



# Trans Focus

The world from a transgender perspective

March 2025

100 dark days of  
**Trump**

**Carla**  
If I ruled the world

**Costa Blanca TGirls**

Who are they?



# Welcome to March



March already and we look forward to better weather and lighter evenings. A time to dress with fewer layers and able to sit outside, at least here in Spain.

The photo above is Penny and I at one of our newer venues, The Victoria Lounge. Friendly with gender neutral toilets and most importantly, serves nice wine. The same bar was used in the photo in last month's welcome. We seem to be becoming regulars. If you are ever in the Punta Prima area of Costa Blanca, feel free to join us on one of our many nights out.

Two Trans Icons for you this month, Spanish woman, Jedet and electronic pioneer, Wendy Carlos. Both women, groundbreaking in their own right as well as being successful trans women. The serious stuff includes a guide on how we tackle transphobia and a look at some of the LGBT+ protest songs that stood out over the years.

Thank you to Melanie, for sharing her story on how she fought for her identity and a light hearted look at what Carla may do if she ruled the world. These and much more in this edition.

As ever, if you want to contribute, send them to us and we will add them to a future edition.

Enjoy,

Carla & Penny xx

# The Costa Blanca Tgirls

We often receive requests for more information about the Costa Blanca Tgirls, a vibrant and supportive community of transgender women and allies based in the beautiful Costa Blanca region of Spain. The group was born out of a shared desire for connection and solidarity during a challenging time. Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown



restrictions were lifted, a few trans women living in the area decided to come together to socialise and support one another. What began as informal gatherings quickly grew into a thriving community, attracting members from diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

The Costa Blanca Tgirls is more than just a social group; it is a safe space where individuals can find understanding, encouragement, and friendship. Our primary



mission is to provide support to trans women who are navigating the complexities of gender dysphoria, whether they are just beginning their journey or have been living authentically for years. We aim to create an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered to be their true selves.

While our core membership consists of transgender women, we are deeply committed to inclusivity and collaboration with the wider LGBT+ community. We welcome allies, friends, and family members who share our vision of acceptance and equality. By fostering connections across the spectrum of gender and sexual identities, we hope to build bridges and promote understanding within society.



In addition to our regular meetups and social events tailored for trans women, we organise a variety of inclusive activities open to all. These events



range from casual coffee mornings and beach outings to educational workshops and advocacy initiatives. Through these gatherings, we strive to create opportunities for dialogue, learning, and celebration of diversity.

The Costa Blanca Tgirls is more than just a group—it's a family. We celebrate each other's successes, provide comfort during difficult times, and work together to create a world where everyone can live authentically



and without fear. Whether you are a trans woman seeking support, an ally looking to learn more, or simply someone who values inclusivity, we invite you to join us on this journey.





# Americans Under Attack

## Trump Administration Revokes Protections for Transgender Individuals Through Series of Executive Orders

Since returning to office, Donald Trump has enacted multiple executive orders targeting transgender and nonbinary Americans, reversing policies established under the Biden administration and challenging widely accepted medical guidelines on gender-affirming care. These measures have drawn sharp criticism from advocacy groups and legal experts, who argue the actions endanger civil rights and contradict scientific consensus.



### Redefining Sex and Erasing Gender Recognition

On his first day back, Trump issued an executive order mandating federal agencies recognise only two “unchangeable” sexes—male and female—based on biological traits at birth. The order claims this protects women’s “dignity, safety, and well-being,” while dismissing the concept of gender as a spectrum. Federal websites swiftly removed references to “gender,” replacing the term with “sex,” and agencies like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission eliminated gender-neutral pronouns and “X” markers in official documents. The Bureau of Prisons also halted tracking transgender inmates, and the CDC erased educational resources supporting transgender youth.

### Passport Restrictions and Legal Challenges

The State Department ceased issuing passports with “X” gender markers, revoking a Biden-era option for nonbinary individuals. Transgender people are now barred from updating their passports to reflect their gender identity unless they provide documentation aligning with their sex assigned at birth. The ACLU has threatened litigation, arguing the policy violates federal anti-discrimination laws.



### Prison Transfers and Military Service Ban

Trump’s orders require transgender women in federal custody to be housed in men’s prisons, a move advocates warn increases risks of violence and harassment. Meanwhile, the administration directed the Pentagon to draft a policy banning transgender individuals from military service, echoing a failed effort during Trump’s first term. A lawsuit by active-duty service members is already underway.





## Cutting Access to Gender-Affirming Care

Federal funding for puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and gender-affirming surgeries for minors—already rare and supported by major medical associations—faces elimination under Trump's orders. Medicaid and TRICARE would no longer cover these treatments, potentially disrupting care in states without existing bans.



Hospitals in some regions have paused services for patients under 19 pending legal clarity.

## Schools Forbidden from Supporting Transgender Students

The administration ordered the Department of Education to block schools from using federal funds to assist students in social transitioning, including enforcing rules that prevent staff from using a transgender student's chosen name or pronouns. This clashes with state and district policies designed to prevent "deadnaming," a practice linked to heightened mental health risks among transgender youth.

