

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 4:36 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Good afternoon [REDACTED].

I have reviewed the Court of Appeal decision in *Malcolm Bruce Moncrief-Spittle and Another v Regional Facilities Auckland Limited (RFAL)* [2021] NZCA 142, and based on my analysis (refer below) I consider that the decision to cancel can be justified on the following basis:

- the ability of Turanga staff to manage the risk to staff, patrons etc is limited, as are the resources available to manage the risk;
- the potential for the risk to further escalate up to the date of the event;
- the lack of venue security – it is noted fact the Bruce Mason Centre had internal security and is primarily a function venue, unlike Turanga, was not sufficient for the Court to hold that the decision to cancel was not unreasonable.
- the Turanga's primarily function is that of a Library – while entry to the function room may be restricted the right to restrict entry to the Turanga itself is limited which conceivably heightens the risk relative to a venue such as function specific venue;
- while the decision to cancel the event is a limitation on the groups Bill of Rights Act (BORA) affirmed rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly the inability of the Turanga staff to manage the risk, lack of resource to manage the risk and the potential for further escalation of up the date of the event is a justifiable limitation on those rights.

Without going into the factual background of the case, the Court of Appeal considered the following issues:

(Issue 1: is the decision to cancel reviewable?)

Issue 2: was the decision to cancel unlawful by reason of it being irrational, perverse or arbitrary?

Issue 3: was the cancellation an unreasonable limit on the BORA rights engaged?

Issue 4: did the appellants have standing to bring the proceedings?

Issue 5: did the Judge err in making the costs order against the appellants?

For our purposes the relevant issues are (2) and (3).

Issue 2 - was the decision to cancel unlawful by reason of it being irrational, perverse or arbitrary?

For the decision to be lawful it would seem that the right to free speech must be balanced against Turanga's obligation regarding health and safety of staff, patrons, protesters and the wider community. In the Moncrief case the criticism was whether the decision had been made with proper consultation with the organisers and the police as to security risk and the appropriate steps that could be taken. A failure to wait for input from the Police and to truly engage with the organisers to manage the event before deciding to cancel based on the level of opposition and the risk that could escalate up to the event the Court considered RFAL was entitled to make its own assessment of the risk and the practical steps required to manage the risk based on the knowledge and resources then available to it.

The Court also considered the concept of heckler's veto and reached the view that an outcome where protest or the threat of protest led to the curtailment of the exercise of the freedom of expression it would be unprincipled to treat such an outcome as necessarily perverse.

Issue 3 – was the cancellation an unreasonable limit on the Bill of Rights Act rights engaged?

The Court concluded that the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly were engaged by the decision to cancel the event. When coming to its decision the Court place weight on the following factors:

- The organiser had given no indication that security was likely to be an issue when making the booking yet there was evidence that it was aware of the security risk from it Australian leg of the speakers tour;
- RFAL personnel were experience in the management of the venue and had an internal security advisor;
- The level of protest escalated during the first week of ticket sales and it was reasonable this would continue. Further that protestors would purchase tickets and gain entry thus escalating the security risk.

In though the event Court concluded based on the circumstances outlined it could not be said that the decision was not a rational and reasonable response. RFAL's decision to cancel the event was a justified limitation on the appellants' BORA-affirmed rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly. The fact the venue had experienced management and internal security was not sufficient to sway the Court from its view that the decision to cancel was a justifiable limitation on the appellant's BORA-affirmed rights.

Conclusion

The decision to cancel the venue hire is justifiable.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Manager – Legal Services - Litigation

[REDACTED]
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch
PO Box 73015, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 1:37 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

This relates to the voicemail

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 12:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Hi [REDACTED]
I suggested running the decision by Legal as below and attached.

It seemed to me that our situation was comparable, so worth checking.

Ngā mihi,

Office of Mayor & Chief Executive

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Kia ora [REDACTED]

If you haven't already, I suggest checking with Legal Services with regard to: <https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/assets/cases/2021/2021-NZCA-142.pdf>
It seems to me a similar situation so worth checking we have weighed up the issues as per the decision to come to a lawful decision. Or Legal might advise it is quite different and there is no risk here.

[REDACTED]. Andrew Geddis wrote a generalist analysis here: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/01-05-2021/a-final-legal-coda-to-aucklands-great-southern-molyneux-drama-of-2018/>

Ngā mihi,

Office of Mayor & Chief Executive

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

We have decided to decline the booking request for this event. Please see email below.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 5:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent request to book a venue at Tūranga has been raised with me. After careful consideration I regret to advise you that we are unable to accept your venue hire booking.

The subject matter of this event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.

We are also concerned about the potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

In summary, we are declining this request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold this event at Tūranga.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 2:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 24 May and 25 May emails between TU manager and SUFWNZ

See below. My email from yesterday (24 May) declining the venue hire, and [REDACTED]'s response.
Thanks

Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 9:09 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Dear [REDACTED], needless to say I am shocked at your email. There have been three weeks of emails and phone calls between myself and [REDACTED], with no indication of the booking being declined until a week out from the event! How has this discourtesy been allowed to happen?

Your email is not very explicit about the reason for cancelling Speak Up For Women NZ's talk, and only has an indeterminate reference to the subject matter. We have described the event as "A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties". When did women stop being allowed to talk about these things? In the *Tell us More* section on the online booking form, I have written "Speak Up for Up For Women New Zealand is a grassroots organisation who believes that robust discussion about women's wellbeing, including the BDMMR bill, is necessary and vital to our rights as women." How do you conclude from this that it may be in conflict with the Christchurch City Libraries Customer Code of Conduct?

As for the matter of a possible protest at our talk, there has never been a protest at any Speak Up For Women NZ events, and a cold night in Christchurch is unlikely to encourage the first one. Why did this possibility even enter your head? Were you threatened?

If you're unable to offer a less vague explanation than that which is in your email, I can only surmise that you are discriminating against us as a group. I would hazard a guess that this discrimination is based on non-factual information from biased sources, and that you have no first-hand knowledge of any wrongdoing on our part. It appears that your decision may not have been made on the balance of factual information from all parties.

Going forward, if a group booked a room at Tūranga who wasn't to Speak Up For Women's liking, would you cancel them on the basis of us not liking them, or would you require good evidential reasons to cancel them? There is nothing in our history as a group that gives enough concern to cancel us. Disagreeing with proposed government policies, and giving calm, rational, and testament-based talks about how they might affect us as women is not a good reason to cancel us.

You will be fully aware that cancelling us this close to our event has thrown all our arrangements and promotions into disarray, and indeed people may still turn up on the evening of 1 June at Tūranga for the talk. We would like the booking reinstated, please, as we don't believe there are reasonable grounds for the rejection.

We welcome any questions you may have which will help you to know us better. Spokeswoman [REDACTED] is happy for you to contact her on [REDACTED]

Thank you for your attention to this.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, 24 May 2021 at 17:36
Subject: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Your recent request to book a venue at Tūranga has been raised with me. After careful consideration I regret to advise you that we are unable to accept your venue hire booking.

The subject matter of this event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.

We are also concerned about the potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

In summary, we are declining this request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold this event at Tūranga.

Yours sincerely

Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 2:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 24 May and 25 May emails between TU manager and SUFWNZ

See below. My email from yesterday (24 May) declining the venue hire, and [REDACTED]' response.
Thanks

Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 9:09 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Dear [REDACTED], needless to say I am shocked at your email. There have been three weeks of emails and phone calls between myself and [REDACTED], with no indication of the booking being declined until a week out from the event! How has this discourtesy been allowed to happen?

Your email is not very explicit about the reason for cancelling Speak Up For Women NZ's talk, and only has an indeterminate reference to the subject matter. We have described the event as "A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties". When did women stop being allowed to talk about these things? In the *Tell us More* section on the online booking form, I have written "Speak Up for Up For Women New Zealand is a grassroots organisation who believes that robust discussion about women's wellbeing, including the BDMMR bill, is necessary and vital to our rights as women." How do you conclude from this that it may be in conflict with the Christchurch City Libraries Customer Code of Conduct?

As for the matter of a possible protest at our talk, there has never been a protest at any Speak Up For Women NZ events, and a cold night in Christchurch is unlikely to encourage the first one. Why did this possibility even enter your head? Were you threatened?

If you're unable to offer a less vague explanation than that which is in your email, I can only surmise that you are discriminating against us as a group. I would hazard a guess that this discrimination is based on non-factual information from biased sources, and that you have no first-hand knowledge of any wrongdoing on our part. It appears that your decision may not have been made on the balance of factual information from all parties.

Going forward, if a group booked a room at Tūranga who wasn't to Speak Up For Women's liking, would you cancel them on the basis of us not liking them, or would you require good evidential reasons to cancel them? There is nothing in our history as a group that gives enough concern to cancel us. Disagreeing with proposed government policies, and giving calm, rational, and testament-based talks about how they might affect us as women is not a good reason to cancel us.

You will be fully aware that cancelling us this close to our event has thrown all our arrangements and promotions into disarray, and indeed people may still turn up on the evening of 1 June at Tūranga for the talk. We would like the booking reinstated, please, as we don't believe there are reasonable grounds for the rejection.

We welcome any questions you may have which will help you to know us better. Spokeswoman [REDACTED] is happy for you to contact her on [REDACTED]

Thank you for your attention to this.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, 24 May 2021 at 17:36
Subject: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Your recent request to book a venue at Tūranga has been raised with me. After careful consideration I regret to advise you that we are unable to accept your venue hire booking.

The subject matter of this event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.

We are also concerned about the potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

In summary, we are declining this request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold this event at Tūranga.

Yours sincerely

Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 4:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Advice re venue booking for a controversial organisation

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has suggested that I contact you regarding a group who has requested to book a venue at Tūranga for a public meeting at the beginning of June.

The organisation is "Speak Up for Women" <https://speakupforwomen.nz/> and <https://www.facebook.com/SpeakUp4WomenNZ>

As you can see from their Facebook events they are having a series of public meetings around the country in various venues. It is described by them as:

"The government has stated its intention to push through sex self-identification into law this year. This law is not only unpopular and unscrutinised, it also has wide ranging implications for the rights of women and girls.

Join us to hear the issues, what can be done and to ask any questions you have.
Free public talk, all welcome."

