# 'There was a time when Pride felt like a celebration... now it feels like a political necessity.' Sophie Ellis-Bextor



Sophie Ellis-Bextor has voiced her deep concern over the rising tide of transphobia both in the UK and internationally, highlighting the pervasive nature of this hostility especially evident on social media platforms. Speaking to The Independent, the pop artist expressed frustration at how some individuals fixate obsessively on trans people, making them the entirety of their identity and dedicating their days to anger and online vitriol. In stark contrast, Ellis-Bextor observed that trans individuals often seek little more than to live quietly and authentically, avoiding such polarising attention.

The singer also reflected on the evolving significance of Pride events, noting a shift from joyous celebrations of progress and solidarity to what now feels like an essential political battleground. 'There was a time when Pride felt like a celebration of all the shoulders that people were able to stand on,' she remarked, 'but now it feels like it’s an absolute political necessity.' Despite the prevailing gloom, Ellis-Bextor remains cautiously optimistic about the possibility of societal improvement.

Her commitment to supporting the trans community extends into her own artistic work, notably her podcast Spinning Plates, where she has welcomed a range of trans guests including mothers, charity workers, philanthropists, and activists. She praised these voices as 'eloquent and articulate,' acknowledging the unfair burden sometimes placed on them to act as the voice of reason while they strive to be beacons of clarity and empathy. To counter the negativity, Ellis-Bextor advocates for 'turning down the volume' on homophobic and transphobic commentary and amplifying voices aligned with compassion and inclusivity. She also shared a personal anecdote of distancing herself from a friend whose views were causing her distress, underscoring the need to assert one's stance and support what she describes as 'being on the right side of history.'

Ellis-Bextor’s remarks enter a fraught public conversation that has recently seen renewed attention due to the ongoing discord between Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling and cast members Emma Watson and Daniel Radcliffe, who have publicly supported transgender rights. Watson, speaking openly on a podcast, revealed her hope to maintain love and respect for Rowling despite their divergent views, characterising their relationship as complex and personally meaningful even amid political disagreement. Rowling, however, has responded sharply, labelling Watson’s comments 'ignorant' and publicly criticising the actors for their stance. This dispute has escalated, with Rowling warning she would 'never forgive' Watson and Radcliffe for opposing her gender-critical views, which she frames as defending women's rights. The clash has divided public opinion and intensified discussions around transgender rights, free speech, and the boundaries of political and cultural debate. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/sophie-ellis-bextor-hits-out-at-transphobia-these-people-make-trans-people-their-whole-personality-and-spend-their-entire-day-being-angry-3897338?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=sophie-ellis-bextor-hits-out-at-transphobia-these-people-make-trans-people-their-whole-personality-and-spend-their-entire-day-being-angry> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/sophie-ellis-bextor-hits-out-at-transphobia-these-people-make-trans-people-their-whole-personality-and-spend-their-entire-day-being-angry-3897338> - Sophie Ellis-Bextor has criticised increasing levels of transphobia in the UK and overseas. In an interview with The Independent, she expressed concern over the widespread nature of transphobia on social media, stating that some individuals make trans people their entire focus, spending their days being angry, while trans individuals themselves just want to live their lives peacefully. She also noted a shift in Pride events, which now feel more like political necessities rather than celebrations. On her podcast, Spinning Plates, Ellis-Bextor has featured trans mothers, charity workers, philanthropists, and activists, highlighting their eloquence and the importance of amplifying their voices. She emphasised the need to 'turn down the volume' on homophobic and transphobic views and to support those on the right side of history.
3. <https://www.nme.com/news/film/emma-watson-opens-up-about-j-k-rowling-rift-i-hope-i-can-keep-loving-people-who-i-dont-necessarily-share-the-same-opinion-with-3895069> - Emma Watson has addressed her rift with Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling, expressing a desire to continue loving people despite differing opinions. In an interview on the On Purpose With Jay Shetty podcast, Watson stated that she treasures her personal experiences with Rowling and hopes to maintain love and respect for those with whom she disagrees. This comes amid ongoing tensions over Rowling's controversial views on transgender rights, which have led to public disagreements with Watson and other cast members.
4. <https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/films/news/emma-watson-jk-rowling-transgender-feud-b2833026.html> - Emma Watson has opened up about her difficult rift with Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling over their differing viewpoints on transgender issues. Watson, best known for her portrayal of Hermione Granger, has been an outspoken advocate for trans rights, as have many of her co-stars. Rowling, meanwhile, has drawn controversy for remarks that have been criticized as transphobic. Recently, she lashed out at the actors, suggesting that she would never 'forgive' them for their views, and that they now 'ruin' the movies for her. Watson expressed her belief in having an open dialogue and her wish to continue loving people despite differing opinions.
5. <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/entertainment/entertainment-news/emma-watson-relationship-jk-rowling-split-transgender-rights/3643266/> - Emma Watson has addressed her relationship with J.K. Rowling following their public split over transgender rights. Despite their disagreements, Watson expressed a desire to continue loving people who hold different opinions. She stated that she treasures her personal experiences with Rowling and hopes to maintain love and respect for those with whom she disagrees. This comes amid ongoing tensions over Rowling's controversial views on transgender rights, which have led to public disagreements with Watson and other cast members.
6. <https://www.kboi.com/2025/09/30/j-k-rowling-responds-to-ongoing-rift-with-emma-watson-she-is-ignorant/> - J.K. Rowling has issued a sharp response to Emma Watson’s recent comments about their disagreement over transgender rights, accusing the actor of being 'ignorant of how ignorant she is.' The comments come after Watson’s appearance on a podcast, where she reflected on her personal relationship with the 'Harry Potter' author while distancing herself from Rowling’s public stance on gender issues. Rowling addressed the remarks in a detailed social media post, stating that Watson and her co-stars have every right to embrace gender identity ideology, but also criticised their public critiques of her views.