## Backlash and Legal Roadblocks

Critics, including the Human Rights Campaign and ACLU, argue the orders bypass federal rulemaking processes meant to involve public input. Medical organizations emphasise that gender-affirming care is evidence-based and lifesaving, with studies showing minimal regret rates among recipients. While 26 states have enacted restrictions on youth care, federal courts previously halted similar Trump-era bans, signaling potential legal battles ahead.

As agencies rush to implement these changes, advocates vow to challenge the policies in court, framing the fight as a pivotal moment for transgender rights in the U.S.



Stern Magazine in Germany makes their feelings clear



# Transgender Icons...

## Jedet: Breaking Boundaries and Redefining Representation

Jedet Sánchez, widely known as simply Jedet, is a Spanish actress, singer, and writer who has become a powerful voice for the transgender community. Born on July 7, 1992, in Girona, Spain, Jedet's journey is a testament to resilience, authenticity, and the importance of self-expression.



Jedet first gained public attention through her personal blog and social media presence, where she openly shared her thoughts on gender, identity, and the challenges of being true to oneself. Her raw honesty and humour quickly earned her a devoted following, making her a prominent figure in LGBTQ+ advocacy.

In 2020, Jedet catapulted into mainstream success with her performance in *Veneno*, the critically acclaimed biographical series about Cristina Ortiz, the legendary Spanish transgender icon known as "La Veneno." Playing a younger version of Cristina, Jedet delivered a heartfelt and transformative performance that resonated deeply with audiences worldwide. Her portrayal not only showcased her talent but also underscored the importance of authentic representation of transgender characters in media.



<https://www.filmaffinity.com/es/film401406.html>

Beyond acting, Jedet is a multifaceted artist. Her music blends pop and urban influences

<https://www.arnculturepride.org/en/jedet/>



with deeply personal lyrics, while her writing explores themes of identity, love, and self-discovery. She published her book *Mi Último Regalo* (My Last Gift) in 2016, further cementing her status as a creative force.

Jedet is not just a star—she’s a trailblazer. By fearlessly living her truth and excelling across multiple artistic platforms, she has become an inspiration to countless fans and a symbol of hope for transgender individuals seeking visibility and acceptance.

Through her work and advocacy, Jedet continues to break barriers, proving that authenticity and talent can shine brighter than any societal expectation.

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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman with long dark hair, looking down with her hand to her face in a distressed or thoughtful pose. To her right, a man is also shown in a similar pose, holding his head with his hands. The background is a solid dark color. The text is in white and yellow, with a circular logo for Samaritans in Spain on the right side.

# "On ne naît pas femme, on le devient"

Have you ever heard of the phrase...

The phrase "*On ne naît pas femme, on le devient*" ("One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman") was coined by French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir in *The Second Sex* (1949). It suggests that being a woman is not solely a biological fact but a social and cultural construct shaped by lived experiences, societal expectations, and personal identity.



For transgender women, this concept resonates profoundly, as it underscores that womanhood is not confined to physical or biological characteristics. Instead, it affirms that their lived experiences, identities, and journeys in embracing their womanhood are just as valid as those of cisgender women. It challenges the notion of fixed, binary definitions of gender, promoting inclusivity and recognition of diverse paths to womanhood.



# Vivian Jenna Wilson: A Journey of Identity and Independence

Vivian Jenna Wilson, formerly known as Xavier Alexander Musk, has emerged as a figure of quiet resilience and self-determination in the shadow of one of the world's most famous families. As the transgender daughter of billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, Vivian's journey of self-discovery and her decision to live authentically have drawn public attention, offering a glimpse into the complexities of identity, family, and the pursuit of personal freedom.

## Early Life and Family Background

Vivian Jenna Wilson was born Xavier

Alexander Musk in 2004, the child of Elon Musk and his first wife, Justine Musk. She is one of Elon Musk's six children from his first marriage, which ended in 2008. Growing up in a high-profile family, Vivian's life was inevitably shaped by the public scrutiny that comes with being the child of one of the world's most influential and controversial figures.

Despite the privileges of wealth and access, Vivian's journey has not been without its challenges. Her decision to transition and publicly assert her identity as a transgender woman has been a deeply personal and courageous act, one that has resonated with many who admire her strength in the face of potential public and familial pressures, particularly in high-profile families.

On social media and in an interview posted online, Musk said she was "not a girl" and was figuratively "dead," and he alleged that he had been "tricked" into authorising trans-

related medical treatment for her when she was 16. The situation has sparked discussions about the dynamics of their relationship and the broader implications of living under the shadow of a globally recognized figure.

## A Public Declaration of Identity

In April 2022, Vivian made headlines when she filed a petition in Los Angeles County Superior Court to legally change her name and gender marker. In the petition, she stated that she no longer wished to be associated with her father, Elon Musk, "in any way, shape, or form." This decision was not only a legal formality but also a profound statement about her identity and autonomy.