The talk has been booked to take place while Tūranga is open, between 6 & 7pm on a Tuesday evening, in our ground floor meeting room.

We have had some feedback from the community that this group are a transphobic hate group, and that they have previously hosted "quite violently transphobic guest speakers", and that there was "a recent event in Wellington where SUFWNZ supporters yelled abuse at trans women outside the Ministry for Women's offices"

Other events hosted by this group have been cancelled or moved, due to concerns from the venue providers, including Auckland Council and Massey University.

Are the Police able to provide any advice or share information regarding this group and the likely risks for Christchurch City Council if we were to go ahead with this booking request?

You are welcome to phone me if that is more convenient for you.

We would like to respond to the booking request soon, so any info that you are able to share with us in the next day or so would be greatly appreciated.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:29 AM
To: MayorsMessages; Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]; Library
Subject: Are we hosting a hate group?

Hi all,

I received this communication and I think we need to take a serious look at it:

The anti-trans hate group, "Speak Up for Women" is touring the country next month to spread their hateful rhetoric.

We want to make sure the venues that are hosting it are aware that they're hosting a hate group and encourage them not to. Many of these are community venues and should not be used to host events that promote hatred and violence against a vulnerable section of the community.

Kia ora,

I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.

SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.

SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.

In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".

"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.

=====

And the venue details, dates, and e-mails are below

Christchurch - Tūranga Christchurch Central Library - Auaha Hihī / Spark Place Room - 1st of June

library@ccc.govt.nz

mayor@ccc.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Library Assistant @ Orauwata Bishopdale Library

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi [REDACTED], [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] (please share this with relevant colleagues)

Tūranga has recently declined a venues booking request from a group "Speak Up for Women". This was signed off by Mary, and has been included in the Mayor's briefing notes.

[REDACTED], Tūranga Manager, has communicated with the group who are not happy with our decision. A more formal written response will be going to them this afternoon.

We have consulted with Legal Services, who have indicated that we were okay to decline this booking request.

It is possible that representatives and/or supporters of this group may contact other parts of CCC, either to voice their opinion or to request to book an alternative venue. At this stage the decision to decline the booking request only applies to Tūranga venues, but Community Facilities may wish to take advice before accepting a booking from the above group.

I am happy to answer any queries, and provide the rationale behind our recommendation to decline.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:43 AM
To: Robertson, Carolyn
Cc: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
Subject: Event cancelation appeal

Dear Carolyn,

I spoke to [REDACTED] at Turanga Library this morning, as we received an email cancelling our event that is a week away. I/We would like to appeal that decision.

I was hoping to understand and clarify why this is happening. However, I think [REDACTED] was not the best person to speak to as he repeated the same thing, spoke over me and refused to answer my questions. He hung up on me.

As you can imagine, I am a little upset about this. [REDACTED] had corresponded with one of our Christchurch members to move the booking, as the slot we had requested was not going to work. That new time/date was accepted by our member. This all occurred within three business days of 1st May for a booking on 1st June. I understand that your booking system gave her an automated email that said:

"Your request does *not* automatically book the room(s). We will consider your request and let you know if we are able to take your booking. We will contact you within three business days to give you a decision or to ask for more information, using the contact details you gave us below" [emphasis added]

Our member then corresponded with [REDACTED] three business days later and she gave written acceptance of the time and date that [REDACTED] had suggested. Naturally, she thought that the space was confirmed due to what [REDACTED] had written to her and because of the above notification from the booking system.

I would be doubtful if it is customary for the event space administrators to let three weeks elapse before solidly confirming or refusing a booking, leaving only one week's notice. If I am wrong on that, and this is customary, then please could you confirm.

We have since paid for advertising our event in the newspaper, social media, distributed posters in the community and some members have purchased flights to attend.

As much as we might be able to book another suitable venue (although, that is not guaranteed, this late in the day) and attempt to communicate the change of plan, I don't believe it will be possible to avoid some people turning up on the night to Turanga Library.

Please could you give me a call to get this sorted out, on my number below?

In the meantime, perhaps someone in your office might be able to book us a meeting room in another library that is not too far from our original booking. As we are now looking at quite a hefty sunk cost and a short timeframe we will need to get the word out there, today. The nice customer services guy suggested I also copy in your Executive Assistant, so if possible [REDACTED], might you be able to see where we could go, please?

My number is [REDACTED]

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Spokeswoman for Speak Up For Women

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 May 2021 4:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Bad News - SUFWNZ

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 21 May 2021 4:22 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [REDACTED] Bad News

Hi [REDACTED]

Here is the video I was telling you about regarding "Speak up for women"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ37Nn5q8ec>

The part about the assault is at 10:15 if you are interested.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]
Library Liaison – Youth
She/Her Pronouns
Hapori | Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: MayorsMessages
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 11:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Are we hosting a hate group?

Hi Both,

I will stand down on this but forward anything further we get in.

What are your thoughts on providing a short note to Lianne via the Weekly update on this matter? A couple of lines will suffice.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 11:18 AM
To: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Are we hosting a hate group?

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] from Turanga is dealing with this and has declined their request to host their event at Turanga.

Joss

From: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Are we hosting a hate group?

Another one...

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:29 AM
To: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>; Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Library <library@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Are we hosting a hate group?

Hi all,

I received this communication and I think we need to take a serious look at it:

The anti-trans hate group, "Speak Up for Women" is touring the country next month to spread their hateful rhetoric.

We want to make sure the venues that are hosting it are aware that they're hosting a hate group and encourage them not to. Many of these are community venues and should not be used to host events that promote hatred and violence against a vulnerable section of the community.

Kia ora,

I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June.

SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.

SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.

In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".

"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.

=====

And the venue details, dates, and e-mails are below
Christchurch - Tūranga Christchurch Central Library - Auaha Hihī / Spark Place Room - 1st of June
library@ccc.govt.nz
mayor@ccc.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Library Assistant @ Orauhata Bishopdale Library

From: MayorsMessages
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 9:40 AM
To: Robertson, Carolyn
Cc: Mayor's Office-Advisors; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Hi Carolyn,

I see this came into the Mayor's Messages and Libraries inboxes.

I just wanted to make sure you were aware of it and there appears to be some history to it: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/117051427/whats-a-terf-anyway-behind-the-speak-up-for-women-debacle>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 8:48 PM
To: Library <library@ccc.govt.nz>; MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Concerns about an event at Turanga Christchurch Central Library next month

Kia ora,

I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue Turanga Christchurch Central Library on the 1st of June

SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population.

SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights.

In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community".

"Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue.

Nga mihi,

[REDACTED]

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 2:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Was it [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] from Legal?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 2:23 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Thanks [REDACTED] from Legal, who was your contact person there so I am not repeating information they have already considered.

Regards

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:48 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] (please share this with relevant colleagues)

Tūranga has recently declined a venues booking request from a group "Speak Up for Women". This was signed off by Mary, and has been included in the Mayor's briefing notes.

[REDACTED] Tūranga Manager, has communicated with the group who are not happy with our decision. A more formal written response will be going to them this afternoon.

We have consulted with Legal Services, who have indicated that we were okay to decline this booking request.

It is possible that representatives and/or supporters of this group may contact other parts of CCC, either to voice their opinion or to request to book an alternative venue. At this stage the decision to decline the booking request only applies to Tūranga venues, but Community Facilities may wish to take advice before accepting a booking from the above group.

I am happy to answer any queries, and provide the rationale behind our recommendation to decline.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: Turanga Bookings
Sent: Thursday, 6 May 2021 9:54 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Copy of your request to Christchurch City Libraries - Turanga Room Booking Request form

Hi [REDACTED].

Sorry for the delay, I don't work on the weekends. Unfortunately, due to existing booking we are fully booked on your requested date. Would you have a back up date for me to check? Also just a reminder library close by 8pm, additional afterhours charge will apply in addition of room hire. For the purpose of your event it will be TSB Space as Apark Place is available for bookings under their focus. Business, Innovation, Technology, Education.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information on our facilities; and we are happy to look in to availability on alternative dates if requested. For information about alternative Christchurch City Council venues for hire, please see <https://ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/venues-for-hire>

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Bookings Coordinator
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 May 2021 6:41 PM
To: Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Copy of your request to Christchurch City Libraries - Tūranga Room Booking Request form

Hi there, I'm just following up on my booking request below, as I don't appear to have had an answer from you within the three working days stipulated.

Much appreciated.

Regards,

On Sat, 1 May 2021 at 10:39, Tūranga Room Booking Request – customer copy <donotreply@bibliocommons.com> wrote:

Thank you for your recent request to book a room in Tūranga.

Your request does *not* automatically book the room(s). We will consider your request and let you know if we are able to take your booking. We will contact you within three business days to give you a decision or to ask for more information, using the contact details you gave us below.

Here is a copy of your request.

About you
Name [REDACTED]
Phone [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Type of organisation Community Group
Name of organisation Speak Up for Women New Zealand
Address of organisation [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
About the event
Number of people attending 50
Type of event Talk
Brief description of the event A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties.
Is there a charge to attend the event? No

Are food and beverages being served?

No

Are food and beverages being sold?

No

Will you be serving alcohol at your event?

No

About the space you need

Select room(s) you want to book

Spark Place (total capacity 65)

Start Date

02/06/2021

End Date

02/06/2021

Preferred Start Time

06:30 pm

End Time

09:30 pm

Further information

Tell us more

Speak Up for Up For Women New Zealand is a grassroots organisation who believes that robust discussion about women's wellbeing, including the BDMMR bill, is necessary and vital to our rights as women.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 11:01 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Advice re venue booking for a controversial organisation

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 10:51 a.m.
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Advice re venue booking for a controversial organisation

Thanks heaps [REDACTED], this seems like a line call, with risks on both sides of the ledger, so I would suggest you and Carolyn check in with Mary on it.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Manager Civic & International Relations
Office of the Chief Executive

DDI [REDACTED]
Mobile [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Web ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council
Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street
PO Box 73016, Christchurch, 8154



Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 10:35 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Advice re venue booking for a controversial organisation

Morning Gents

Had Police Intel do a bit of digging into this group as per the commentary below

"Speak up for women is a public interest group that promotes women's sex based rights. They were initially formed by like-minded people to campaign against legislative changes proposed for sex self-identification.

