



Date and Time: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:33:00PM EDT

Job Number: 193762405

Document (1)

1. [Letters to the Editor: Our taxes paid for Isis bride's brainwashing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "lisa marchiano"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
-None-

[Letters to the Editor: Our taxes paid for Isis bride's brainwashing](#)

thetimes.co.uk

February 24, 2019 Sunday 12:01 AM GMT

Copyright 2019 News International Ltd All Rights Reserved



Section: NEWS; Version:1

Length: 2478 words

Byline: letters@sunday-times.co.uk

Body

During Shamima Begum's formative years in east London, a number of supposedly mainstream religious institutions hosted hate preachers who had a simple message: Islam is under attack; a caliphate is the solution; you have a religious duty to support that caliphate; it will purify society by applying extreme punishments.

This message was largely unchallenged. Worse: the institutions promoting the preachers were feted and in some cases received public and charitable funding. None of this diminishes Begum's culpability. But it does help to explain her decision.

David Toube, director of policy, Quilliam Foundation

Remember the victims

Rarely has the formidable intellect of your leader-writers been so badly deployed as in their support for Begum's return to the UK (

["The Isis bride should say sorry and mean it"](#)

, Editorial, last week). This woman surely renounced her British citizenship when she went to Syria to support our enemy. She married an active Isis soldier and conceived three children in conditions where bringing them up was demonstrably dangerous and irresponsible.

Now she wants to take advantage of our overburdened NHS and, no doubt, the taxpayers of the country she rejected. For you to advocate her being allowed to do so, on the risible condition that she makes an apology, is naive.

Innocent girls of Begum's age were killed at the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester by the lunatic murderers she supports. How do you suppose their families would feel if a supporter of the architects of this crime were so readily forgiven?

John Williams, London SE9

Risk to Britain

The government's anti-extremism commissioner, Sara Khan, writes that if we abandon Begum, we abandon our values (

[Comment, online, last week](#)

Letters to the Editor: Our taxes paid for Isis bride's brainwashing

). She forgets that Begum ignored those values in the first place by becoming a traitor. To bring her back would put our nation, and its values, at great risk.

Biren Shah, Leicester

Old enough to know better

We are asked to listen to the views of schoolchildren on climate change, as expressed in recent demonstrations, because at their age they know what they are talking about. We are then asked to be understanding to Begum because she was "only 15" when she joined Isis, and too young to know what she was doing. Which is it?

I think she was old enough to know that joining an army of murderous thugs was wrong. This girl lost the right to be a British citizen and call Britain her home when she left, and I feel no compassion for her at all.

Louise Broughton, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria
ADVOCATE

NAVRATILOVA IS A GREAT

Martina Navratilova is absolutely correct in her article "The rules on trans athletes reward cheats and punish the innocent" (

[Comment, last week](#)

). Many transsexuals would back her to the hilt. I am female, a transsexual, and do not feel it is fair for a trans woman such as Rachel McKinnon to compete against cis women.

There is of course more to this scenario than meets the eye. If a woman such as McKinnon had fully embraced the recommended pathway, and had had all the correct psychiatric assessments before simply taking female hormone medication, she would be more sympathetic to Navratilova's viewpoint, knowing she is a fantastic advocate for the LGBTQ community.

Navratilova is not anti-trans. She is simply pointing out that this situation puts cis female athletes at a disadvantage. I for one could not agree more.

Helen Hallam, secretary, Keighley and Craven LGBT support group

Horse sense

If you want equality in sport, take up riding. The horse does not know or care about the sex, gender, age, education, dress or colour of the person on its back. It is just as happy dumping royalty as it is dumping me.

Brenda Gilligan, East Barkwith, Lincolnshire

TRANS CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER

Given the extraordinary increase in the number of children referred to the Tavistock and Portman's Gender Identity and Development Service (Gids), it is crucial to understand the causes and the best way of supporting these children. As academics and clinicians, we welcome Dr David Bell's efforts, reported in The Sunday Times (

[News, last week](#)

), to bring the concerns of many staff at Gids to the attention of management at the Tavistock and Portman Trust.

We are disappointed that the trust has responded by apparently attempting to discredit Bell - a consultant psychiatrist with four decades of experience in mental health - rather than addressing the serious problems raised by his report.

We call on the Tavistock and Portman Trust to encourage scientific investigation and ethical debate on this complex issue. The health of thousands of children is at stake.

