who they really are. Sometimes you end up getting someone like Zohran Mamdani, who seems genuinely willing to use his power for the sake of improving the lives of as many New Yorkers as possible. And sometimes you end up with a narcissitic power-hungry fascist like Donald Trump.

Collapse replies (2) Reply View in chronology

[5]

Anonymous Coward July 18, 2026 at 4:05 pm

Re: Re: Re:[2]

I don't think it corrupts because the people most likely to abuse power already had that kind of personality.

Well, yes, as I said, I agree with that bit, but you didn't really respond to the other part.

You can see the phenomenon I'm talking about with kids: if their parents never tell them no, they usually end up becoming, well, monsters. If they're always given what they want and always get away with their misdeeds, then they keep expanding the boundaries of what they want to be given and to get away with.

Can it be much of a surprise that, when someone gains enough power that they can't be held accountable anymore, they end up starting down the same path?

I don't think it's something that inevitably happens to anyone who gains power: your example of Mamdani might be because he's genuinely good at resisting corruption, or because Mayor of NYC (especially one whose politics aren't in line with the local police) isn't enough power to grant him a feeling of impunity, or because he's only been on the job for six months.

But I do think that people coming into power with a genuine desire to do good and having that corrupted by the impunity that their new power gives them is an actual thing that happens.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[6]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 19, 2026 at 12:56 pm

Re: Re: Re:[3]

I do think that people coming into power with a genuine desire to do good and having that corrupted by the impunity that their new power gives them is an actual thing that happens.

It's possible, sure. But more often than not, the people who abuse that kind of power already have that kind of personality within them, whether they know it or not. How easy do they give in to temptations, even meaningless ones? How easily are they swayed by bullshit and the people who fling it? Even the people who can resist abusing their power will be sorely tempted into doing so, one way or another. A refusal to give in is where you find the people who are best suited to wield power. That's the difference between a Zohran Mamdani and a Donald Trump: Mamdani seems genuinely thrilled to use his power in service of others with little thought to enriching himself, whereas Trump has always seen power as the means to achieve only self-serving ends.

Reply View in chronology

[3]

The Phule July 18, 2026 at 6:56 am

Re: Re:

Some psychological studies suggest that power may actually reduce empathy over time.

Reply View in chronology

[3]

David July 18, 2026 at 7:32 am

Re: Re: Too cheap.

Power never corrupts; it only ever reveals.

So what? Christian doctrine quite accurately points out that we are all sinners. There is no such thing as a flawless human.

That just makes it a bad idea to enable some humans to effect the death of thousands of others in a bad mood.

The whole point of democracy is diluting power to render it ineffective at the personal level. That's what makes democracy so bad and ineffective. And human nature is what makes any other governing form worse.

Collapse replies (3) Reply View in chronology

[4]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 18, 2026 at 10:27 am

Re: Re: Re:

Christian doctrine quite accurately points out that we are all sinners.

Christian doctrine also says a heterosexual couple and their sons were the kickstarters of the human race, so…you have fun with that.

Collapse replies (2) Reply View in chronology

[5]

David July 19, 2026 at 8:29 am

Re: Re: Re:^{2} Come on.

If you don't even bother to read through what you are replying to, at least don't fall into the easiest argument traps you'd lose to any Yehova's Witness on next street corner.

Incest got penalized formally in the Mosaic laws; Noah preceded this by a whole lot, and certainly Adam and Eve did.

And that's even before the obvious explicit exception implied by the command to repopulate the Earth (in Genesis 9:7) and/or the documentation complication that most females are not even worth listing.

Then the Mosaic laws don't even cover first cousins, nor do they cover uncle/niece relations.

And the final problem particular to Christian doctrine is that the only human to be supposed without sin is Jesus Christ himself, so obviously divine prosecution of sins always had to be optional, and non-divine prosecution always was imperfect.