By their own website it appears that a large proportion of their members belong to the Lesbian and Bi-sexual community. It appears that the nature of their campaign has attracted complaints from the Trans community in public forums in regards to the alleged transphobic message.

They are not a group that has been recorded as being involved in any form of violent protest, disorderly behaviour. I am not aware of any members charged/convicted of a hate related crime".

Probably doesn't help your decision to host or not greatly. However I do not that other institutions including Universities have said no.

Ultimately your decision but the safe option may be to regretfully decline.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Operations Manager | Canterbury | New Zealand Police
M [REDACTED] E [REDACTED]
Canterbury District Headquarters, Lichfield Street, PO Box 2109, Christchurch 8011.



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 9:09 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Advice re venue booking for a controversial organisation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED] – you can appreciate that CCC needs very robust grounds indeed for not letting community groups use our spaces, but that similarly we'll take a shelacking in the media if we let them use our space but they come out with hate speech etc....thanks in advance for your views.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Manager Civic & International Relations
Office of the Chief Executive

DDI [REDACTED]
Mobile [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Web ccc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 4:56 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Advice re venue booking for a controversial organisation

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has suggested that I contact you regarding a group who has requested to book a venue at Tūranga for a public meeting at the beginning of June.

The organisation is "Speak Up for Women" <https://speakupforwomen.nz/> and <https://www.facebook.com/SpeakUp4WomenNZ>

As you can see from their Facebook events they are having a series of public meetings around the country in various venues. It is described by them as:

"The government has stated its intention to push through sex self-identification into law this year. This law is not only unpopular and unscrutinised, it also has wide ranging implications for the rights of women and girls.
Join us to hear the issues, what can be done and to ask any questions you have.
Free public talk, all welcome."

The talk has been booked to take place while Tūranga is open, between 6 & 7pm on a Tuesday evening, in our ground floor meeting room.

We have had some feedback from the community that this group are a transphobic hate group, and that they have previously hosted "quite violently transphobic guest speakers", and that there was "a recent event in Wellington where SUFWNZ supporters yelled abuse at trans women outside the Ministry for Women's offices"

Other events hosted by this group have been cancelled or moved, due to concerns from the venue providers, including Auckland Council and Massey University.

Are the Police able to provide any advice or share information regarding this group and the likely risks for Christchurch City Council if we were to go ahead with this booking request?

You are welcome to phone me if that is more convenient for you.

We would like to respond to the booking request soon, so any info that you are able to share with us in the next day or so would be greatly appreciated.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



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Christchurch City Council
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

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WARNING

The information contained in this email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information. It may also be subject to the provisions of section 50 of the Policing Act 2008, which creates an offence to have unlawful possession of Police property. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or have received this message in error, you must not peruse, use, distribute or copy this message or any of its contents.

Also note, the views expressed in this message may not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Police. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Turanga Bookings
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 10:18 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: FW: Copy of your request to Christchurch City Libraries - Turanga Room Booking Request form

Hi [REDACTED]

This appears to be the whole email trail. [REDACTED] is away [REDACTED] today.

It appears that the booking may not be fully confirmed yet.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 5:45 a.m.
To: Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FW: Copy of your request to Christchurch City Libraries - Turanga Room Booking Request form

Good morning [REDACTED], please feel free to send me the booking below confirmation to sign and return, and the invoice to pay, at your earliest convenience.

To reiterate the details - I have booked the Auaha Hibi/SparkPlace for 1 June, 5.30pm - 7.30pm. A meetup beforehand is desired for instruction on how to use the AV equipment.

Much appreciated.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

On Tue, 11 May 2021 at 12:53, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED], thank you for the suggested date of Tuesday 1 June - we'll take it, please. The booking will be from 5.30pm - 7.30pm, and upon further discussion in our group it will be a free public event after all - i.e. no tickets will be sold. However, thank you for the offer of \$15/hr even with tickets sold. We appreciate that support, even if no longer required.

I have reviewed the documentation provided, and do not need to see the room before booking, however, would like an induction on how to use the AV equipment prior to the event. I should be able to come in any time next week. Let me know what time/s suit you, and we can make an arrangement.

Thanks and regards,

[REDACTED]

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

On Tue, 11 May 2021 at 11:21, Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

How about 1st June? We can support you this time with \$15.00 per hour in Spark Place. If you charging for the event normally will be community event rate at \$51.00 per hour.

We are providing you with information on the conditions of hire below, and further venue details can be found in the attached document. Please contact us if you have any questions, and/or to take the next steps.

Conditions of hire

By hiring this Council facility you would be agreeing to comply with the conditions and responsibilities of use outlined here: <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/venues-for-hire/hiring-a-council-community-facility/>

Please note the following amendments to the Health & Safety section of the conditions and responsibilities when using Tūranga:

- As hirer you are not required to act as Building Warden; Tūranga staff or a Christchurch City Libraries after-hours host will be on site and will perform Building Warden duties.

Next steps

Please review the documentation we have provided (including the conditions of hire), and if you wish to proceed, arrange a time to visit the venue to confirm that it meets your requirements and to have an induction in the use of equipment.

If you then confirm your booking:


- We will provide a booking confirmation and invoice
- We ask that you return your signed booking confirmation by email before your event

Look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Bookings Coordinator
Hapori Community Level 1

 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 May 2021 5:20 AM
To: Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FW: Copy of your request to Christchurch City Libraries - Tūranga Room Booking Request form

Hi [REDACTED], just following up again on the booking request below. Is it possible to finalise this booking today, please?

Thanks and regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Virus-free. www.avast.com

On Thu, 6 May 2021 at 14:09, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED], thanks for getting back to me.

Noted that the library closes at 8pm, so I will amend the booking time to 5:30pm to 7:30pm

The other dates that would suit are as follows in order of preference -

- 1) between 31 May and 4 June
- 2) between 8 - 11 June
- 3) between 21 - 25 June
- 4) between 14 - 18 June

If you can let me know what dates are available during the above selection, I will make a booking for one of those dates.

Also, there will be a nominal charge of \$5 for the event attendees. Can you confirm that room hire is still \$15/hour, please?

Thanks and regards,
[REDACTED]

On Thu, 6 May 2021 at 09:53, Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz> wrote:


Hi [REDACTED],

Sorry for the delay, I don't work on the weekends. Unfortunately, due to existing booking we are fully booked on your requested date. Would you have a back up date for me to check? Also just a reminder library close by 8pm, additional afterhours charge will apply in addition of room hire. For the purpose of your event it will be TSB Space as Apark Place is available for bookings under their focus. Business, Innovation, Technology, Education.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information on our facilities; and we are happy to look in to availability on alternative dates if requested. For information about alternative Christchurch City Council venues for hire, please see <https://ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/venues-for-hire>

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Bookings Coordinator
Hapori Community Level 1

 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 May 2021 6:41 PM
To: Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Copy of your request to Christchurch City Libraries - Tūranga Room Booking Request form

Hi there, I'm just following up on my booking request below, as I don't appear to have had an answer from you within the three working days stipulated.

Much appreciated.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent request to book a room in Tūranga.

Your request does *not* automatically book the room(s). We will consider your request and let you know if we are able to take your booking. We will contact you within three business days to give you a decision or to ask for more information, using the contact details you gave us below.

Here is a copy of your request.

About you
Name [REDACTED]
Phone [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Type of organisation Community Group
Name of organisation Speak Up for Women New Zealand
Address of organisation [REDACTED]
About the event
Number of people attending 50
Type of event Talk
Brief description of the event A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties.
Is there a charge to attend the event? No
Are food and beverages being served? No
Are food and beverages being sold? No
Will you be serving alcohol at your event? No
About the space you need
Select room(s) you want to book Spark Place (total capacity 65)
Start Date 02/06/2021
End Date 02/06/2021
Preferred Start Time 06:30 pm
End Time 09:30 pm
Further information
Tell us more Speak Up for Up For Women New Zealand is a grassroots organisation who believes that robust discussion about women's wellbeing, including the BDMMR bill, is necessary and vital to our rights as women.

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Christchurch City Council

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From: Turanga Bookings
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 9:32 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Meeting follow-up

Hi [REDACTED] & [REDACTED],

FYI, from the Symposium committee I mentioned last week.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 May 2021 5:07 PM
To: Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting follow-up

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for your assurance that Tūranga is committed to understanding and addressing the concerns raised regarding Speak up for Women's (SUFW) upcoming event, booked for the 4th of June. It was great having the chance to speak with you on Thursday.

I have confidence that your investigation will find that SUFW's outlook and reputation as a hate group is incompatible with Tūranga's principles of care. SUFW advocate against human rights for gender diverse people and have shown themselves to be committed to spreading transphobic misinformation.

I know that the PATHA Executive is delighted to be holding PATHA's trans health symposium at a venue with a world class reputation for inclusivity and community care. I have discussed this response with them and copied-in [REDACTED] the PATHA President. It's heartening for us to read that Tūranga supports gender diverse young people and their rainbow whānau in hosting Qtopia's monthly Kindred event.

SUFW's incompatibility with Tūranga's kaupapa is very clear to us. In my role as the PATHA Symposium coordinator, it's important this is resolved promptly as registrations are about to open for the Symposium. We all want to be able to reassure PATHA's registrants and members that they can rest easy knowing the Symposium venue isn't a platform for transphobic organising and rhetoric. As we discussed, SUFW have already been [deplatformed by Massey University in Wellington](#) after a 6000 signature petition was delivered to the vice chancellor, Jan Thomas. Auckland Council have also previously moved SUFW from a council venue because of health and [safety concerns for takatāpui and trans staff](#).

If there's anything I can do to support this issue being resolved quickly, please do let me know. As discussed, here is a link to [Gender Minorities Aotearoa's educational posters](#).

Ngā manaakitanga,

[REDACTED]
PATHA Symposium coordinator

--
[REDACTED]
They/them
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 9:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Speak up for women event at Turanga, 1 June
Importance: High

Please see email below. Can you forward me any details of this booking request, dates, venues, and info received by [REDACTED] asap please. I will seek some advice on this one.
Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 9:53 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: R [REDACTED]
Subject: Speak up for women event at Tūranga, 1 June
Importance: High

Kia ora [REDACTED]
We've received a Facebook message from someone name [REDACTED] about an event booking at Tūranga for a group called Speak Up for Women NZ. I will submit this via Hybris as well - I'm just waiting to hear back from [REDACTED] if she'd like a reply, and for her contact details and will complete the Hybris form when I have that but just to give you a heads up, below is the content of her message and some context.