The name "Vivian Jenna Wilson" reflects her chosen identity, with "Wilson" being her maternal grandmother's maiden name. By adopting this name, Vivian symbolically distanced herself from the Musk family legacy, choosing instead to honor her maternal lineage and assert her independence.

## The Significance of Her Decision

Vivian's decision to transition and publicly declare her identity is significant for several reasons. First and foremost, it highlights the importance of self-determination and the right to live authentically. For transgender individuals, the process of coming out and transitioning can be fraught with challenges, including societal discrimination, lack of understanding, and, in some cases, familial rejection. Vivian's actions serve as a reminder of the courage it takes to embrace one's true self, especially in the public eye.

Additionally, her decision to distance herself from her father's name and legacy speaks to





the complexities of family relationships,

## Looking Ahead

### A Broader Conversation About Transgender Rights

Vivian's story is part of a larger conversation about transgender rights and the importance of acceptance and support. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, transgender individuals often face significant barriers, including discrimination in employment, housing, and healthcare, as well as higher rates of mental health challenges. Family support, in particular, plays a critical role in the well-being of transgender individuals, making Vivian's journey all the more poignant.

Her decision to live openly as a transgender woman also serves as an inspiration to others who may be navigating similar paths. By asserting her identity and making her transition public, Vivian has contributed to the visibility of transgender individuals and the ongoing fight for equality and acceptance.

As Vivian Jenna Wilson continues to navigate her life, her story remains a powerful testament to the importance of authenticity and self-determination. While much about her personal life remains private, her actions have already made a significant impact, sparking conversations about identity, family, and the rights of transgender individuals.



In a world that is increasingly recognizing the importance of diversity and inclusion, Vivian's journey serves as a reminder that everyone deserves the right to live as their true selves, free from judgment or constraint. Her courage and resilience will undoubtedly continue to inspire others as she forges her own path, independent of the legacy she was born into.



# Fighting for My Identity: Melanie's Story

*(Personal details have been changed to protect anonymity)*

From a very early age, I knew I was different. I was drawn to feminine things, and the only time I felt truly comfortable was when I could wear female clothes. As a child, I would secretly try on my older sister's clothes when she wasn't home. Though there were a few close calls, those moments were the only time I ever felt like myself.

As I grew older, secrecy became harder. When I started working, I could finally afford to buy my own clothes, though I always pretended they were for someone else. Hiding them from my family was easy enough—who would rummage through a teenager's wardrobe? Makeup was more difficult, as I had to be careful to remove it completely.

In my mid-20s, I met my wife. Falling in love and building a life together made it even harder to find opportunities to be my true self. The rare times I could were during work trips or short breaks where I had a room to myself. Those moments were precious, but they were few.

Eventually, in my late 40s, I cracked. I confessed to my wife that I was a crossdresser, unable to admit to myself that it was more than that. She was shocked but tried to be understanding. As time passed, however, it became too much for our marriage, and we separated. I moved out

on my own, seeing my two children—now in their early 20s—as often as possible. They had no idea about my true self.



I finally sought medical help and started the process of transitioning. Seeing a doctor, being placed on a waiting list for hormone therapy—things were becoming real. But I wasn't ready to tell my family or friends just yet. I wanted to do it on my own terms.

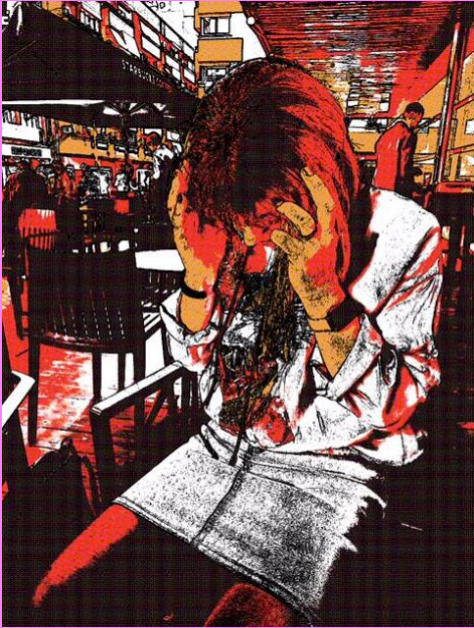
Then, a year ago, my life changed forever. It started on what seemed like an ordinary morning as I walked into the office I had shared with colleagues for three years. Sitting on my chair was a pair of tights. At first, I thought it was a joke—an odd prank. I asked around, but no one claimed responsibility.

A week later, a phial of perfume appeared in the same place. This time, I felt uneasy. Over the next three months, the strange deliveries continued—women's briefs, hair rollers, cards. The messages on the cards became more pointed, and eventually, they were addressed to 'Michaela.' My name is Michael.

I knew what was happening, but I wasn't ready for the world to know. I had spent my entire life carefully managing my secret, waiting for the right time to come out on my terms. Now, I was being forced into a corner.



I went to my managers, hoping for support. Instead, they dismissed my concerns, treating the harassment as little more than office banter. I felt powerless. If my children found out this way, before I had the chance to tell them myself, I feared I might lose them. The stress became unbearable. I withdrew from social life, stopped going out with friends, and barely slept.



