

## WLRN Transcript, Interview with Joey Brite, Edition 57: Radical Feminism 2020

Danielle WHITAKER: That was Enya with her song Only Time. Next up we'll hear excerpts of an interview Thistle did with *Can I Get a Witness?* producer, Joey Brite. Ms. Brite shared her top ten feminist success stories of 2020 with WLRN while describing how we can build the movement into 2021 and beyond. To hear the full WLRN interview with Joey, please click on our interviews tab on the WLRN wordpress site.

PETTERSEN: What are some of the wins from 2020 in the feminist movement?

BRITE: Well some of the wins - and I wanted to start with her, just like I did, almost started exactly with her - Jennifer Billick has probably, arguably one of the most important blogs in the world. She has been touted as sort of the world expert at this point in terms of the deep dive that she's done into the money. We always say "follow the money." I contacted Jennifer and I asked her to write about, in January of last year now, she started her blog called the 11th hour blog.com. She made her first blog post on January 23, and it was done as a means to confront the power structure behind the gender identity industry, and that's what people don't realize - This is an industry. And she said - it's not personal. This is all about commodifying us. In her own words she said, "I wanted to alert people that humanity is running out of time to act against the corporatist behind it. We are standing on the precipice, where our sex roots, as humans, are currently being colonized by the corporate state for profit. Humans are the last frontier, considering the corporatists that have already ravaged most of the globe, and so many other species. In order to dismantle and colonize humanity, our roots in sex must be broken. We have to be unmoored. And that is the process underway at this juncture in the guise of a human rights movement. We are in the 11th hour and must act quickly," and I think, and I may harken back to that, I think that that, if anything that we saw at the end of 2019, where you had Lierre Keith on the podcast, talk about that we have to act quickly, and one of the things that I wanted to say is, get off Facebook, get off social media, make the connections that you need to there, and then take action. We can no longer be looking at the wax my balls guys and the ones with bad wigs and dresses. Who cares? We know they exist. While you're busy spending your time doing that, they're creating legislation. So learn how to organize, that's what I'd like to say about that.

One of the wonderful things that happened and it came out of 'Can I Get a Witness?' as well, I mean, Sasha Ayad out of Texas has been working diligently, since she has

been working with gender dysphoric youth for years now. She joined with Stella O'Malley, and they've launched a new podcast called Gender: A Wider Lens. It launched on December 18th, and it's exploring gender, identity, and transition from a psychological perspective...and we all know that the affirm, affirm, affirm model doesn't even go into what all the other underlying issues are that come up for gender dysphoric youth so, that again, it's called a Gender: A Wider Lens...and I know these links will be included along with this [podcast] later.

From MK Fain who created Spinster, she said that, "shortly after the 'Can I Get a Witness?' conference, we launched the 2.0 version of Spinster and we now have over 15,000 users. Also, someone who saw my talk at 'Can I Get a Witness?' reached out to help fund the creation of a nonprofit dedicated to protecting women's freedom online. There's not much to say about it right now, we're still in the very early stages, but I believe it will launch in early 2021."

From Brazil, a Eugenia Rodrigues created a website, No Corpo Certo, which is "born in the right body" - or "In the Right Body". She sent me this and said that, "the Brazilian ministry published a statement against early interventions from trans medicine." She says, "I talked briefly about this statement and the letter to Keira Bell, I wrote to our campaign for No Corpo Certo." Another thing out of Brazil: Brazilian Congress passed a law to avoid harassment against women in politics. There is a whole link to that law project. If you want to see more, go to [NoCorpoCerto.com](http://NoCorpoCerto.com); You'll see what's happening in Brazil.

From Kara Dansky: Kara said the WHRC, which is the women's human rights campaign - I have a whole list of the countries and everything, wonderful launch. As a matter of fact, I will - as of this recording, WHRC, across the globe, there are 32 countries who have joined. I'm going to run through them quickly, if there's anybody that you think I miss...Argentina, Australia, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and of course, in the USA. The WHRC USA distributed their version for the Equality for All Act, which was an alternative to the current Equality Act. Now, this stuff can be seen on the WHRC website, links will be put up to that. The other thing that Kara spoke about, is that she said, we filed this amicus brief in the case of Hecox vs Little in the 9th District Court - Circuit Court of Appeals. So all of this, and signing on, and getting people to sign on to the Women's Declaration of Sex Based Rights - really important, lots going on there, a lot going on. And actually after listing all those countries -