"Kia ora
A group opposing human rights for transgender people has booked a room in your facility for a public talk on 1 June. The aim of the group "Speak Up For Women NZ" is to stop the government from changing the Birth Registration law to enable transgender people to more easily get certificates which match their identity. SUFWNZ argues that such a change would make things less safe for women (assigned female at birth) but ignores the situation for (trans) women who were assigned male at birth and who live as women but who may not be able to have or afford surgery.

I encourage you to check SUFWNZ website and their booking for the Tūranga Christchurch Central Library - Auaha Hihi / Spark Place Room. The event may not descend to the depths of a recent event in Wellington where SUFWNZ supporters yelled abuse at trans women outside the Ministry for Women's offices. The event could still be unpleasant for gender minority staff and library users and may not comply with your Code of Conduct for events.

<https://speakupforwomen.nz/lets-talk-about-self-id-2021/>

Cheers, [REDACTED]

The context of this is that we have also had feedback in the last week about transphobic titles that we hold in our catalogue (this feedback has been forwarded to [REDACTED]), and [REDACTED] has made LLT aware that the upcoming Harry Potter events might also present a risk, given that author J. K. Rowling has repeatedly expressed transphobic views.

My personal experience of interacting on social media with spokes people for Speak Up For Women is that they are anti-trans, or TERFs (Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists).

[REDACTED]
Digital Library Web Content Lead

[REDACTED]
Web: <http://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/christchurchlib>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchCityLibraries>
Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/christchurchcitylibraries>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/christchurchlib/>

From: Turanga Bookings
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 3:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Speak Up for Women

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 2:10 PM
To: Turanga Bookings <TurangaBookings@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Speak Up for Women

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I hope you're well!

I'm just reaching out because I've seen that Speak Up for Women are hosting an event at Tūranga on the 1st of June, and I'd really like to express my concern.

You may be unaware, but Speak Up for Women are a transphobic hate group who advocate against human rights for transgender people. Auckland Council have previously moved one of their events out of a Council venue for this reason, and I'd really recommend that Tūranga consider doing the same.

Speak Up for Women are advocating against legal gender recognition and healthcare access for transgender people, and against teaching about gender in schools. They've previously hosted some quite violently transphobic guest speakers.

We love Tūranga - it's such a beautiful, safe place, and such a wonderful venue - but I really feel a Council venue - especially one so beloved! - isn't the right place for an event like this.

If you'd like to, [REDACTED] and I are so happy to chat about this in person, or over the phone! We're really here to help in any way we can.

Aroha nui,
Jen

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Robertson, Carolyn
Sent: Friday, 21 May 2021 11:24 AM
To: Richardson, Mary
Subject: FW: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi Mary
Please see [REDACTED] recommendation that we decline a venue booking for the advocacy group, 'Speak up for Women' for the reasons he outlines below. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have considered this carefully and consider on balance that the risks (both H&S and reputational) could be significant. Can you please let me know whether you have any concerns with this approach before we decline the booking request?

We should let the group know today if possible.

Thanks
Carolyn

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 5:03 PM
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Kia ora Carolyn

The advocacy group 'Speak up for Women' has made a request to hire Spark Place at Turanga. They would like to hold a public talk here on 1 June from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. The hirer is [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

The event is billed on the [Speak up for Women website](#) as "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification", and in their booking request they refer to it as "A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties".

We have some safety concerns about this event, based on past experience at Auckland Council (in 2019) and at Massey University (in 2020). See the following links:
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/116447480/event-with-feminist-speaker-banned-from-twitter-moved-by-auckland-council-amid-safety-fears?rm=a>
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/116640486/massey-university-cancels-controversial-feminism-2020-event-due-to-health-safety-and-wellbeing-concerns?rm=a>

Options for managing this request are:

Accept the venue booking, and allow the event to go ahead at Turanga: Not recommended due to health, safety and wellbeing risks, and reputational risks.

Offer the hirer an alternative CCC-owned venue, such as a suburban hall: We are exploring this further with Council colleagues. This may be an option, but would transfer many of the H&S and reputational risks to another part of CCC, which is not an ideal outcome.

Decline the venue booking: This is our recommended action, based primarily on the reasons outlined below.

I recommend we decline the request to hire the venue to Speak Up for Women NZ, due to:

- Our concern about potential risk of disruption at Turanga due to protests by members of the public.
- Our inability to guarantee the health and safety of staff and customers at Turanga.
- The risk that Turanga and Christchurch City Libraries would no longer be regarded as a safe and welcoming space for one particular sector of the community. This risk is already highlighted in the customer written complaints received in recent days.
- The subject matter being potentially in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy".
- The potential risk to the brand reputation of Spark (Spark is a Foundation Partner for Christchurch City Libraries, and their name is on this venue).

Written complaints have already been received this week from other library users. I have significant concerns around potential disruption and the likely physical and emotional safety impact for some staff and customers.

In this instance, I believe that safety and inclusivity outweighs freedom of expression. I recommend that we regretfully decline the request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold their event at Turanga.

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Turanga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Turanga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary
Subject: FW: Turanga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

[REDACTED]

We have decided to decline the booking request for this event. Please see email below.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 5:37 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Your recent request to book a venue at Tūranga has been raised with me. After careful consideration I regret to advise you that we are unable to accept your venue hire booking.

The subject matter of this event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.


We are also concerned about the potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

In summary, we are declining this request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold this event at Tūranga.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 5:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Previous controversial booking enquiry
Attachments: RE: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

This one never got to the stage where Council had to refuse it.

Given the interest on social media about SUFWNZ and their event that is being advertised as being in Spark Place , I wonder if it might not be too long before there is a media enquiry about the booking/event? Do we need to give Joss or Di a heads up?

I am also thinking that this is something that Spark would not want to be seen to be in association with, given their stance on diversity & inclusivity: <https://www.sparknz.co.nz/sustainability/diversity-and-inclusion/>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 4:27 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?

Sorry [REDACTED], I thought I had hit Send earlier, it didn't work

See attached

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 3:34 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time this afternoon. Can you send through any documentation regarding the controversial bookings you mentioned?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 10:59 a.m.
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?

Hi [REDACTED]

I see you are busy for the next 90 minutes and then from 1 pm onwards.

Does 12:30 suit you to chat?

Otherwise, let me know a times that suits you.

Regards

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 10:17 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?

Hi [REDACTED]

I am checking as to Community Facilities' policies for accepting bookings from organisations that might be considered controversial or inflammatory.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request
Date: Tuesday, 1 May 2018 8:00:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi Mary,

In response to your question regarding what facility they want to hire and when, I understand they are not fussy which one but they want one for a couple of hours in May for 20 people.

On the New Zealand National Front website, it could be either late Saturday afternoon, 5 May or late in the morning on Sunday 6th May. It is more likely to be for Sunday 6th May.

I am working with the former team and Legal to determine what policies Council has if any. I will respond once I have further information.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Richardson, Mary
Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 8:45 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request
Hi [REDACTED] could you also please tell me what facility they want to hire and for what time Plus send me policies outline below
Thanks

Hi - I am wanting the community facilities policy or strategy document and any policy regarding renting community facilities.

Could you please send them to me first thing in the morning.

Mary

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 5:33 PM
To: Richardson, Mary [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Hi Mary

See email below from [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Regards

[REDACTED]

Personal Assistant [REDACTED]

Head of Community Support, Governance & Partnerships Unit
Customer & Community Group

[REDACTED]

Web www.ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council

Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch, 8011
PO Box 73016, Christchurch, 8154

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 3:19 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Hi [REDACTED],

I spoke to [REDACTED], she confirmed it was unlikely that a policy was in place to exclude any groups. However, I have checked the Christchurch City Council Policy Register:

- <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/policies/>

There are at a stretch, potentially three,

1. Social Wellbeing Policy
2. Statement of Intent Policy
3. Partnerships with the Private Sector Policy

See below for more information.

- Social Wellbeing Policy
 - o <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/policies/community-policies/social-wellbeing-policy/>

Social Wellbeing Policy

Council, 24 August 2000.

The Christchurch City Council is committed to enhancing the social wellbeing of its citizens and communities.

Outcomes

- People participate in community life and have [a] sense of belonging and identity.
- Living standards are sufficient to ensure everyone can meet their immediate needs, participate in society, develop their potential and live lives they find fulfilling.
- Economic outcomes generate and distribute sufficient wealth for all.
- All people, no matter age, race, gender, social and economic position or abilities, have opportunities to contribute to society and develop their potential.
- Resources are fairly distributed among citizens, communities, regions and sectors.
- The Treaty of Waitangi is honoured. Cultural diversity is respected.
- People and communities participate in decision making and political processes.

Priorities

- engage citizens and communities
- enhance community participation
- ensure fair distribution of resources
- increase meaningful work
- reduce barriers to access
- reduce disparity
- respect the Treaty
- respect cultural diversity
- support community infrastructure.
- Statement of Intent Policy

Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 3:19 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Hi [REDACTED],

I spoke to [REDACTED], she confirmed it was unlikely that a policy was in place to exclude any groups. However, I have checked the Christchurch City Council Policy Register:

- <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/policies/>

There are at a stretch, potentially three,

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- Social Wellbeing Policy
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Social Wellbeing Policy

Council, 24 August 2000.

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Priorities

- engage citizens and communities
- enhance community participation
- ensure fair distribution of resources
- increase meaningful work
- reduce barriers to access
- reduce disparity
- respect the Treaty
- respect cultural diversity
- support community infrastructure.
- Statement of Intent Policy

Statement of Intent policy
Council, 28 June 2001.

Statement of intent regarding the Council's relationship with the community and voluntary sectors

The Council notes, as an expression of the commitment of the Council to work with the voluntary sector:

Statement of Intent (Summary)

This Statement of Intent is an expression of the Council's commitment to work with the voluntary sector for the betterment of the community, to champion and support voluntary activity, and to jointly influence national policy where appropriate.

The underlying philosophy of this Statement of Intent is that the voluntary sector is fundamental to the development of a democratic, socially inclusive and prosperous society. Voluntary groups, as independent, not-for-profit organisations, bring distinctive value to Christchurch and fulfil a role that is distinct from both the state and the market. Voluntary organisations make major tangible and difficult to quantify contributions to the social, cultural, economic and political life of the city.