Eventually, one evening, I reached my breaking point. Overwhelmed, I sat in my darkened flat, contemplating an escape from the relentless fear and anxiety. I had never felt more alone.

And then, my ex-wife called.

Though our marriage had ended, she remained my confidante, the only person who truly knew me. As we spoke, she reminded me that while the world might be unkind, my children deserved the truth—from me, not from cruel whispers at work.

Together, we told them. They were shocked but understanding. They needed time, but they reassured me that nothing would change our relationship.



With that weight lifted, I knew I had to tackle work. I confronted my bosses, demanding accountability. I spoke to my colleagues, challenging them to acknowledge the harm their silence had caused. Then, I did what I had spent a lifetime preparing for—I came out to everyone.

It was terrifying, but also freeing. The harassment didn't stop overnight, but I no longer lived in fear. With the truth out, I was no longer hiding. I had spent nearly fifty years suppressing who I was, but I wouldn't let anyone force me into shame again.

I had fought for my identity—and I had won.

**Thank you Melanie for sharing your story. If any of our readers would like to share their own story or part of it, let us know and we will feature it in a future edition.**

# A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Just before Christmas I had an interesting conversation with an old friend who identifies as “a man who wears a dress” and considers all transgender women as “men who wear dresses”. I thought it would be helpful to any of our readers who share this view point to explain some of the key differences between transgender women and cross dressers.

## Trans Woman

**Identity:** A trans woman is someone who was assigned male at birth but identifies as a woman. Her gender identity is female, and she may transition socially, medically, or legally to align her life with her gender identity.

**Expression:** Being a trans woman is about her internal sense of self and how she lives her life authentically as a woman. It is not about clothing or performance but about her true identity.

**Permanence:** For most trans women, their identity as a woman is a permanent and intrinsic part of who they are. Transitioning (if chosen) is often a lifelong process.

**Purpose:** Transitioning or living as a trans woman is about aligning her external reality with her internal gender identity, not about temporary expression or performance.

## Crossdresser

**Identity:** A crossdresser is typically someone who wears clothing traditionally associated with a different gender but does not necessarily identify as that gender. Most crossdressers identify with the gender they were assigned at birth (e.g., a man who crossdresses as a woman still identifies as a man).

**Expression:** Crossdressing is about clothing, appearance, and sometimes performance. It is often a form of self-expression, art, or exploration and is usually temporary or situational.

**Permanence:** Crossdressing is not inherently tied to a person's gender identity. It is often a part-time or occasional activity, not a reflection of their core identity.

**Purpose:** Crossdressing may be done for personal enjoyment, artistic expression, or cultural reasons, but it does not necessarily indicate a desire to transition or live as another gender.

**Key Difference:** A trans woman is a woman who may transition to live authentically as her true gender, while a crossdresser is someone who enjoys wearing clothing associated with another gender but typically does not identify as that gender.

It is important to respect and understand the unique experiences and identities of both groups.



# Tackling Transphobia and Homophobia in social media – Is it worth it?

**It's one of modern life's issues...**

You could describe social media as a **"necessary evil"**—something that feels essential for work and communication but also comes with serious drawbacks, like misinformation, privacy risks, and online toxicity.

Alternatively, you could call it a **"digital paradox"**—a platform that connects and informs yet divides and misleads.

Or **"a double-edged sword"**—useful and even indispensable in some ways, but potentially harmful if not handled carefully.

What about **"the social media equivalent of junk food"**—convenient, addictive, and sometimes satisfying, but not always good for you!

Whatever you think of it, many of us live with it.

## **Why Does Social Media Fuel So Much Hate?**

The big problem for LGBTQ+ people is that defending truth is becoming more and more difficult. Let's face it, lying is more exciting and it travels much faster than fact. We are subject to algorithms, designed to elicit anger and outrage which means reliable information is constantly at risk.



It's nearly impossible to scroll through social media without encountering transphobia and homophobia. Whether in comment sections, viral tweets, or discussion forums, discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals remains rampant. This week alone, several incidents stood out for me, highlighting both the persistence of online hate and the urgent need to combat it.

Martina Navratilova, a tennis legend and long-time activist, claimed that transgender people were not involved in the early gay rights movement—a blatant rewriting of history. Trans people, particularly figures like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, were instrumental in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. Erasing their contributions only fuels division and misinformation. Sadly, this has become typical for certain political persuasions.

Another example came from a music discussion group featuring Wendy Carlos, the pioneering transgender woman behind legendary film scores such as *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Shining*, and *Tron*. Despite her groundbreaking work in electronic music, many responses ignored her accomplishments, instead focusing on misgendering and deadnaming her.

Similarly, a post about Lucy Clark, football's first transgender referee and manager, resurfaced yet again. Though her transition and return to refereeing date back to 2019, football pages continue recycling her story, leading to an influx of transphobic comments every time it reappears. Meanwhile, a Blackpool footballer and former referee David Coote also faced homophobic abuse online after coming out, with many commenters dismissing their courage as "attention-seeking."