The other thing that I wanted to say is that the LGB Alliance, out of the UK, they really went hard this past year, and we've got a whopping 15 - again, as of this recording and still growing - 15 LGB alliances have popped up across the globe, with several joining in the coming months. There's an LGB Alliance Canada, LGB Alliance Ireland, LGB Alliance USA, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Iceland, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Wales, Australia, Serbia, and now we also have Germany. So the original LGB alliance that spawned this plethora of sister organizations around the globe. In December, Polish LGB Alliance was formed. The Polish feminists and activists concerned about the harmful elements of transgenderism and its impact on women and homosexuals gave a good pushback on the leftist misogyny and homophobia occurring within the movement. As reporter KS Jolly reported for Feminist Current in a year-end article, she said, "The sheer scale of the protests have drawn international wonder and admiration. It's hard to disagree with the New Yorkers assessment, these protests are starting to feel like a revolution. Woot woot! *:laughs:*

One of the highlights for me, and I think maybe for you as well, Thistle, and so many people that would be seeing this, and particularly women, is that almost at the moment of lockdown, two women get together and they decide, we got to get something going, we've got to get something going online, and we're going to do it weekly. It's out of London. We're going to credit Jo Brew and Bernadette O'Malley for coming up with this idea of the Women's Human Rights Campaign, inviting women from around the world every Saturday - and here I am in California, I have to wake up sometimes 6:30, wipe my eyes out if I want to see it live; That's if I want to chat with other people on the side - the free zoom events that they set up practically the moment that lockdown started... was it April? I forget the first one.

PETTERSEN: Yeah, it was right around that time. 'The Feminist Question Time' is what they call it. I love the title of that show, too, and the live aspect.

BRITE: Yeah.

PETTERSEN: It feels like a good old fashioned radio show where you feel the audience, and it's fantastic, and it was exactly what we needed at that time because all of us were responding to the coronavirus and having to lock down. So -

BRITE: It was so prescient, I thought of them, and what I did was I did a little interview with Jo Brew; I asked her some questions, and so I'm just going to go through that.

I asked whose idea it was, and she told me herself and Bernadette...And the tech team they had to get together - I said, "What obstacles did you have in the conception and the production?" She said, "Paying for the Zoom webinar subscription is quite expensive so we have to raise money to support this." I know this from the expenses that I had to do for 'Can I Get a Witness?' I won't even go into the production stuff on that was off the charts. Ate up every stimulus payment that I ever got *:laughs:* in the United States. She said, "...thinking of that format that would work well for women from as many parts of the world as possible." I said, "What has been the most exciting and/or surprising thing that has occurred in the webinars - with the webinars?" She said, "It's exciting that many women who are isolated have now found a space to network. The chat function changes the dynamics of an event because instead of being rude, chatting adds a new complimentary element to the webinars." I said, "What might be planned for 2021, that either wasn't done in 2020." She said, "Lobbying of the United Nations, and networking around the CSW." I didn't ask her what that was. Do you know what the CSW is?

PETTERSEN: Commission on the Status of Women.

BRITE: There we go. Also actions around the Olympics and summer 2021. I said, "What is the biggest ongoing challenge for the weekly zoom meetings?" "Making the webinars, international is hard. 3pm on Saturday GMT is the middle of the night in Southeast Asia, and in Australia." And that is, if you - if nobody has seen these webinars that are coming out of the WHRC, you can see on their own YouTube channel, they will put these up later on, and there are a plethora of these now, you just see women from around the world, it's amazing. Again it is English speaking, so sometimes what's really amazing is seeing somebody from Serbia or whatever, speaking English and you know that it's not their first language. The patience that's there... Jo Brew is one of the most incredible moderators that I have experienced around all this stuff.

Another wonderful thing that came out of the US is the Women's Liberation Front, WoLF. In January and February, Women's Liberation Front hosted two conferences, challenging the misogyny of the modern LGBT movement. Their bold criticisms of the misogyny and incoherence of transgender ideology provoked an internet firestorm resulting in calls for the Seattle Public Library to breach the First Amendment and cancel one of the talks, the women of wolf we're not coward, however - were not cowed - and continued to push this issue to the forefront of American politics, conditioning public opinion polls that show majority support for women's spaces and

working with state legislators to protect women's rights. By the end of the year, WoLF's efforts were rewarded with democratic legislator Tulsi Gabbard introduced a house bill to keep women's sports in sex-segregated public schools and colleges, which leads me to the sports news that we had, which was the World Rugby Association. In October, they they banned men who identify as women - of course this is my phrasing, as we're all trying to move away from the oppressors language, right? Everywhere, universally. I know that it's something that many of us have spoken about, and we continue to, and it's changing more people as we take back language, because the language is so important, because we know that changing language, and how it's changing in the dictionary even, that women are now broken into categories; The word woman is already- these are the things that become law. And so we have to pay very close attention to stuff. The minute that we see legislation going through, we have to act on things, because it affects everything so... In October, the World Rugby was - decided to ban men who identify as women from competing with elite women at the international level. This is the first World Sports Federation to break with the international Olympic Committee, which is the IOC, and this is the position that is based on the game, due to the stakes, that are very high for the risks of injury. World Rugby has become the first International Sports Federation to adopt such a policy after finding, "at least a 20 to 30% greater risk-to-injury factors when a female player is tackled by someone who has gone through male puberty."