It is acknowledged that not all voluntary organisations will have an interest in seeking a relationship with the Council. Some will prefer to pursue their own objectives without reference to Council. Others may find themselves more often in opposition to Council than in collaboration. On the occasions when both the Council and the voluntary sector organisations choose to work together, this Statement of Intent sets out the principles of Council's action.

Aims

The Council aims to develop robust relationships between Council and the voluntary sector so we can build a better future for the people of Christchurch.

It is acknowledged that the voluntary sector and Council have their own spheres of action with different roles, responsibilities and resources. This Statement clarifies Council's view of the respective roles and responsibilities and identifies the Council's commitments to the voluntary sector.

Actions

This Statement is not viewed as an end in itself. Specific actions will be developed setting out how the Council will put these values and commitments into practice, with target dates where appropriate.

Values

The Council's dealing with the voluntary sector are based on the following values:

- Active citizenship – participation of people in society through community involvement, and engagement in decision making and policy implementation processes.

- Democratic society – which acknowledges the value of voluntary sector activity and upholds the right of citizens to associate freely with another in pursuit of common purposes. A society that enables all its citizens to participate, to share rights and responsibilities, and which incorporates an independent voluntary sector.
- Diversity – which welcomes the diversity of identities, interests and abilities within Christchurch and upholds the right of each interest group to speak on its own behalf.
- Effectiveness – using limited resources so as to maximise positive change for people. This reflects a resolve to carefully select the issues to jointly work on, to specifically target programmes, and projects, and to focus on the structural forces in society that keep people in poverty or disadvantage.
- Equity – a fair and equitable distribution of power and resources, recognising that reducing inequality offers the prospect of greater social wellbeing.
- Social justice – through the pursuit of fairness, tolerance and social cohesion, opposing all forms of discrimination and ensuring the participation of those who are marginalised
- Sustainable development – that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Treaty of Waitangi – honouring the Treaty of Waitangi and working to support the practices of partnership.

Commitments

In working with voluntary organisations, volunteers and community development groups, the Council makes the following commitments:

- Respect – The Council values the contribution the voluntary sector makes to the social, economic, environmental and cultural life of the city. It will respect and champion the independence of the sector, including the right of voluntary organisations to determine their own priorities, manage their own affairs, develop their own models of good practice and comment on and challenge Council and Government policy, irrespective of any funding relationship that might exist.
- Representation – The Council recognises that meaningful representation improves policy development and enhances the design and delivery of programmes. It will support and extend opportunities for the sector to articulate local needs and priorities to central, regional and local governments, private sector agencies, service providers and other agencies. It will involve the sector in the process of developing and monitoring policies, strategies and programmes.
- Resourcing – The Council acknowledges that the provision of funding and other forms of support is an important means of enhancing the sector's ability to contribute to the wellbeing of the city. The Council will develop and follow best practice in funding and resourcing of the sector.
- Relationships – The Council recognises that the Council and the sector have distinct yet complementary roles and that there is added value in working in co-operatively [working co-operatively] towards common aims. It will promote effective collaborations based on openness, trust and mutual recognition. The Council will work to honour the specific Treaty relationship between iwi/Maori and the crown.

Noted by the Council as a Statement of Intent as an expression of the commitment of the Council to work with the voluntary sector, 24 May 2001.

A final paragraph was added as an amendment by Council, 28 June 2001:

- Expectations – The Council has a responsibility to be publicly accountable for resources. While the Council is committed to reducing undue accountability costs on the sector, it expects voluntary organisations to account for any public funds received in such ways as to command public confidence. This includes meeting reporting and accountability obligations, and evaluation of programme effectiveness.
- Partnerships with the Private Sector policy
 - <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/policies/business-policies/partnerships-with-the-private-sector-policy/>
 - At the bottom of that policy, it states the following:

Circumstances where Council will consider a partnership

The Council may consider entering into a partnership if it would allow access to opportunities within the private sector for innovation, risk minimisation, expertise, capacity, or capital funding. Council will not enter into a partnership unless it:

- will contribute to the achievement of community outcomes identified in this LTCCP; and
- will promote the social, economic, cultural or environmental wellbeing of the city; and
- is a prudent, efficient and effective use of the Council's resources; and
- is in the public interest.

In determining whether or not a partnership is in the public interest, the Council will consider the following:

- effect on individuals and community
- transparency
- equity
- public access
- consumer rights
- security
- privacy
- governance arrangements
- accountability arrangements
- operational arrangements
- financial arrangements
- specific risk management mechanisms.

Regards



Community Facilities Specialist

Citizen & Community Group

DDI

Fax

Mobile

Web: www.ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council

53 Hereford Street, Christchurch, 8011

PO Box 73016, Christchurch, 8154

Everyone's Christchurch

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From: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 1:47 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Hi [REDACTED],

As discussed, your consideration and direction please.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Community Facilities Specialist

Citizen & Community Group

[REDACTED]

Web ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council

Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

PO Box 73016, Christchurch, 8154

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 27 April 2018 2:09 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Booking enquiry

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] called wanting to book one of our halls for a meeting for approx. 20 people

This is for the National Front meeting. The customer advised that the meeting is nothing racial and has nothing to do with skin heads.

My common sense tells me that this will be a no however I have been advised to escalate to you.

I am more than happy to convey your decision to the customer.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Customer Service Representative

Citizen & Customer Services

[REDACTED]

Email info@ccc.govt.nz

Web ccc.govt.nz

Email [REDACTED]

Web ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council

Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

PO Box 73016, Christchurch, 8154

Please consider the environment before printing this email



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 2:41 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Head of Community Support, Governance & Partnerships Unit

Customer & Community Group

Web: www.ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch City Council

53 Hereford Street, Christchurch, 8011

PO Box 73016, Christchurch, 8154

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From: Richardson, Mary

Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 2:07 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Can you please send me a copy of our relevant policies

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 1:53 PM

To: Richardson, Mary [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Hi Mary

Just a heads up. The NZ national front has requested the use of a meeting room, for a public meeting, in one of Council's community facilities on Saturday 5 may.

I'm not aware of any policy that says we exclude the use of people on the grounds of political etc beliefs, however, I wanted to check with you about the use of a council owned facility for this group.

Appreciate your feedback/ suggested approach.

Lester

Head of Community Support, Governance & Partnerships Unit

Customer & Community Group

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 2:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi folks
Advice was from [REDACTED], Manager – Legal Services – Litigation

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch

PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154

ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 2:34 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 2:23 p.m.
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Thanks [REDACTED] from Legal, who was your contact person there so I am not repeating information they have already considered.

Regards

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:48 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi [REDACTED], [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] (please share this with relevant colleagues)

Tūranga has recently declined a venues booking request from a group "Speak Up for Women". This was signed off by Mary, and has been included in the Mayor's briefing notes.

[REDACTED], Tūranga Manager, has communicated with the group who are not happy with our decision. A more formal written response will be going to them this afternoon.

We have consulted with Legal Services, who have indicated that we were okay to decline this booking request.

It is possible that representatives and/or supporters of this group may contact other parts of CCC, either to voice their opinion or to request to book an alternative venue. At this stage the decision to decline the booking request only applies to Tūranga venues, but Community Facilities may wish to take advice before accepting a booking from the above group.

I am happy to answer any queries, and provide the rationale behind our recommendation to decline.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch

PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154

ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council

From: Richardson, Mary
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 9:20 AM
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DRAFT Notes for Mayor

Hi – happy with this

From: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 7:06 am
To: Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]; Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: DRAFT Notes for Mayor

Hi Mary

Attached is the advice from the Legal Team in regards to the Speak up for Women event booking cancellation.

Given that the Mayor's staff are already aware of this, due to a complaint arriving via the Mayor's messages yesterday, [REDACTED] drafted the mail below. Please let me know if you're happy for us to send the email and attachment to the Mayor's Advisors this morning or whether you'd prefer this to be included in the weekly Mayor's report.

FYI, we have received 7 complaints from the public to date about this event.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 5:12 PM
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DRAFT Notes for Mayor

A draft email to Mayor Dalziel's office:

Library management have this week declined a request by the group Speak up for Women NZ to hire Spark Place in Tūranga for an event on 1 June. The [event](#) is billed as 'Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification'. Libraries have received six written complaints about this proposed event.

Our decision to decline this venue hire was based on the following rationale:

- The event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct, particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.
- There is a potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

Speak up for Women have today appealed this decision in an email to Libraries and Information Manager Carolyn Robertson. They have asked Libraries to find them another venue, as they have just a week to secure a location for their event.

I have sought advice today from CCC's Legal team. That response is attached for your information. The legal opinion is that "the decision to cancel the venue hire is justifiable".

Carolyn Robertson has drafted a letter to Speak up for Women NZ. This letter contains an apology for not communicating our decision until this week, but also highlights the fact that customer complaints in recent days gave us a greater understanding of the risks associated with hosting this event. The letter will reiterate our position that this event cannot be held at a Christchurch City Libraries venue.

Carolyn, if you're happy for [REDACTED] to send this to Lianne's office, I will start drafting that letter, to be sent to them first thing tomorrow. OK?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 3:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Event cancelation appeal

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly.
As we would want to appeal this decision, please could you, in the meantime hold that event booking for us - as time is of the essence.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

On Tue, 25 May 2021, 14:09 [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email raising your concerns.
I'm replying on behalf of Carolyn Robertson, who is out of the office for a couple of days. Carolyn has directed her Acting Manager to seek advice on this matter.
We acknowledge that you are concerned about the timeframe regarding the booking, so we will be in touch again as soon as we have further information.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Team Leader Management Support/PA
Administration Team

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:43 AM
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Event cancelation appeal

Dear Carolyn,
I spoke to [REDACTED] at Turanga Library this morning, as we received an email cancelling our event that is a week away. I/We would like to appeal that decision.
I was hoping to understand and clarify why this is happening. However, I think [REDACTED] was not the best person to speak to as he repeated the same thing, spoke over me and refused to answer my questions. He hung up on me.
As you can imagine, I am a little upset about this. [REDACTED] had corresponded with one of our Christchurch members to move the booking, as the slot we had requested was not going to work. That new time/date was accepted by our member. This all occurred within three business days of 1st May for a booking on 1st June. I understand that your booking system gave her an automated email that said:
"Your request does *not* automatically book the room(s). We will consider your request and let you know if we are able to take your booking. **We will contact you within three business days to give you a decision** or to ask for more information, using the contact details you gave us below" [emphasis added]
Our member then corresponded with [REDACTED] three business days later and she gave written acceptance of the time and date that [REDACTED] had suggested. Naturally, she thought that the space was confirmed due to what [REDACTED] had written to her and because of the above notification from the booking system.
I would be doubtful if it is customary for the event space administrators to let three weeks elapse before solidly confirming or refusing a booking, leaving only one week's notice. If I am wrong on that, and this is customary, then please could you confirm.
We have since paid for advertising our event in the newspaper, social media, distributed posters in the community and some members have purchased flights to attend.
As much as we might be able to book another suitable venue (although, that is not guaranteed, this late in the day) and attempt to communicate the change of plan, I don't believe it will be possible to avoid some people turning up on the night to Turanga Library.
Please could you give me a call to get this sorted out, on my number below?

