**Registered Charity No. 1070500**

Mr Roland Rudd

Chairman of Trustees

Tate Britain

Millbank,

London

SW1P 4RG

 23 January 2023

Dear Mr Rudd,

We are deeply concerned to hear that the Tate Britain will be hosting a Drag Queen Story Hour at which a man known as ‘Aida H Dee’ will dress as a women and read stories to children of primary school age. This is presented as entertainment though it masks a political agenda. Drag Queen Story Hour began in the United States and from the beginning stated that its goal is to promote ‘queer role models’, ‘LGBTQ+ herstories’ and the ‘gender fluidity of childhood’. The performer Aida H Dee is a well-known trans activist who raises money for Mermaids, an organisation which supports self-definition of gender for very young children, and is now under investigation by the Charity Commission.

Even if we were to treat these events as purely entertainment, they would be highly inappropriate for children in primary school given that the images of men dressed as women are highly sexualised. Drag shows are adults-only entertainment and not suitable for school age children. When we expose children to sexual material, we blur the boundaries between adults and children, exposing them to adult sexual concepts and we risk normalising the sexualisation of children.

Drag Queen Story Hours pose as entertaining and educational events but their central purpose, as their stated goals above show, is neither entertainment nor education but indoctrination in the transgender agenda.

Children in primary school are at the most vulnerable stage of their development. While young people will inevitably become aware of the existence of LGBT lifestyles at some point in their development, it is never age-appropriate to teach about such relationships in primary school.

What makes the Tate’s initiative particularly disturbing is its use of those involved in adult entertainment to indoctrinate children in the transgender agenda, while trying to present the whole affair as a wholesome family friendly event.

One of the most disturbing things about the transgender agenda is the way that it tries to distort our perception of reality and deny something as fundamental as the distinction between male and female.

To try to blind children to one of the most basic facts of human existence can only be described as a form of child abuse. We are already seeing a substantial rise in the number of children who identify as transgender, largely due to the sympathetic and positive treatment of the issue on children’s TV. This has had very tragic consequences in, for example, the Keira Bell case. Such confusion is only likely to increase if we start playing with children’s minds in school.

Children who experience gender identity issues need careful and sensitive care, not wholesale indoctrination. Making primary school children the central target for proselytism in advancing the agenda of a small minority has got to stop.

Visiting the Tate Britain has for many years been an immensely pleasurable, rewarding and educational experience for people of all ages and all walks of life. It is sad that the Tate is now going down the path of supporting a controversial political agenda and seeking even to indoctrinate children in this agenda.

We would urge that the Tate cancel these drag queen events and restore public confidence in its role as a beneficial, educational institution.

We hope you will engage with us on this issue and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Piers Shepherd
Senior Researcher