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So, it's become clear that at least one the factors in the no-platforming of [@selina_todd](#) by [@womenslib_50](#) was because [@lolaolufemi](#) decided to pull out.

Here is Lola's statement just read out at the conference.

[@Womans Place UK](#)

[#IStandWithSelina](#)

Lola Olufemi's Statement

Read by Laura Schwartz of Feminist Fightback

I want to start by saying that I was looking forward to being in conversation with everyone today, and to meet the feminist academics and organizers that have created a legacy of knowledge to draw on. I believe feminism is a political methodology that we can use to make demands for our freedom and the freedom of others, and woman is an umbrella term under which we can gather to make those demands. It's a strategy for those of us on the underside of capital and other death-making machines. It has no meaning to me absent of that function. The reason I withdrew from this panel is because it's clear the organizers had not done enough to investigate speakers' links to Woman's Place UK – a clearly transphobic organization – or to ensure that members of this group would not be in attendance/disrupt proceedings which I have seen happen time and time again. Trans exclusionary radical feminist networks cut across universities, public institutions [institutions?] and women's services. I have seen first-hand how white middle class women with social capital have used their gatekeeping power to harass trans people, threaten them with defamation, actively work to curtail their rights, refused to extend solidarity, and then claim victimhood. I am uninterested in attending feminist events or conferences that do not take a clear stance against this attempt to hijack feminism or allow these networks to exist unchallenged. I don't have time to unpick what I find so abhorrent about the second wave resurgence of calls for sex-based rights, this ideology's links to the alt right, scientific racism, and how it has poisoned chances for intergenerational conversation and distracted us from the most pressing and urgent fact – that our material conditions as women, and all those read as women, are steadily deteriorating. Sex and the body are not the final frontier for me. My imagination is bigger than that. My liberated future includes us all. It is not beholden to a rigid sex binary. And my solidarity is not dependent on chromosomes. I want to end by urging members of the audience to resist this imposed culture war and to practice a feminism that recognises that trans liberation is central to our collective liberation, especially for anyone interested in abolishing gender and its violent consequences.

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) I have a LOT to say about this defamatory, distorted Tumblrised intersectional bullshit being used to claim that centring female people in the movement for female liberation is a hijacking of feminism, being instrumentalised to silence a working class woman who works on working

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) class women's history, and the spectacular DARVO of derailing an entire conference because Lola thinks the only women who should be allowed to speak or participate in feminism are those who abide by her anti-materialist, anti-leftist, neoliberal, individualist no theory of

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) patriarchy, class-analysis erasing, idealist, mind over matter, body denigrating, male dominance pleasing totalitarian dogma.

She has no time to actually explain why believing in sex is an 'abhorrent' thoughtcrime that women must be comprehensively bullied out of by using

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) manipulation and threats. Blah blah scientific racism blah blah the alt-right blah blah middle class women blah blah bullshit. She won't actually sit down and have a conversation with anyone about why it is in the interests of people who are oppressed on the basis of sex to

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) comply with the political erasure of the axis of their own oppression. She won't do that because were she to participate in that conversation it would become absolutely evident that this patriarchy-vanishing crap falls apart under the merest hint of intellectual interrogation.

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) Instead, like so many of generational colleagues, she will use smears, guilt by association, lies, hyperbole, threats, and exert power to shut other women down. If she really is merely 'uninterested' in engaging in conversation with women who hold a different analysis to her,

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) then she is welcome to not attend events where such women are present, though she will find that if we are treated with mutual recognition and respect, we are *very* interested in discussing this question in a manner which vaguely resembles the behaviour fitting of members of

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) a democratic society.

But actually Lola is not 'uninterested' in the slightest. Rather, Lola is *very* interested in ensuring that women who do not hold her analysis are expelled from the movement that we have participated in and nourished for decades of our lives.

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) Because Lola believes that only her vision of the world is correct. That because sex-based analysis does not serve the political interests of non-female people that it must be expunged from thought and from history. That this is allegedly in the interests of female people.

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) And that female people who do not agree or comply must be compelled to do so in a manner which is - hahahafuckingha - in the interests of social 'justice.'

This totalitarian bullshit and bullying has to fucking stop. You have derailed an entire conference dedicated to

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) celebrating 50 years of the movement for female liberation in the interests of centring people who

are not female in female people's politics. You have done so in the most manipulative, authoritarian and underhand manner. You do not have the right to dictate to women who have

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) dedicated their lives to thinking, speaking, researching, fighting, lobbying and providing services to women that their voices are 'hateful' and their interests illegitimate because they understand that we are oppressed on the basis of our sex, and because we will not comply with

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) your totalitarian demand that we pretend otherwise, or turn feminism into a political movement that teaches women precisely what patriarchy has always taught them, that they are not allowed to centre their own needs, and they are bad and evil and selfish for doing so.

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) If you don't want to do activism that centres female people then fine, go and do some other type of activism. But the female liberation movement is the only fucking place in the world where female people are allowed to place themselves front and centre. And we will not allow you

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) turn it into a massive exercise in performing female socialisation for the benefit of non-female people.