In the meantime, perhaps someone in your office might be able to book us a meeting room in another library that is not too far from our original booking. As we are now looking at quite a hefty sunk cost and a short timeframe we will need to get the word out there, today. The nice customer services guy suggested I also copy in your Executive Assistant, so if possible [REDACTED], might you be able to see where we could go, please?
My number is [REDACTED]
Many thanks
[REDACTED]

Spokeswoman for Speak Up For Women

This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.
The views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Christchurch City Council. If you are not the correct recipient of this email please advise the sender and delete.
Christchurch City Council
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

From: CUCS Info Management

Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 5:30 PM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Dear [Redacted]
Thank you for the information you have provided, can you please advise what names are associated with this group so that we can exercise caution if they attempt to book under their own names.
Kind regards,
[Redacted]

Senior Lead
Citizen & Customer Services
Phone: [03 941 8999](tel:039418999)
Email: info@ccc.govt.nz
Post: PO Box 73012, Christchurch 8154
Web: ccc.govt.nz

From: Community.Facilities@ccc.govt.nz
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 3:17 PM
To: [Redacted], CUCSInfoManagement@ccc.govt.nz, CSTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz, [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Good afternoon,
I did check and this group is currently not in Intelli.
We do not have any Contact names to check. We could create a group of that name to create a note on them but that would be an extreme step.
Cheers
Ainsley

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 1:21 pm
To: CUCS Info Management <CUCSInfoManagement@ccc.govt.nz>; CSTeamLeaders <CSTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz>; [Redacted], [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Cc: Community Facilities <Community.Facilities@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi team,
Given the content of [Redacted]'s email below, can we arrange a bulletin up about this, and a check by [Redacted]'s team for this customer in Intelli and a warning note added if they do have a client record?
Thanks

[Redacted]
Team Leader – Kea Team
Customer Services

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch
PO Box 73012, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:48 pm
To: [Redacted], [Redacted] <[Redacted]>; [Redacted], [Redacted] <[Redacted]>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]>
Subject: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi [Redacted], [Redacted] & [Redacted] (please share this with relevant colleagues)
Tūranga has recently declined a venues booking request from a group "Speak Up for Women". This was signed off by Mary, and has been included in the Mayor's briefing notes. [Redacted], Tūranga Manager, has communicated with the group who are not happy with our decision. A more formal written response will be going to them this afternoon.
We have consulted with Legal Services, who have indicated that we were okay to decline this booking request.
It is possible that representatives and/or supporters of this group may contact other parts of CCC, either to voice their opinion or to request to book an alternative venue. At this stage the decision to decline the booking request only applies to Tūranga venues, but Community Facilities may wish to take advice before accepting a booking from the above group.
I am happy to answer any queries, and provide the rationale behind our recommendation to decline.

Regards
[Redacted]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

From: CUCS Info Management

Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 11:33 AM

To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: RE: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Attachments: FB page.PNG; Chch event advertised.PNG

I have gone onto their website to try and locate Speak Up For Women staff names and have found their event is still being advertised on their page - for 1st June (Tuesday) - See attached image. Just thinking this may prompt people to still turn up to the event.

I do also see they have made a Facebook post (attached) that they will be announcing a new venue - So I suspect their website will be updated accordingly

I am happy to create a group in intelli - please let me know if you would like this done.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Senior Lead

Citizen & Customer Services

Phone: [03 941 8999](tel:039418999)

Email: info@ccc.govt.nz

Post: PO Box 73012, Christchurch 8154

Web: ccc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 5:52 PM

To: CUCSInfoManagement@ccc.govt.nz; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi

The names to date are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

From: CUCS Info Management <CUCSInfoManagement@ccc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 5:30 p.m.

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the information you have provided, can you please advise what names are associated with this group so that we can exercise caution if they attempt to book under their own names.

Kind regards,

Holly

Senior Lead

Citizen & Customer Services

Phone: 03 941 8999

Email: info@ccc.govt.nz

Post: PO Box 73012, Christchurch 8154

Web: ccc.govt.nz

From:

Community.Facilities@ccc.govt.nz

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 3:17 PM

To: [REDACTED] <CUCSInfoManagement@ccc.govt.nz>, CSTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz, [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Good afternoon,

I did check and this group is currently not in Intelli.

We do not have any Contact names to check. We could create a group of that name to create a note on them but that would be an extreme step.

Cheers

Ainsley

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 1:21 pm

To: CUCS Info Management <CUCSInfoManagement@ccc.govt.nz>; CSTeamLeaders <CSTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Community Facilities <Community.Facilities@ccc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi team,

Given the content of [REDACTED]'s email below, can we arrange a bulletin up about this, and a check by [REDACTED]'s team for this customer in Intelli and a warning note added if they do have a client record?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Team Leader - Kea Team

Customer Services

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

PO Box 73012, Christchurch 8154

ccc.govt.nz

ccc.govt.nz

ccc.govt.nz

ccc.govt.nz

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>

Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:48 pm

To: [redacted] <[redacted]>; [redacted] <[redacted]>; [redacted] <[redacted]>

Subject: Controversial booking request at Turanga

Hi [redacted] & [redacted] (please share this with relevant colleagues)

Tūranga has recently declined a venues booking request from a group "Speak Up for Women". This was signed off by Mary, and has been included in the Mayor's briefing notes.

[redacted] Tūranga Manager, has communicated with the group who are not happy with our decision. A more formal written response will be going to them this afternoon. We have consulted with Legal Services, who have indicated that we were okay to decline this booking request.

It is possible that representatives and/or supporters of this group may contact other parts of CCC, either to voice their opinion or to request to book an alternative venue. At this stage the decision to decline the booking request only applies to Tūranga venues, but Community Facilities may wish to take advice before accepting a booking from the above group.

I am happy to answer any queries, and provide the rationale behind our recommendation to decline.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[redacted]
[redacted]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



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Christchurch City Council
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

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Christchurch City Council
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Speak up for women event at Tūranga, 1 June
Importance: High

Kia ora [REDACTED]

We've received a Facebook message from someone name [REDACTED] about an event booking at Tūranga for a group called Speak Up for Women NZ. I will submit this via Hybris as well – I'm just waiting to hear back from [REDACTED] if she'd like a reply, and for her contact details and will complete the Hybris form when I have that but just to give you a heads up, below is the content of her message and some context.

"Kia ora

A group opposing human rights for transgender people has booked a room in your facility for a public talk on 1 June. The aim of the group "Speak Up For Women NZ" is to stop the government from changing the Birth Registration law to enable transgender people to more easily get certificates which match their identity. SUFWNZ argues that such a change would make things less safe for women (assigned female at birth) but ignores the situation for (trans) women who were assigned male at birth and who live as women but who may not be able to have or afford surgery.

I encourage you to check SUFWNZ website and their booking for the Tūranga Christchurch Central Library - Auaha Hihi / Spark Place Room. The event may not descend to the depths of a recent event in Wellington where SUFWNZ supporters yelled abuse at trans women outside the Ministry for Women's offices. The event could still be unpleasant for gender minority staff and library users and may not comply with your Code of Conduct for events.

<https://speakupforwomen.nz/lets-talk-about-self-id-2021/>

Cheers, [REDACTED]

The context of this is that we have also had feedback in the last week about transphobic titles that we hold in our catalogue (this feedback has been forwarded to [REDACTED]), and [REDACTED] has made LLT aware that the upcoming Harry Potter events might also present a risk, given that author J. K. Rowling has repeatedly expressed transphobic views.

My personal experience of interacting on social media with spokes people for Speak Up For Women is that they are anti-trans, or TERFs (Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists).

[REDACTED]

Digital Library Web Content Lead

DDI: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: <http://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/christchurchlib>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchCityLibraries>

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/christchurchcitylibraries>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/christchurchlib/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 1:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SUFWNZ

That beinf said there is still every chance they will turn up on Tuesday night

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 11:54 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: SUFWNZ

Fyi – this was forwarded to me from a call centre colleague.

Includes that a new venue for their Chch meeting will be announced shortly.

See also <https://twitter.com/SpeakUp4WomenNZ/status/1397673619107586060>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 10:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: This evening

[REDACTED] and myself will also be in the building tonight so please feel free to call on us!

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Auaahatanga Creativity Level 4

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 9:56 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: This evening

The venue for tonight's meeting at 6pm is now the Woolston Club.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 8:47 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This evening

Hi

I'm at Fendalton this morning for LLT.

I am planning to be at TU tonight to support PIC in case of any issues with the 'Speak Up' event people.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: MayorsMessages
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 9:39 AM
To: Robertson, Carolyn
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Hi Carolyn,

Thanks for that.

I spoke to [REDACTED] yesterday and given the media interest we thought it optimal to possibly respond to the formal complaint today but, given the circumstances, early next week would be ok. As soon as we can would be best.

I was also just speaking to [REDACTED]. Just checking were there actual threats of violence or disruption in the complaints? Also just a thought, did we consider offering an alternate venue where H&S was not an issue (i.e. a standalone facility). This may not necessarily mean a library facility but a community hall for example. If we face a potential judicial review, this may go some way to mitigate the issue.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 9:12 AM
To: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>
Cc: H [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Hi [REDACTED]
Thanks for these messages and we will start working on the responses, noting that [REDACTED] is away until Monday.