Only last week, in a reply to someone complaining about Trump demolishing LGBTQ+ rights, a slew of replies contained nonsense that it's to protect children from mutilation; to protect women's spaces (clear deflection from the real cause) and their rights; to stop women being attacked; constant misgendering and various comments about ideology and quasi religion. Often, they place a rider at the end such as 'but you are free to exist' (Really?)

Clearly 'click-bait' to attract transphobic and homophobic people to the table.



Picture taken from Reachout-transphobia

## Can We Do Anything About It?

It's tempting to stay quiet, especially when speaking up means becoming a target yourself. Social media trolls thrive on

provoking reactions, and years ago, they wouldn't have been so bold without the safety of a screen. But if we don't push back, it only gets worse.

## How do we fight back? Or do we?

**Challenging misinformation** is something I try to do. It's amazing how many people believe stuff that are clear lies. Those that don't know better may be worth correcting but always with the reality that there are people who just hate you, so it makes no difference. In fact, it's likely to attract like-minded trolls, often with anonymous accounts.

**Report and moderate** is an option. Platforms have tools to report hate speech, but let's be real—some enforce their rules terribly at best. I once repeated a line from a song by The Smiths on a Smiths appreciation post about the state of music on the radio these days. The line was '*Hang the DJ*' from the song '*Panic*'. I was sent to Facebook jail for 7 days for encouraging violence. Yet out and out racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism are allowed as not breaking the rules. Still, reporting is a step toward better moderation.

**I try to support LGBTQ+ voices** – Trans and queer people shouldn't have to spend their time defending their own existence. Share their work, amplify their voices, and celebrate their achievements. This is less traumatic, but still open to abuse.

**Engaging** and attempting to put people right with facts. Calling out discrimination is important, but if you can, try to have real conversations. You might change someone's perspective. I find this rarely works on social media. The reaction to trans people in real life seems completely at odds with the online connection. I find it similar to



stories about refugees. Once someone gets to know them and their circumstances personally, it often changes their mind.

**The Reality of Social Media**

There are three ways we react to oppression or attack. W.A.R.

Withdraw

Acquiesce

Resist (Fight back)

Which one is the best? Which one is easiest?

They all come with issues attached. It's interesting to note that most people in the public eye who resist are often labelled 'troublemakers. Just look at people in history who have challenged the system and forced change.

Social media can be a great place to connect, but for many LGBTQ+ people, it's a constant battleground. I know people who've left it completely for the sake of their mental health, and honestly, I don't blame them. But if these platforms exist, pushing back against hate is the only way to make them better.

Whether it's worth it is individual. I've challenged wrongdoing all my life, and it's often got me into bother.

I'd love to hear what you think about how we push back against such behaviour. Or do we just get on with it or withdraw?

Write to us and we can publish your views in a future magazine.

Thank you!

**As a postscript to all this. UK TV Channel 4 CEO Alex Mahon talked about the dangers of social media. She said:**

"As global platforms are dominant" and have no requirement to publish the truth he said that "defenders of the truth are always on the back foot", because "lying is more exciting and fiction travels faster than fact"

"Algorithms designed to elicit anger, surprise or outrage have a devaluing effect on the currency of reliable information. The business model of th technology giants is at odds with the safety of our societies"

This is an extremely important statement as someone at last has shown some leadership and sense whilst other stay frighteningly silent.



Alex Mahon at the RTS London Convention 2024 (Taken from YouTube)

# Wendy Carlos: The Transgender Pioneer Who Revolutionised Electronic Music



Photo from Sfcm.edu

As a fan of electronic music, I was intrigued to hear more about Wendy Carlos. The first time I fell for such music was hearing Kraftwerk for the first time. It was on *Tomorrows world* in the mid 1970's and they were playing *Autobahn*. Later I grew to love David Bowie's *Sound & Vision* and *Heroes*. When Donna Summer reached the top of the charts in 1977 I was mesmerised and it's still one of my favourite tracks.

I was driving today with my spotify playlist on shuffle and 'Are friends' Electric' came on. Tubeway Army became Gary Numan I remember hearing it for the first time and it was a catalyst for numerous British bands to break through. Ultravox were way ahead

of the game with their album *Systems of Romance* in 1978 and Human League led the way.

Later, the so called 'New Romantic' genre appeared although that was more fashion than music but it latched onto electronic music. I was fortunate to see the amazing Divine live in 1984. Quite a performance and quite a person. Nowadays I still listen to such music and add the more recent 'Nine Inch Nails' to the growing list.

**None of these would be around though, but for Wendy Carlos. Here is her story...**

Wendy Carlos is more than just a musical innovator—she is a trailblazing transgender artist whose work reshaped electronic music and challenged societal perceptions of gender. Born in 1939, Carlos became a key figure in the development of synthesised music, proving that electronic instruments could be just as expressive and dynamic as traditional ones. However, her impact extends beyond music, as her openness about her transition in the 1970s helped pave the way for greater transgender visibility.