Dr Katie Alcock, Lancaster University; Dr Shereen Benjamin, University of Edinburgh; Dr Michael Biggs, University of Oxford; Dr Heather Brunskell-Evans, King's College London; Prof Rosa Freedman, University of Reading; Sarah Honeychurch, University of Glasgow; Lisa Marchiano, Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Dr Susan Matthews, University of Roehampton; Dr Louise Moody, University of York; Prof Michele Moore, University of

Letters to the Editor: Our taxes paid for Isis bride's brainwashing

Oxford and University of Essex; Dr Kath Murray, University of Edinburgh; Dr Eva Poen, University of Exeter; Prof Kathleen Stock, University of Sussex; Prof Alice Sullivan, University College London; Prof Selina Todd, University of Oxford; Bob Withers, Training Analyst with the Society of Analytical Psychology

RACIAL SLUR ON WHITE MEN

How unfortunate that a drive for diversity and inclusion has allowed such a racist tag as "male, pale, stale" to enter mainstream discourse and the media, including your paper (

["Meghan takes aim at male, pale, stale universities"](#)

, News, last week). As a non-white, ethnic-minority female, I know the phrase (which was not used by the duchess) is offensive and one we should reject, like other racial slurs.

White men are individuals like everyone else, and not some degrading "stale" stereotype. Greater diversity and equal opportunity are essential but must embrace not only minorities but also the majority. We cannot promote respect and not practise it ourselves.

Frances Peck, Kingsbridge, Devon

Top marks, Meghan

Well done to the Duchess of Sussex for getting "decolonising the curriculum" onto the front page. Work is being conducted in most universities to widen the curriculum beyond the usual cosy practice of white men citing white men. Knowledge construction is all about power - no wonder some people oppose its liberation.

Abby Day, professor of race, faith and culture, Goldsmiths, University of London

IS HIDING EVIDENCE OF ABUSE

VATICAN

Stephen Bleach's article about abuse at St Benedict's Catholic school (

[News Review, last week](#)

) demonstrated the total inability of such institutions to police themselves.

It also exposes yet again the Vatican's shameless refusal to release crucial material it alone holds about clerical child abuse. The United Nations has recommended it disclose this, and given the global scale of Catholic abuse, the international community must unite to insist on it.

The best hope of minimising recurrences is joining the many countries with mandatory reporting of known or suspected child abuse, without exceptions for admissions in the confessional.

Keith Porteous Wood, president, National Secular Society

Communicants betrayed

Can one believe anything the Catholic Church says? It lies constantly about paedophile priests, and condemns gay people despite having many gay clergy. The church has betrayed its decent communicants.

Alex Robinson, Cambridge

FIRST PAST THE POST STUCK IN THE PAST

Kevin Pringle makes an important point in his article on Westminster's broken voting system (

["High time we voted out first-past-the-post electoral system"](#)

, Comment, online, last week). He argues: "Brexit is testing the two big UK parties to destruction, but first past the post requires factions banding together into monoliths to keep hurdling the high barriers to entry that it imposes." When eight Labour MPs left the party shortly afterwards, it was a reflection that parties have not been their true "shape" for a long time - they have been bolted together by a broken electoral system.

Brexit has revealed what is an impossible situation: we have just two huge camps in the UK that try to represent everyone but can't. It should be clear to both parties that a new constitutional settlement is needed.

Letters to the Editor: Our taxes paid for Isis bride's brainwashing

The latest fissures make the need for reform more urgent. The party system is changing, but the structures that underpin it remain stuck in the past.

Darren Hughes, chief executive, Electoral Reform Society

Send your letters and feedback to

letters@sunday-times.co.uk

POINTS

Wandering knights

Sir Vince Cable criticises Sir Jim Ratcliffe for deserting the United Kingdom on receipt of his knighthood (

[News, last week](#)

). He makes no mention of Sir Nick Clegg, who, once knighted, promptly embarked on a career in America.

Dave Cornhillm, Wellingborough

Weekday warriors

I was disappointed by Rod Liddle's column on the children's climate change demonstrations (

[Comment, last week](#)

). The point of holding protests on a weekday was to make people notice, and it worked. Climate change does not wait until the weekend - why should we?

Kieran Brennan, aged 11, Sale

TV turn-off

I could not believe Dominic Lawson's advice to the BBC (

[Comment, last week](#)

) to launch a channel for "oldies" screening Dad's Army and It Ain't Half Hot, Mum. This household of 76-year-olds would not dream of watching these programmes. It was an insult to our intelligence.