And then the other thing around sports was exciting - one month later, Save Women's Sports in AustralAsia - it's not just Australia, it includes other, you know - I think that Tasmania, I believe, falls into that, I could be wrong. I'm sure you'll see comments later in the post but - Save Women's Sports AustralAsia was launched. I got that from the Save Women's Sports - actually Linda Blade, out of Canada. One of the most tremendous, of course, when you asked me about this and you said, y'know, you wanted to come up - wanted me to come up with about 10 things that happened, and they had to happen in 2020. And I thought of course the two big things was World Rugby, and of course the Kiera Bell case and Mrs. A case out of Tavistock. This was amazing. I mean, it's like so many of these things that have gone on where women have written and said, y'know, 'this made me sane again.' This is incredible, but... Kiera Bell and Mrs. A vs Tavistock Gender Clinic and Portmann NHS, which is the National Health System in the UK. "Children under 16 with gender dysphoria are unlikely to be able to give informed consent to undergo treatment with puberty blocking drugs," the three High Court judges ruled. This was on December 1st, so right towards the end of the year, and everybody went like, what a great way to end the year, right? The NHS said, "The case brought against Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust, which said it was disappointed, but immediately suspended such referrals for under 16s." And they

started to change the language on the websites and everything, and the horrible organization mermaids, they came up with no proof, they admitted that everything they had was anecdotal - they were not prepared for this. The NHS said it "welcomed the charity the ruling would bring." One of the claimants, Kiera Bell, said she was delighted by the judgment. Ms. Bell, 23, from Cambridge, had been referred to the Tavistock Center, which runs the UK's only gender identity development services, also known as GIDS. She was there as a teenager and was prescribed puberty blockers at age 16. She argued the clinic should have challenged her more over her decision - that's where the psychotherapy, that's where the, y'know - don't go for affirmation - they should have challenged her more over her decision to transition to a male as a teenager. In the ruling, Dame Victoria Sharp, sitting with Lord Justice Louis and Mrs. Justice Levin - don't know if I'm pronouncing it correctly - said, "It is highly unlikely that a child, aged 13 or under, could be competent - would be competent - to give consent to the administration of puberty blockers." It's one point. "It's also doubtful that a child, aged 14 or 15, could understand and weigh the long term risks and consequences of the administration of puberty blockers." And then they added, "In respect of young persons 16 and over, the legal position is that there is a presumption that they have the ability to consent to medical treatment. Now of course, nobody's, y'know, thrilled about the 16 and up thing, but, you know, it's another battle, isn't it? It's going to be something else. This was huge.

On the lighter note, I want to say there's an incredible - you know, we know that there were lots of wins out of the UK. I mean I think that the UK, in a big part, has been our litmus test for what we need to be watching out for here.

PETTERSEN: TERF Island!

BRITE: "TERF Island" I love that *:laughing:* but they don't surf over there much, do they? *:laughs:* Let's go terfin' now? Okay. Anyway, my favorite quote is from journalist Josephine Bartosch out of the UK. First of all, hail, hail to Josephine Bartosch. She has written for a variety of publications, multitude of articles going after these gas-lighting freaks. My favorite quote of the year came from her in terms of a journalist. She had many great articles, like I said, and this one, she said, "Biological sex cannot be changed by clothes or pronouns any more than a pair of Christmas antlers makes one a reindeer. Love it!

PETTERSEN: *:laughs:* That's wonderful!

BRITE: On the other positive side, and they're just two of these that I'm going to mention - we know that a plethora of YouTube videos are coming out, they're really just in diary form, of these detransitioners or rather, these women, most of them are very young, who decided to start going on, either puberty blockers to cross hormones, which is a given, and then right to double mastectomies, which got this cool phrase of 'top surgery' - no, they're double mastectomies, radical mastectomies. And they didn't go anywhere - transition means to go somewhere - all they did was start to take on an identity, which many, many lesbians have done throughout time. I mean some lesbians have passed as men in different ways for time. There's nothing to really go away from other than these young women that are saying - they're called detransitioners but they've literally - they're stopping the hormones to try to start the process of getting back, you know, really, their natural body without being medicalized, without taking drugs. It's not really different than, you know, deciding that you're going to go off of other drugs and you're in recovery. So a lot of these young women, I would say their recovery, and tons of YouTube channels, we have seen pop up. And many of those - what I like is that many of those young women, if they can get away from just doing the daily diary of their thing and and really move again to activism and connect up with other women, if they are in fact - whether they're lesbians or not - that they connect with other female role models that they realize are out there in the world, they can feel good about their bodies. It all goes back to feminism, is my feeling around that. It's the idea of - once you build that core of self-love, and you accept your body and - it goes back to Jennifer Bilick's work in that - bring back Jennifer again because I didn't realize how many of these women, like Lierre Keith also, come out of this - The Green Resistance movement; The attachment to nature; The attachment again and the birthing movement that Courtney CatEarth - I've learned so much from her - about that centering of, you know, woman-ness, if you will or femaleness.