El pais

Carlos gained worldwide recognition with her groundbreaking 1968 album *Switched-On Bach*, which introduced audiences to the



power of the Moog synthesizer. By recreating Bach's compositions using this then novel technology, she demonstrated that electronic music could be more than just experimental noise—it could be sophisticated, beautiful, and widely accessible. The album became a commercial and critical success, winning a Grammy and cementing her reputation as a visionary.



At the height of her fame, Carlos was also undergoing a deeply personal journey. She began transitioning in the late 1960s and fully came out as transgender in a 1979 *Playboy* interview—an incredibly brave move at a time when transgender representation was virtually nonexistent in mainstream media. Her decision to live openly as herself provided an important moment of visibility, challenging misconceptions and demonstrating that transgender people could succeed in any field.

Carlos continued to make music that pushed boundaries, composing iconic film scores for *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), *The Shining* (1980), and *Tron* (1982). Her ability to blend classical influences with futuristic

electronic soundscapes made her one of the most influential composers of her time. Yet, despite her success, she largely withdrew from the public eye in later years, frustrated by the media's focus on her gender identity rather than her artistic achievements.

For the transgender community, Wendy Carlos is a beacon of resilience and artistic excellence. Her legacy proves that talent knows no gender and that transgender people can thrive in any creative field. At a time when trans rights remain under attack, her story serves as a reminder of the importance of authenticity and the power of music to transcend boundaries. By living her truth and revolutionising an entire genre, Wendy Carlos didn't just change music—she helped change the world.



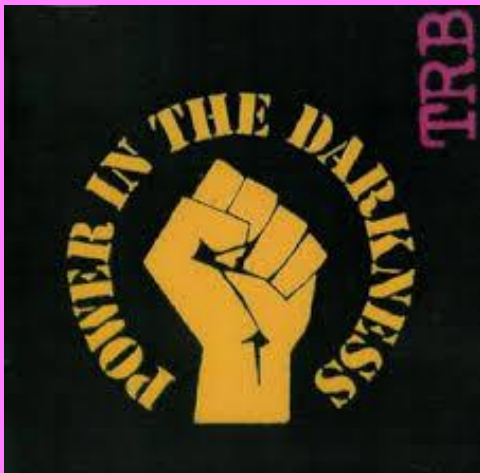
# SIX OF THE BEST

## Six of the Best!

### Top LGBTQ+ Protest Songs

I've chosen six protest songs that over the years have helped engage the fight for equality. Feel free to add and write about any songs that you feel should be included and we will include them in a future edition.

#### Tom Robinson – Power in The Darkness



Tom Robinson's 1978 track *Power in the Darkness* is a defiant protest song against oppression, fear-mongering, and societal control. Released during a time of political turmoil, the song resonated strongly with marginalised communities, particularly LGBTQ+ individuals and the transgender community, who continue to face discrimination and systemic barriers.

The lyrics **"Freedom to choose is in your hands / But if you don't, then the fascists will"** emphasise the importance of standing up against injustice, a message that is especially relevant in today's fight against anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. Similarly, **"They're**

**using the law to hold you down"** speaks to the way laws have historically been weaponised against queer and trans people, restricting access to healthcare, identity recognition, and basic rights.

That the message remains as relevant to day as when it first came out is a sad indictment on where we are at the moment. No one should be forced into the shadows for being their true self.

#### Against Me! – Gender Dysphoria Blues



#### Laura Jane Grace's Raw Truth

Against Me!'s *Gender Dysphoria Blues* (2014) is a deeply personal and unfiltered exploration of transgender identity, written and performed by the band's frontwoman, Laura Jane Grace. The album's title track captures the pain, alienation, and frustration of living with gender dysphoria, addressing the struggle of being seen and accepted for who you truly are.

Lines like **"You want them to notice the ragged ends of your summer dress"** highlight the painful disconnect between inner identity and outward perception. The song, and the album as a whole, gave a powerful voice to transgender



experiences in punk music, resonating with countless trans and queer individuals navigating similar challenges. Through her raw lyrics and fearless storytelling, Laura Jane Grace turned her personal journey into anthems of defiance, survival, and authenticity.

### Lily Allen – Fuck You



### "Fuck You" by Lily Allen – A Defiant Stand Against Bigotry

Lily Allen’s *Fuck You* is a catchy yet scathing protest song against intolerance, discrimination, and narrow-mindedness. Originally written as a response to right-wing politics and homophobia, its lyrics resonate strongly with the LGBTQ+ community, including transgender individuals who face prejudice and systemic oppression.

Lines like **“Do you get a little kick out of being small-minded?”** and **“You want to be like your father, approval-seeking parasite”** directly call out those who spread hate and deny people their rights. The song’s upbeat melody contrasts its biting lyrics, making it both an anthem of resistance and a form of cathartic release for those who have faced discrimination.

For the LGBTQ+ community, *Fuck You* is more than just a song—it’s a bold middle

finger to bigotry and a reminder to stand proud in the face of hate.