Can you please remind me how long we have to reply?

Many thanks
Carolyn

Carolyn Robertson
Head of Libraries & Information
Libraries & Information Unit

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 8:13 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Here is the second below.

With addendum attached too.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 5:04 PM
To: MayorsMessages <MayorsWebMessages@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Turanga Library Refusing Women the right to meet

Ahiahhi marie Mayor Dalziel,

We are writing with concern about an anti-democratic action undertaken by library staff at the Tūranga Library today.
<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/news/venue/?fbclid=IwAR0Ybt2uJxwEYqLa43CQbb-2PDDL4auW9dJaaVDggwYVZLkIcpwzZyFfb3A>

Their disingenuous quote stating that, 'The event **may** be in conflict with [Christchurch City Libraries' Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.'

The irony of their banning of women who are wanting to discuss the upcoming legislation and impacts on females is noted. This sort of anti-democratic action is unacceptable in a public body and we urge you to reverse this anti-democratic and fascist decision from council staff.

As long-time Labour Party members, we are frankly appalled at this myopic and senseless adherence to rigid ideology that is sexist towards women. This is an ideology that is eroding New Zealand's democracy and women's rights.

In our view, the library staff have NO RIGHT to cancel a booking from a women's group that wants to discuss the upcoming BMDRR bill and its implications for women and girls.

Please ensure your prompt attention to this matter.

Nga mihi,



From: Richardson, Mary
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 12:43 PM
To: Robertson, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi – I agree with the approach

However, I think you should remove this rationale “Our inability to guarantee the health and safety of staff and customers at Tūranga.” The others are sufficient rationale

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 11:13 am
To: Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Tūranga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi Mary

I've just spoken to Carolyn and she appreciates you are busy but would like a response please to the request below from the “Speak Up for Women NZ” group.

Carolyn agrees with the approach [REDACTED] has taken but just wants to ensure you are ok with this or if you have any concerns re the proposed approach?

Claire

From: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 21 May 2021 11:24 am
To: Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Tūranga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Hi Mary
Please see [REDACTED] recommendation that we decline a venue booking for the advocacy group, 'Speak up for Women' for the reasons he outlines below. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have considered this carefully and consider on balance that the risks (both H&S and reputational) could be significant. Can you please let me know whether you have any concerns with this approach before we decline the booking request?

We should let the group know today if possible.

Thanks
Carolyn

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 5:03 PM
To: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Tūranga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Kia ora Carolyn

The advocacy group 'Speak up for Women' has made a request to hire Spark Place at Tūranga. They would like to hold a public talk here on 1 June from 5.30pm - 7.30pm. The hirer is [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

The event is billed on the [Speak up for Women website](#) as “Let’s Talk About Sex Self-Identification”, and in their booking request they refer to it as “A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties”.

We have some safety concerns about this event, based on past experience at Auckland Council (in 2019) and at Massey University (in 2020). See the following links:
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/116447480/event-with-feminist-speaker-banned-from-twitter-moved-by-auckland-council-amid-safety-fears?rm=a>
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/116640486/massey-university-cancels-controversial-feminism-2020-event-due-to-health-safety-and-wellbeing-concerns?rm=a>

Options for managing this request are:

Accept the venue booking, and allow the event to go ahead at Tūranga: Not recommended due to health, safety and wellbeing risks, and reputational risks.

Offer the hirer an alternative CCC-owned venue, such as a suburban hall: We are exploring this further with Council colleagues. This may be an option, but would transfer many of the H&S and reputational risks to another part of CCC, which is not an ideal outcome.

Decline the venue booking: This is our recommended action, based primarily on the reasons outlined below.

I recommend we decline the request to hire the venue to Speak Up for Women NZ, due to:

- Our concern about potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- Our inability to guarantee the health and safety of staff and customers at Tūranga.
- The risk that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries would no longer be regarded as a safe and welcoming space for one particular sector of the community. This risk is already highlighted in the customer written complaints received in recent days.
- The subject matter being potentially in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing “a safe and welcoming environment” and our expectation that all customers must “Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy”.
- The potential risk to the brand reputation of Spark (Spark is a Foundation Partner for Christchurch City Libraries, and their name is on this venue).

Written complaints have already been received this week from other library users. I have significant concerns around potential disruption and the likely physical and emotional safety impact for some staff and customers.

In this instance, I believe that safety and inclusivity outweighs freedom of expression. I recommend that we regretfully decline the request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold their event at Turanga.

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary
Subject: RE: Turanga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Kia ora [REDACTED]

If you haven't already, I suggest checking with Legal Services with regard to: <https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/assets/cases/2021/2021-NZCA-142.pdf>
It seems to me a similar situation so worth checking we have weighed up the issues as per the decision to come to a lawful decision. Or Legal might advise it is quite different and there is no risk here.

[REDACTED] wrote a generalist analysis here: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/01-05-2021/a-final-legal-coda-to-aucklands-great-southern-molyneux-drama-of-2018/>

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED] Office of Mayor & Chief Executive
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Richardson, Mary <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Turanga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

We have decided to decline the booking request for this event. Please see email below.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 May 2021 5:37 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Tūranga venue hire request, Speak Up for Women New Zealand, 1 June

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Your recent request to book a venue at Tūranga has been raised with me. After careful consideration I regret to advise you that we are unable to accept your venue hire booking.

The subject matter of this event may be in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy". We are conscious that hosting this event may send a message that Tūranga and Christchurch City Libraries no longer offer safe and welcoming spaces for the whole community.

We are also concerned about the potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.

In summary, we are declining this request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold this event at Tūranga.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 8:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: McIntyre, Mitch
Subject: RE: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Hi [REDACTED]

I have passed this on to the Community Facilities team.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Manager Business Support
Business Support Team
Customer Services Unit, Citizens and Community Group

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch 8013
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 4:30 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Thanks [REDACTED], I had a catch-up with [REDACTED] from Legal.

[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] if any requests come through for community space hire that relate to the portfolio of community facilities under my stewardship, please ask the CSR to take the details and which facility they would like to hire and say staff will consider it and let them know the outcome.

Please then provide me with the details.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Community Facilities Specialist
Com. Sup., Governance & Partnership

[REDACTED]
03 941 8859 027 437 2077
[REDACTED]
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:52 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Fyi – a bit more detail on the booking request that I've just emailed you about.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:06 a.m.
To: Library Team Leaders <LibraryTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz>; Library Turanga Leaders Group <LibraryTurangaLeadersGroup@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Good morning all

Earlier this month, a group called 'Speak up for Women NZ' asked to hire Spark Place for a public event. They advertised the event on their website before we had confirmed the hire. After we received complaints from customers and staff, we decided to decline this venue hire request. We assessed the request against our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.

This decision was yesterday appealed by the group. We have received legal advice that our decision was justifiable, and we have this morning advised the CE and Mayor's offices of the situation. I believe Carolyn will be replying to the group today, confirming that the decision stands.

This is a highly sensitive issue that continues to evolve. If you receive any staff or customer queries, I am happy to answer these. At this stage, our key message to the public is that we have declined the request to hire out Spark Place, and so the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Turanga.

Thanks
[REDACTED]



Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch

PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154

ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 2:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Library Team Leaders; Library Turanga Leaders Group; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Kia ora [REDACTED]
Thanks for your work on this. If there is a brief standard reply we can use for social media/web feedback/queries, can you send it to us at libwebteam@ccc.govt.nz, or let us know if you'd like us to direct people to Hybris.
Ngā mihi
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:06 am
To: Library Team Leaders <LibraryTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz>; Library Turanga Leaders Group <LibraryTurangaLeadersGroup@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Tūranga

Good morning all

Earlier this month, a group called 'Speak up for Women NZ' asked to hire Spark Place for a public event. They advertised the event on their website before we had confirmed the hire. After we received complaints from customers and staff, we decided to decline this venue hire request. We assessed the request against our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.

This decision was yesterday appealed by the group. We have received legal advice that our decision was justifiable, and we have this morning advised the CE and Mayor's offices of the situation. I believe Carolyn will be replying to the group today, confirming that the decision stands.

This is a highly sensitive issue that continues to evolve. If you receive any staff or customer queries, I am happy to answer these. At this stage, our key message to the public is that we have declined the request to hire out Spark Place, and so the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Tūranga.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:55 PM
To: Library Turanga Leaders Group
Subject: RE: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Hello again

I was just talking to [REDACTED] who has drafted an email for all staff (on Carolyn's behalf) so our message may not be required. Information will also be going on to the website.

Dawn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 12:01 PM
To: Library Turanga Leaders Group <LibraryTurangaLeadersGroup@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga
Importance: High

Morena everyone

After talking with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] regarding the venue booking request from Speak Up For Women and the increasing media interest, we thought it might be timely to send a communication to the wider Turanga team again. I've drafted a possible message:

"Hello everyone

Following [REDACTED] message yesterday (copied below), there is now some media interest in the story and Speak Up For Women have posted messages on social media.

It is possible that you will encounter comments and/or questions from the public and possibly from the media. In the event that you do, please do not engage in conversation and refer any media enquiries to our Media team. If in any doubt, or if you have any concerns, please refer to your Team Leader or Floor Leader."

I'm suggesting that we include [REDACTED] original message with this communication.

Any comments? Changes? Etc.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:06 AM
To: Library Team Leaders <LibraryTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz>; Library Turanga Leaders Group <LibraryTurangaLeadersGroup@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Good morning all

Earlier this month, a group called 'Speak up for Women NZ' asked to hire Spark Place for a public event. They advertised the event on their website before we had confirmed the hire. After we received complaints from customers and staff, we decided to decline this venue hire request. We assessed the request against our code of conduct, particularly our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all.

This decision was yesterday appealed by the group. We have received legal advice that our decision was justifiable, and we have this morning advised the CE and Mayor's offices of the situation. I believe Carolyn will be replying to the group today, confirming that the decision stands.

This is a highly sensitive issue that continues to evolve. If you receive any staff or customer queries, I am happy to answer these. At this stage, our key message to the public is that we have declined the request to hire out Spark Place, and so the Speak up for Women event will not be held at Turanga.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 4:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: McIntyre, Mitch
Subject: RE: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Thanks [REDACTED], I had a catch-up with [REDACTED] from Legal.