Hugh Ball, Eastbourne

War effort

The experience of Rhidian Brook's grandfather in postwar Germany (News Review, last week) reminds me of my own father's. After landing on D-Day he ended the war in a castle in occupied Germany. At Christmas 1945 his fellow officers invited the aristocratic owner to their celebrations. Suspecting the baroness of retaining Nazi sympathies, my father refused to join them. Only after the war did it emerge that one of her sons had been involved in two attempts on Hitler's life.

Philip Venning, Docking, Norfolk

Blair's legacy

Tony Blair leaves the question of a comeback open (

[News, last week](#)

). Jeremy Corbyn-supporting Labour members might do well to recall the achievements of his decade in power: 272,000 more NHS staff, 202,000 more school staff, 600,000 fewer children living in poor households, introduction of the minimum wage and civil partnerships, the Good Friday agreement and more. Not so bad, then.

David Newens, Milton Keynes

Waste of time

The proposal for weekly food waste collections from every home in England is a doomed waste of funds (

[News, last week](#)

). Councils that have tried it have either failed to meet their targets or stopped altogether. It's a great idea, but after initial enthusiasm human nature takes over and people do not bother.

Letters to the Editor: Our taxes paid for Isis bride's brainwashing

Philip Sullivan, Lutterworth, Leicestershire

SCOTTISH LETTERS

System error

Pringle called for the UK's first-past-the-post electoral system to be replaced with a PR system, but he didn't specify which.

He could similarly have called for the overhaul of the Scottish parliament's additional member system, which also incorporates first-past-the-post constituency voting. This means that most constituency MSPs got their seat on a minority vote (mine got the seat with only 39.5% of the vote). The STV system would be better.

Steuart Campbell, Edinburgh

Number crunch

From a UK electorate of 46.5m, 17.4m - or 37% - voted to leave the EU. As a former union leader, I would never have taken my members out on strike with only 37% of those eligible actually supporting the action.

Accordingly, I now hope that our MPs will look again at the result and actually do what Edmund Burke said that they should do: think of the best interests of the nation.

Ken Johnson, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire

Nationalised train bid off the rails

The CBI is right to warn against renationalising ScotRail (

[Business, last week](#)

). There is a politically inspired myth that ScotRail is in the private sector. In fact not one pound of private money is invested in it. Network Rail (nationalised) maintain the track, signalling and some stations; and Abellio, the franchise holder, is part of the Dutch nationalised railways.

Transport Scotland has floated the idea that they may permit a nationalised transport concern to bid for any new franchise - and in Scotland that means Caledonian MacBrayne (there is no other), who have never operated a train, and have made a pig's ear of their ferry operation.

Even if they do eventually win that franchise, they will still be subject to Transport Scotland's iron grip on the franchise terms, which cover frequency, when to run bus replacements and even the type and size of train. Network Rail will still run the track.

In other words, no benefit at all but a real risk that funding will be subject to political mischief, as has been the case in the past.

Harry Barker, North Berwick, East Lothian

Vote vetoed

Euan McColm thinks Nicola Sturgeon should keep calm and carry on (

[Comment, last week](#)

). The point he alluded to but did not grasp is that despite all the potential fillips to Scottish independence since the Brexit vote, none has had any effect. Clearly the 55% who voted "no" last time see absolutely no reason to change their minds. On the other hand, the 45% for "yes" have seen the SNP government at Holyrood give a fantastic example of how not to run a country. Ms Sturgeon will never find the "right time" to hold another independence referendum.

Dr Gerald Edwards, Glasgow

Send your letters and feedback to
[times.co.uk](mailto:letters@sunday-times.co.uk)

letters@sunday-times.co.uk

letters@sunday-

Classification

Letters to the Editor: Our taxes paid for Isis bride's brainwashing

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Web Publication

Journal Code: WEBSTO

Subject: RELIGION (91%); ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ & THE LEVANT (90%); LETTERS & COMMENTS (90%); TAXES & TAXATION (90%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (89%); HATE SPEECH (89%); CHILDREN (87%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); CHARITIES (77%); WRITERS (77%); MURDER (76%); NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (76%); FAMILY (72%); TRANSGENDER ATHLETES (60%); TRANSGENDER PERSONS (60%)

Industry: WRITERS (77%)

Person: ARIANA GRANDE (54%)

Geographic: LONDON, ENGLAND (88%); MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (58%); SYRIA (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%)

Load-Date: February 23, 2019

End of Document