### Bronski Beat – Smalltown Boy



### "Smalltown Boy" by Bronski Beat – A Haunting Tale of LGBTQ+ Struggle

Bronski Beat’s *Smalltown Boy* (1984) is a poignant synth-pop anthem that captures the pain of rejection and isolation faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly in conservative communities. The song tells the story of a young gay man forced to leave his home due to homophobia, a reality many in the community have endured.

Lyrics like **“Run away, turn away”** emphasize the desperation of fleeing a hostile environment, while **“Mother will never understand why you had to leave”** highlights the emotional toll of familial rejection. The track became an LGBTQ+ anthem, shining a light on the struggles of queer youth and the fight for acceptance. Even today, *Smalltown Boy* remains a powerful reminder of the discrimination many still face and the ongoing battle for equality and justice.

### Carl Bean – I was born this way



### "I Was Born This Way" by Carl Bean – An Enduring LGBTQ+ Anthem

Carl Bean's *I Was Born This Way* (1977) is a groundbreaking disco anthem celebrating self-acceptance and pride in one's identity. As an openly gay gospel singer turned activist, Bean's powerful declaration of **"I'm happy, I'm carefree, and I'm gay / I was born this way"** was revolutionary at a time when LGBTQ+ representation in music was rare.

The song remains a timeless anthem for the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that queer identities are natural and deserving of love and respect. In an era where LGBTQ+ rights continue to be challenged, *I Was Born This Way* still resonates as a joyous and defiant celebration of authenticity, reminding people to stand proud in who they are.

### "It's a Sin" by Pet Shop Boys – A Powerful Reflection on LGBTQ+ Guilt and Repression



Pet Shop Boys' *It's a Sin* (1987) is a dramatic, synth-driven anthem about guilt, repression, and the condemnation often faced by LGBTQ+ individuals. Inspired by Neil Tennant's strict Catholic upbringing, the lyrics convey the shame imposed by society and religion on those who don't conform, with lines like **"Everything I've ever done, everything I ever do / Every place I've ever been, everywhere I'm going to / It's a sin."**

For the LGBTQ+ community, especially transgender individuals, the song still resonates today, as many continue to battle societal and religious prejudice. It remains an anthem of defiance, reminding people to reject imposed shame and embrace their true selves unapologetically.

### Pet Shop Boys – It's a Sin



# If I Ruled...

## The World

**What an opportunity! I've taken over the world and can order whatever I like.**

**I open this up to anyone who wants to take part. Answer the questions and we will feature them in an upcoming edition.**

### **1. My First Decree**

**What would be the first laws or rules you'd introduce?**

Transphobia and Homophobia to be given zero tolerance. All found guilty to spend their sentences with outrageous drag queens. Prisons to decorated in LGBTQ+ colours.

Keep immigrants and deport racists. I've met many immigrants and racists. In my experience, immigrants are so much nicer than racists.

All people to be born in old age, and end life as an orgasm.

Men to share giving birth with women.

### **2. National Anthem**

**What song would you choose as the global anthem?**

I Feel Love  
Donna Summer

### **3. World Leader's Uniform**

What would everyone in power have to wear?

Rainbows!

Yes, all of my allies (not cabinet or any other official title) would wear rainbow colours and motifs at least 50% of their outfit.

### **4. Global Holiday**

**What holiday would you create that everyone must celebrate?**

- 26th June, the day I came out!
- International Transgender Day of Visibility – March 31st
- Festivals of celebration in pride month – June
- Transgender Day of Remembrance – November
- Coming out day – October

### **5. Your Dream Team**

**Name three people (real or fictional) who'd be in your cabinet.**

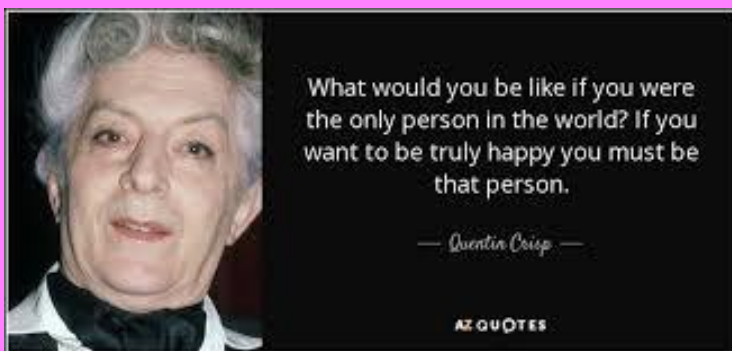
April Ashley –



Emma Watson –



Quentin Crisp —



## 6. Unlikely Invention

What's one fun or weird invention you'd make a reality?

- Trans pill. Take one MtF or FtM pill and within 72 hours. Your body will be transformed fully into the body you should have been born with. I'm not stupid. I know some people need a cooling off period, so you would need the second pill 24 hours later to make it permanent.
- Take calories out of alcohol, chocolate and peanut butter.

## 7. Your Motto

What phrase or slogan would sum up your rule?