[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] if any requests come through for community space hire that relate to the portfolio of community facilities under my stewardship, please ask the CSR to take the details and which facility they would like to hire and say staff will consider it and let them know the outcome.

Please then provide me with the details.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Community Facilities Specialist
Com. Sup., Governance & Partnership

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch
PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:52 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Fyi – a bit more detail on the booking request that I've just emailed you about.

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 10:06 a.m.
To: Library Team Leaders <LibraryTeamLeaders@ccc.govt.nz>; Library Turanga Leaders Group <LibraryTurangaLeadersGroup@ccc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Update on 'Speak up for Women' event at Turanga

Good morning all

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Thanks

[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 4:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?
Attachments: RE: Booking enquiry - New Zealand National Front request

Sorry [REDACTED], I thought I had hit Send earlier, it didn't work

[See attached](#)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 3:34 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time this afternoon. Can you send through any documentation regarding the controversial bookings you mentioned?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 10:59 a.m.
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?

Hi [REDACTED]

I see you are busy for the next 90 minutes and then from 1 pm onwards.

Does 12:30 suit you to chat?

Otherwise, let me know a times that suits you.

Regards

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 10:17 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: What would be a suitable time today to give you a call?

Hi [REDACTED]

I am checking as to Community Facilities' policies for accepting bookings from organisations that might be considered controversial or inflammatory.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz

Christchurch
City Council 

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 11:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Robertson, Carolyn; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Speak Up For Women booking request
Attachments: LIU Christchurch City Council Community Facilities - Terms & Conditions August 2020 Library.pdf

Hi Joss

Our room booking request form <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/turanga-turanga-spaces-and-facilities-turanga-bookable-spaces-and-meeting-rooms/#booking-form> includes questions on "Brief description of the event" etc

The request from [REDACTED] included the following information:

Type of organisation: Community Group
Name of organisation: Speak Up for Women New Zealand
Type of event: Talk
Brief description: A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties.
Further information: Speak Up for Up For Women New Zealand is a grassroots organisation who believes that robust discussion about women's wellbeing, including the BDMMR bill, is necessary and vital to our rights as women.

Note that the above info was submitted on our webform.

If relevant, I have attached our Terms & Conditions

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 4:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Speak Up for Women

More articles:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/116447480/event-with-feminist-speaker-banned-from-twitter-moved-by-auckland-council-amid-safety-fears?rm=a>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/117051427/whats-a-terf-anyway-behind-the-speak-up-for-women-debacle>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/116640486/massey-university-cancels-controversial-feminism-2020-event-due-to-health-safety-and-wellbeing-concerns?rm=a>

I've emailed [REDACTED] but haven't heard back from her, but it sounds like they dealt with the above at a Council level, rather than libraries.

[REDACTED]
Team Leader
Hapori Community Level 1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 3:51 PM
To: Turanga Bookings
Subject: Thank you for your message! RE: Speak Up for Women

Kia ora!

Thank you so much for your email! We're here to help in any way we can.

I'll get back to you as soon as I can - within two days! Thank you for your patience - if you don't hear from me, or for something urgent, please call me on [REDACTED]

For updates on our groups, events, and services across all alert levels, please check our Instagram and Facebook pages.

For immediate urgent support, I'd recommend reaching out to Outline or 1737:
OUTline - 0800 688 5463 - outline.org.nz
1737 - free text line, text 1737

Ngā mihi nui,
[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED] | *Pronouns: she/her.*

2IC - Qtopia

[REDACTED] | www.qtopia.org.nz <<http://www.qtopia.org.nz/>> | Facebook:
Qtopia <<https://www.facebook.com/qtopiachch/>> | Instagram: @qtopiachch
<<http://www.instagram.com/qtopiachch>>

*Donations can be made at: **www.qtopia.org.nz/donate
<<https://www.qtopia.org.nz/donate/>> - Thank you!*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 8:47 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This evening

Hi
I'm at Fendalton this morning for LLT.
I am planning to be at TU tonight to support PIC in case of any issues with the 'Speak Up' event people.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
ccc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2021 5:03 PM
To: Robertson, Carolyn
Subject: Turanga venue hire request by 'Speak Up for Women New Zealand' organisation

Kia ora Carolyn

The advocacy group 'Speak up for Women' has made a request to hire Spark Place at Tūranga. They would like to hold a public talk here on 1 June from 5.30pm - 7.30pm.

The event:

Contact details for the hirer, [REDACTED] are [REDACTED]

The organisation has supplied us with the following contact address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The event is billed on the [Speak up for Women website](#) as "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification", and in their booking request they refer to it as "A talk that advocates for women's rights and safeties"

We have some safety concerns about this event, based on past experience at Auckland Council (in 2019) and at Massey University (in 2020). See the following links:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/116447480/event-with-feminist-speaker-banned-from-twitter-moved-by-auckland-council-amid-safety-fears?rm=a>
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/116640486/massey-university-cancels-controversial-feminism-2020-event-due-to-health-safety-and-wellbeing-concerns?rm=a>

Our recommendation:

Our options for managing this request are:

Accept the venue booking, and allow the event to go ahead at Tūranga: Not recommended due to health, safety and wellbeing risks, and reputational risks.

Offer the hirer an alternative CCC-owned venue, such as a suburban hall: We are exploring this further with Council colleagues. This may be an option, but would transfer many of the H&S and reputational risks to another part of CCC, which is not an ideal outcome.

Decline the venue booking: This is our recommended action, based primarily on the reasons outlined below.

I recommend we decline the request to hire the venue to Speak Up for Women NZ, due to:

- Our concern about potential risk of disruption at Tūranga due to protests by members of the public.
- Our inability to guarantee the health and safety of staff and customers at Tūranga.
- The risk that TU and CCL would no longer be regarded as a safe and welcoming space for one particular sector of the community. This risk is already highlighted in the customer written complaints received in recent days.
- The subject matter being potentially in conflict with Christchurch City Libraries' [Customer Code of Conduct](#), particularly our commitment to providing "a safe and welcoming environment" and our expectation that all customers must "Respect the rights of others [and] treat other library users with courtesy".
- The potential risk to the brand reputation of Spark (Spark is a Foundation Partner for Christchurch City Libraries, and their name is on this venue).

Written complaints have already been received this week from other library users. I have significant concerns around potential disruption and the likely physical and emotional safety impact for some staff and customers.

In this instance, I argue that safety and inclusivity outweighs freedom of expression. I recommend that we regrettfully decline the request by Speak Up for Women NZ to hold their event at Turanga.

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Library Manager
Libraries and Information

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tūranga Central Library, 60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154
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Christchurch
City Council 

Complaints received re Speak up for Women

Date	Who	Text
25/5/21	[REDACTED] via Hybris (ticket H00749928)	<p>Details of other complaint: Event being held Details: Kia ora, I am writing to express my concern about an event that is apparently being hosted at Tūranga on the first of June SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. They use transphobic rhetoric and fringe 'science' to stir up fear and hatred of trans people. They stereotype trans women as predators and fetishists. I was so scared of being confronted by someone and I felt like such a freak that I didn't use a gendered public bathroom for 18 months after I started hormones. Many trans people in Ōtautahi have unstable housing situations and low incomes, they often need a safe space to access the internet and community information. Hosting an event such as this makes me as a trans person feel unwelcome, as it gives the impression that Tūranga feels that this discourse is relevant to the people of Ōtautahi. As a trans woman myself, I am dreading the consequences of giving these people a platform to speak. In the UK, where similar groups have had considerable lobbying power, 41% of trans people report being attacked or threatened with violence over the past five years, and 70% of trans people report avoiding places and situations out of fear of being assaulted, threatened or harassed[https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/trans_stats.pdf]. This has prompted Human Rights Watch to release a statement warning of the dangerous impact of the toxic rhetoric and media coverage around trans people[https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/17/joint-statement-rights-trans-people-uk]. In Aotearoa, the Counting Ourselves survey [https://countingourselves.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Executive-Summary.pdf] found that 56% of trans people had seriously thought of attempting suicide over the last 12 months. 12% had made an attempt on their life over the preceding year. As you can imagine this is a vulnerable population. We are also a population that are dehumanised and othered by people who hope to stir up support for bigoted agendas. In Christchurch we have seen the end result of othering and dehumanisation. I trust that Tūranga will make the right decision for the people of Christchurch. Stand Up For Women is ostensibly a feminist group, but their only activity is to lobby against trans healthcare, try and prevent us from competing in sports, trying to scare us away from public spaces, and to advocate for conversion therapy for trans, non-binary or questioning rangatahi. Platforming them would make trans people feel less comfortable at Tūranga, and embolden a group that spreads hate speech and debunked science from an era when LGBT+ people were subjected to terrible abuse by the medical establishment. Thanks, [REDACTED]</p>
25/5/21	[REDACTED] via Hybris Ticket H00749927	<p>Details of other complaint: Event being held Details: Kia ora, I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue Tūranga Christchurch Central Library on the 1st of June SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights. In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community". "Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue. Nga mihi, [REDACTED]</p>
25/5/2021	Anonymous (Via Hybris, Ticket no. H00749925)	<p>Details: Good evening, I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June. SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender self-identification on society, opposing access to evidence-based healthcare, and access to gender appropriate public spaces such as bathrooms. They are seldom if ever active with regards to women's issues such as violence against women, the gender pay gap, or period poverty except when tangential to opposing transgender rights. In 2019, Massey University cancelled an event by this organization citing a "risk of potential harm that may impact upon a particularly vulnerable community". "Speak up for women" does not deserve a platform to perpetuate harmful and violent attitudes against trans people and I hope you will reconsider allowing this event to take place in your venue. Thank you for your time.</p>
25/5/2021	[REDACTED], via Hybris, Ticket no. H00749922	<p>Details of other complaint: Event being held Details: Greetings to whomever it may concern, I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming event, "Let's Talk About Sex Self-Identification" hosted by Speak Up for Women at your venue in the month of June. SUFW are an anti-transgender organization who oppose the rights of transgender people, particularly transgender women, to legal recognition of their gender and access to public spaces and facilities, despite transgender people facing abuse and discrimination at a much higher rate than the rest of the population. SUFW are not a feminist organization, they exist solely to spread hateful untruths about trans people, including misrepresentation of the impacts of gender</p>