If you want to argue with fundies, reverting to blanket ad hominem attacks based on their belief system is actually making your argument not one bit better than theirs.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[6]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 19, 2026 at 12:46 pm

Re: Re: Re:[3]

My point was that anyone claiming in all sincerity that I should give a fuck about Christian doctrine or treat it with any real seriousness is going to have a hard time getting past the whole “Adam, Eve, and their two sons were the progenitors of the entire human race” bit. “Oh, I’m in need of Christ? Well how about you explain how a shitload of incest helped humanity reach a minimum viable population. Do that and maybe I’ll give the word of Big JC a listen.”

I’m American, and while one could say I’m “culturally Christian” because duh, I’ve got a bone to pick with American Christianity—or the conservative branches of it, at any rate. They’re the ones who demand that the Bible be taken literally and try to force into secular law their beliefs, their orthodoxy, and their opinions about everything from what clothes a woman can wear to whether queer people should even be allowed to exist (never mind being out in public). So when I see bullshit like “Christianity says we’re all fundamentally broken and the only way to redeem the sin of existence is by begging for God’s forgiveness”, my mind snaps to a mode I like to call “I think the fuck not, bitch”.

I’m all for letting people worship as they please. So long as they’re not using their faith/spirituality/religion to hurt others, I really don’t care what god they worship, how they worship that god, and where they do their worshipping. But when I hear the kind of bullshit that I associate with the kind of people who try their damnedest to enforce their faith through the law, I’m going to call out that bullshit for what it is. I have to respect that people believe different than me; what I don’t have to respect are those beliefs.

Reply View in chronology

[2]

That One Guy (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:36 am

INSIDER

Re: No-one exploits that many people and stays a good person

In addition to what Stephen notes about power revealing someone’s character rather than corrupting it it might also be a matter of selection bias, in that to get that rich you basically *have* to be a sociopath/psychopath who sees anyone other than you as nothing more than disposable tools to be used and discarded once no longer needed, with the result that those that *don’t* have that ‘trait’ simply never get that rich.

Collapse replies (8) Reply View in chronology

[3]

Thad (profile) July 17, 2026 at 12:28 pm

INSIDER

Re: Re:

I mean, in this case we *are* talking about somebody who got rich by creating a bestselling series of children's books, not running an emerald mine or something. I don't think anybody should have that much money regardless, and JKR is trash, but she didn't get rich through inherited wealth or unscrupulous business tactics.

But it doesn't just matter how you got the money. It matters if you hang onto it, and what you do with it once you have it. Buying a castle is supervillain shit; picking on vulnerable minorities is run-of-the-mill bully shit.

As far as I'm concerned the jury's still out on Taylor Swift. She's become a billionaire by being a popular entertainer too; we'll see what she does with that money.

Collapse replies (7) Reply View in chronology

[4]

Thad (profile) July 17, 2026 at 12:36 pm

INSIDER

Re: Re: Re:

(This is not to say that I disagree with your point that people don't get to be billionaires without being bastards as a general rule of thumb. But I'm willing to cut some slack to entertainers with no obvious history of stepping over other people to become successful. Until they prove otherwise.)

Reply View in chronology

[4]

That One Guy (profile) July 17, 2026 at 1:09 pm

INSIDER

Re: Re: Re:

A fair point, perhaps it would be more accurate for me to say that it's not *impossible* to get that rich without being a psychopath/sociopath, it's just very unlikely since it's much easier to gain that much money by being one as opposed to lucking out via another route like being creative and making something a ton of people want to buy.