*“People say that money is not the key to happiness, but I always figured if you have enough money, you can have a key made.”*  
— Joan Rivers

## 8. The World's Playlist

What five songs would you put on the official world playlist?

- F\*ck off! - Jayne County & The Electric Chairs
- No GDM – Gina X
- You make me feel Mighty Real - Sylvester
- Power in the Darkness – Tom Robinson
- Native Love (Step by Step) – Divine



## 9. Ultimate Power Move

If you could solve one global problem instantly, what would it be?

Trump

## 10. My manifesto



- Ice allowance! Free lolly ices and ice creams for all pensioners in the summer when the temperature rises above 25 degrees.
- Terrorists to be made to wear bells so that we can hear them coming.
- Indicators to be fitted to all BMW cars
- To encourage people to vote, polling booths will be placed on boats to encourage the floating voter.
- Send all misbehaving MPs to Rwanda
- Free chocolate to anyone wearing pink.
- All houses to be fitted with a 3<sup>rd</sup> tap supplying wine.
- Making Donald Trump zero emissions
- Free kebabs for pensioners
- Loud snacks to be banned from theatres and cinemas
- People who express a desire to become a politician to be barred from being a politician.

**Now over to you. Send your answers to 'if I ruled the world' to the email address on our [costablancatgirls.com](http://costablancatgirls.com) website.**

## Follow Carla on Social Media

**My Instagram Page**

**[HTTPS://www.instagram.com/carlasweetlipps12/](https://www.instagram.com/carlasweetlipps12/)**

**My blog:**

**<https://pinkfogtransinspain.wordpress.com/>**

**Listen to my podcast on**

**<https://spotify.link/FhWLMteyFJb>**

**TikTok**

**@carlamoss80**

## Terms to Know

**TRANSGENDER - DESCRIBES A PERSON WHO DOES NOT IDENTIFY AS THE GENDER THEY WERE ASSIGNED AT BIRTH.**

**NON-BINARY - DESCRIBES SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT IDENTIFY WITHIN THE GENDER BINARY.**

**CISGENDER - DESCRIBES A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIES AS THE GENDER THEY WERE ASSIGNED AT BIRTH.**

**GENDER IDENTITY - THE INTERNAL SENSE OF ONE'S OWN GENDER.**

**GENDER EXPRESSION - HOW ONE PRESENTS THEIR GENDER; BOUND BY SOCIAL CONSTRUCT, EPOCH, CULTURE, ETC.**

**source: [pinkmantary.com/terminology](http://pinkmantary.com/terminology)**

# Flying Free

Oh, let me tell you of a woman so true,  
With a heart full of courage, and a spirit brand new.  
She walked through the world, though it wasn't so kind,  
But she knew in her soul, her true self to find.

She once felt a stranger, in a skin not her own,  
A story untold, a seed barely sown.  
But deep in her heart, a fire burned bright,  
A longing to step forward and into the light.

She faced all the whispers, the stares, and the frowns,  
The weight of the world, and its ups and its downs.  
But she held her head high, with a smile so serene,  
For she knew who she was, and what she could mean.

Oh, the journey was rocky, the path often steep,  
But she gathered her strength and took leap after leap  
Through the storms and the shadows, she found her way through,  
And emerged like a rose, in a morning of dew.

Now she dances in sunlight, her laughter rings clear,  
A woman, a warrior, without any fear.  
Her beauty's a beacon, her truth is her shield,  
To the haters no more, will this woman yield.

So here's to the women who dare to be free,  
Who embrace who they are, who they're meant to be.  
May their journeys be gentle, their hearts always true,  
For the world is much better, with women like you.

By Penny Nite



# Celebrating International Women's Day: A Day for All Women

On Saturday, March 8th, the world will once again come together to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD)—a day to recognise the achievements, strength, and resilience of women everywhere. From fighting for equal rights to breaking barriers in politics, business, and sports, women have come a long way, but the journey for true equality continues.

## An Inclusive Celebration

International Women's Day isn't just about one type of woman—it's a day to uplift and celebrate all women, including transgender women. Just like cisgender women, trans women face challenges in society, from workplace discrimination to lack of healthcare access, yet they continue to push forward with courage and determination.

Trans women, such as Laverne Cox, Munroe Bergdorf, and Rachel Levine, have paved the way for others, showing the world that womanhood is not just about biology—it's about identity, strength, and the shared experiences of overcoming barriers.

## Breaking Stereotypes and Building a Better Future

This year's IWD theme is #InspireInclusion, a perfect reminder that true gender equality means ensuring that every woman—cisgender or transgender—has the opportunity to thrive. We must challenge outdated ideas of who "counts" as a woman and instead stand together in solidarity, supporting all who identify as female.

## How You Can Celebrate

- Support women-owned businesses, including those led by transgender women.
- Educate yourself on the issues all women face, including trans rights.
- Use your voice on social media to uplift and celebrate all women.

Women's rights are human rights—and that includes trans women. Let's celebrate together, ensuring that International Women's Day truly represents every woman's story. 🌸💜

#IWD2025 #InspireInclusion  
#TransWomenAreWomen