If you want to talk to us, come and talk. We want to talk. But if you don't, please, for the love of the goddess, stop being such a fascist and fuck off.

[#IStandWithSelina](#)

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) I'm also going to add. Lola was the main instigator of the walk-out at the FWSA conference last autumn. So, coercion of women's speech is not a new fancy of hers. The way Julia Long framed her comment is not one I would entirely endorse, and I don't think it is helpful, but

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) the reaction to it was INSANE. First, Ruth Pearce launched across the room incredibly aggressively, and then Lola spoke from the platform demanding Julia be expelled, and then when Julia refused to leave, encouraged the entire room to walk-out until Julia had been escorted out.

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) There are several things about this event I wanted to note at the time, but never found the space to write about at length.

First, I went basically to have a look at the state of academic feminism. Unlike our opponents, I believe it is important to actually hear what people you

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK](#) disagree with are saying, and to base your critique on the actual facts about their views. What I

heard was a lot of people talking about race, and disability, and neoliberalism, and queering time, and pretty much fuck all about the oppression of women. This is what happens to

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) feminism when intersectionality ceases to mean 'think about how other axis of oppression intersect with sex' and becomes 'think about other access of oppression and btw believing women exist as a sex-class is a thoughtcrime.' Lo, if you don't centre women in feminism, feminism

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) ceases to be about women... and what political movement is then doing to work of articulating female people's interests and opposing male power...? Nobody. How fucking convenient. Little wonder males love intersectional feminism.

Second, women like Lola actually have no

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) fucking idea who we are or what we do or what we believe. They have never ever done us the decency of actually looking at our work or our words, and have, rather, just sucked up the propaganda from trans activists without an iota of critical thought.

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) At the FWSA meeting Ruth Pearce stood up and defamed Woman's Place from the platform with the usual fact-free propagandist bullshit, claiming that they and the women allied with them are recycling far-right thought etc etc.

Not one single person in a room of over 100 academic

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) feminists challenged Ruth. Maybe there were women there who know that Woman's Place is run by socialist feminist women from a trade union background who have an impeccable record of left-wing organising. Maybe there were women there who knew that they are supported by such

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) left-wing activist titans as [@helensteel12](#). I knew that, but in a room full of women who have been fed trans activist propaganda for half a decade, I wasn't going to say anything, and given what happened when Julia spoke, that assessment was evidently correct.

Ruth Pearce, btw,

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) [@helensteel12](#) is one of Sally Hines' students, who now works I believe at Warwick. Ruth Pearce was the person who came onto twitter the day after the attack on Maria Maclachlan and proudly announced that they had made sure none of the TRA orgs denounced the attack. (Sidenote: I told one of

[@selina_todd](#) [@womenslib_50](#) [@lolaolufemi](#) [@Womans Place UK](#) [@helensteel12](#) the organisers of the FWSA about that attack at that conference, her response was 'well I don't know about that.' [IT'S A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. CHECK YOUR

FACTS BEFORE YOU SILENCE EVIL WOMEN HEY ACADEMIC FEMINISM???) I have seen emails sent to academic feminist listserves by

[@selina_todd @womenslib_50 @lolaolufemi @Womans Place UK @helensteel12](#)

Ruth Pearce in the course of the GRA consultation instructing feminist women what they should think about it, full of the usual hyperbole and lies and smears and terrible analogies and emotional blackmail with which we are so painfully familiar.

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Which Lola has just so perfectly articulated in front of a conference of women assembled to celebrate 50 years of the women's movement, while pointing an entirely unsubstantiated finger at women she actually KNOWS FUCK ALL ABOUT.

At that conference, the women in the room had no

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idea who Julia Long was (they relied on Ruth to tell them), they had no idea who Sheila J was (or at least couldn't recognise her), they had no idea who I am... I walked in there slightly worried, and realised in seconds that not one of them has given the scantest attention to

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actually looking at the massive movement of women they are so certain are such bigots and evil witches that they will coerce conference organisers into silencing them.

We are just an amorphous, faceless force of all that is bad and wrong in the world. They have been seamlessly

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coached by an endless stream of trans propaganda that flatters them with the knowledge of their truth and goodness, that tells them who the baddies are and who they must destroy for justice to prevail, and THEY HAVE NEVER DONE THEIR FUCKING HOMEWORK. Women, who the state pays, to

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THINK, allegedly, ON BEHALF OF WOMEN, vilifying and silencing women who are actually trying to stand up for the material needs and political interests of female people, against a corporate and government funded juggernaut that is utterly committed to erasing the recognition of

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sex, and erasing female people as a political class.

It's an ABSOLUTE FUCKING DISGRACE.

Academic feminism, you have UTTERLY, CATASTROPHICALLY FAILED in your intellectual, political and civic function. Don't you fucking dare tell us to 'educate ourselves.'

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Ps - factual amendment (because they matter), my understanding is that Ruth Pearce did a post-doc with Sally...

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