Collapse replies (2) Reply View in chronology

[5]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 17, 2026 at 3:38 pm

Re: Re: Re:[2]

it's not impossible to get that rich without being a psychopath/sociopath

Do you sincerely think Taylor Swift hasn't done at least a small amount of sociopathic bullshit on her way to becoming a billionaire who can have her wedding at Madison Square Garden? You don't get to that level of wealth without exploiting **someone**. Even people who win billion-dollar lotteries (and only take home about half that amount after taxes) are effectively helping the state exploit people's dreams of being super-rich and feeding that fantasy through the lottery.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[6]

That One Guy (profile) July 18, 2026 at 9:04 pm

INSIDER

Re: Re: Re:[3]

I'm not familiar enough with her to say either way honestly, I was merely agreeing with Thad's point that if the source of a person's wealth is from their creativity, making something that people genuinely *want*(as opposed to *need*) then it's not impossible that they *could* potentially reach that point without going full sociopath/psychopath, even if I'd also be inclined to say that the odds are likely damn low and just get lower the richer they get.

Reply View in chronology

[4]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 2:28 pm

Re: Re: Re: Off topic, but...

Buying a castle is supervillain shit…

Not Everyone who buys **a castle** has any villainous intentions.

Many castles resemble boats, in that they are **pits that you throw money into**. Sometimes you can recoup some of that money through tourism (or tourism-adjacent business like a B&B).

J.K.Rowling's 'castle' – **Killiechassie** is a manor house and estate with 12 acres of grounds. On the order of a half million £, or roughly $700,000. That is, half the price of an average house in San Francisco.

If you're complaining about that being supervillain shit, perhaps you will rethink your opinion upon reviewing the facts. Or… is San Francisco the future home of the Not So Secret Villain Society Of America? (Sorry, Musk not invited – his bases are in Los Angeles!)

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[5]

Anonymous Coward July 18, 2026 at 2:05 am

Re: Re: Re:[2] Really getting to the meat of the argument

Dunno why the article wasn't titled "are castles only for supervillains?" And what's with all the talk about trans people?

Reply View in chronology

[4]

Anonymous Coward July 18, 2026 at 11:15 am

Re: Re: Re:

Making your fortune off intellectual monopoly is no less harmful than making it off mining. Rowling could not have accrued such wealth without the implicit threat of violence against people sharing or adapting her work, not to mention her extreme litigiousness toward fan work. Swift sits atop a vast empire of censorship, exploitation, and monopoly exemplified by the RIAA, Spotify and YouTube, which culturally impoverishes the entire human race.

Reply View in chronology

Bloof (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:24 am

Amnesty are too respectable a charity among liberals for this not to backfire on her. They're fine with her TERFiness and hobbyless behaviour, but destroying a charitable institution wine mums have heard of would be a step too far.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[2]

Thad (profile) July 17, 2026 at 12:33 pm

INSIDER

Re:

I dunno, if you ask wine moms to choose between Amnesty International and Harry Potter, I wouldn't be so sure they'll choose Amnesty International.

The last twenty years or so have made it pretty clear how many liberals will sell out their principles for a chicken sandwich.

Reply View in chronology

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 11:25 am

Transphobia, being a symptom of misogyny, harms cis women along with trans women.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[2]

That One Guy (profile) July 17, 2026 at 2:22 pm

INSIDER

Re: Sheer poppycock

Nonsense, what could possibly be harmful about, just as a totally unrealistic hypothetical that would not and could not ever happen, genitalia-obsessed perverts harassing CIS women/kids who aren't 'feminine' enough for them when those women are trying to use the bathroom or *existing*?

Reply View in chronology

That One Guy (profile) July 17, 2026 at 11:33 am

INSIDER

That venn diagram is just a single circle

What a shocking revelation that such a vile bigot also falls into the group of ‘I support free speech for all, by which I mean everyone should have the right to say they agree with me!’ lot that loudly proclaim themselves to be ‘free speech supporters’.

As the ‘I will fund anyone who wants to try to bankrupt Amnesty International’ offer makes clear it was a terrible move to try the route of attempting to appease the rampant bigot that is JK Rowling by taking the article down but hopefully Amnesty International at least has the spine/intelligence to refuse to issue the demanded ‘apology’ for calling her out on her bigotry and instead issues a public statement that points out *why* they rightly gave her and the other ‘charities’ that label.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[2]

cygnus July 17, 2026 at 1:43 pm

Re:

She’s another Elon Musk. Steal ideas from others, makes loads of money, proclaim yourself a “free speech warrior” and then go to extreme lengths to disprove that.

Reply View in chronology

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 11:57 am

she wrote the first Harry Potter book while she was employed at Amnesty International

In retrospect, that employment was the high point of her career.

The Harry Potter books contain characters who want to exclude other groups because “they’re not really like us”. Those characters are not the good guys. And now Rowling has become much like the villains from her own books.

Collapse replies (2) Reply View in chronology

[2]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 17, 2026 at 3:40 pm

Re:

The Harry Potter books contain characters who want to exclude other groups because “they’re not really like us”.

And that’s not even getting into the antisemitism!

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[3]

Heart of Dawn (profile) July 17, 2026 at 3:58 pm

Re: Re:

The only groups I’ve seen supporting terfs like her and Posey Parker are fundamentalist christians and nazis.

If you ever find yourself in agreement with *the fucking nazis,* you need to to take a long, hard look in the mirror, and seriously reassess your worldview.

Reply View in chronology

ECA (profile) July 17, 2026 at 12:27 pm

INSIDER

Funding others?

YOU REALLY want to go Broke?

Reply View in chronology

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 12:30 pm

I’m hardly surprised, considering that J.K. Rowling was friends with Jeffrey Epstein.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[2]

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 10:15 pm

Re:

Is there, like, actual evidence for this? Or are we just going on vibes?

Reply View in chronology

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 1:08 pm

One common trait of being a right wing sub human is that you are a thin skinned bully.

Reply View in chronology

Pixelation July 17, 2026 at 1:53 pm

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Reply View in chronology

Whoever (profile) July 17, 2026 at 3:33 pm

Roald Dahl

See also Roald Dahl and his attitudes towards Jewish people.

Reply View in chronology

Anonymous Coward July 17, 2026 at 6:11 pm

I feel that you've undersold Beira's Place a bit. It's not just that it's openly anti-trans — the *sole* reason it exists is because she-who-must-not-be-named was mad that an existing rape crisis center was trans-friendly, and in fact directed harassment at the trans woman who ran it.

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[2]

Anonymous Coward July 19, 2026 at 6:06 am

Re:

The sole reason it exists is to provide a female-only service for rape survivors, in the Edinburgh region. Which at the time did not exist.

Reply View in chronology

glenn July 18, 2026 at 7:10 am

Well, you know: let's all attack those who don't agree with us (but be careful you don't shoot yourself in the foot).

Reply View in chronology

Anonymous Coward July 18, 2026 at 7:43 am

What’s wrong with you people ?

Collapse replies (1) Reply View in chronology

[2]

Stephen T. Stone (profile) July 18, 2026 at 10:28 am

Re:

What do you mean, “you people”?

Reply View in chronology

Stephen July 18, 2026 at 3:22 pm

Trans Rights are Women’s Rights

It’s kind of a litmus test for societies. If Trans folks don’t have many rights you can guarantee women’s rights will be the big target

I’d go further. I’d say Trans Rights are Human Rights

Everyone has seen this show before

First you crush this minority, then that one

And that one

Then you purge the wrong type of (former) comrade because they were part of the latest minority in your sights

And then you get purged because, surprise surprise, it turns out you were the wrong type of person to be considered really human yourself

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Lisa Stevens July 18, 2026 at 7:02 pm

JK Rowling's threat

So, we in the U.S. have exported the idea that terrible zillionaires can use their vast fortunes to legally ruin people's lives by bleeding their bank accounts and their peace of mind because they practiced a form of free speech that disagrees with their idea of free speech. If she thinks they are wrong, she should be able to prove it without dragging countless inviduals through the courts. If she is really so concerned about kindness and justice to people, she should be creative enough to think of a better way to discuss the issues.

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