And the thing is with all these things going on in 2020, it really woke up a huge number of people, if you can tell, and why do I say that? Because - I don't know where she's located, but - this woman named Karen Davis comes out of nowhere to me. She's got a YouTube channel with - she's got almost 4000 subscribers at this point, and I hope by the time that people see this... she's got a channel called "You're Kiddin', Right?" *:laughs:* That's it. "You're Kiddin', Right?" Almost with 4000 subscribers. Take that up there. I have to mention one more person, and I'll tell you why I picked these two YouTubers out of all of these YouTubers that have been talking about this gender ideology gaslighting - The first gay man that I know that has been doing like, on the ground, oh my god, using his skills that he has with tech. Not only that, because he's been an actor. Out of the UK, out of London, is a guy named - he goes by Mr. Meno. That is the name of his YouTube channel. He's got just a little over 2000 subscribers

but he gained them very quickly. He's got a puberty blockers song, and that's literally what it's called. So between Karen Davis and Mr. Meno, why I picked them is because they have combined incredibly serious subject matter with humor, and it's worked to great effect. It's growing - it helps to grow a movement when we have different kinds of things, whether it's media that involves music - you well know that, you have been doing that, Thistle, for a long time. Bringing in music, bringing in art, and in this way, y'know, him with his tech skills, Karen just talking, like, for real, just - she's for real. And these people, again, for me, it's like they kind of came out of nowhere and they're doing amazing work... because again, it builds more attention and people go, what's going on? What *is* going on? ...and because I think - d'you think, Thistle, that most of the population, really has no idea, and it's the parents... Besides - the lesbians were first - they never listened to us so... I'm screaming about this for years but, y'know, we don't get listened to.

There were lots of notable medical highlights that came out of 2020, and I got this from Twitter, and the SEGM - S E G M, I got this from their Twitter. They said, "Following the 2019 review by Professor Carl Hennigan, which concluded that there is no quality evidence base to support the use of hormonal and surgical interventions in young people, two systematic reviews - one from England, the other from Sweden - came to similar conclusions." Consequently, Finland became the first country in 2020 to issue new guidelines for treatment of gender dysphoria for young people. That's just one piece of something, so they're talking about Finland. In Sweden, broad coverage of the controversy, including the documentary *The Trans Train*, produced by Sweden's National Public Television broadcaster, appears to have decreased demand - decreased demand - for gender reassignment among teens.

PETTERSEN: Awesome!

BRITE: ...Which began to decline significantly in late 2019 so this is something that they got to see in 2020, so that's a nice thing. In the US, the issue of adolescent onset gender dysphoria was brought to the attention of the general audience by Abigail Schreier; *Irreversible Damage*, chosen by *The Economist* as one of its books of the year. Abigail has handled the way that she's had trolls go after her, after her book, everything - with a grace and a beauty that is only, I would say, equal to, JK Rowling. There's another thing that I have to mention. We saw in, going back to December 2019 when JK Rowling put out her famous tweet, you know, dress how you want, blah blah blah, right? And then the attacks happen, and she was kind of quiet for a while and she's working on *The Icabod* all this summer. She got trashed so badly. She came out with an essay in June. Everybody can see JK Rowling's essay online. It is beautiful.



She's much kinder than I am about certain things, when they talk about y'know, feminists not being kind? She's incredibly kind. The way that she speaks, and everything about that. And actually, I lost a 20-year friendship out of that, I'll just throw that in as a personal note. I know I'm not the only one. I see this going on on social media all over. Because of "Can I Get a Witness?" and like I've said, Thistle, I've gotten emails, I opened up, sometimes, my DMs and Facebook, I'm brought to tears because women are still, you know, realizing that the strides that we make - There'll be like a slump and then maybe two more things come forward that are just beautiful. These are nuggets right? And a lot of these things come - we have to continue fighting them. The thing that I wanted to end with in terms of - beautiful, this beautiful thing happened in 2020. From a standpoint of being an activist - and I know I mentioned earlier, I'm sort of telling people, get offline and get to some action! You know, join with people - first we have to be online to connect, but then do something. There's a young woman out of Israel, the work of Alex Aaron. Out of Israel comes one of the more formidable campaigners of women's rights. Alex has taken on surrogacy, dangerous policies taking place against women in the Israeli Defense Force, known as the IDF. And she has also created one of the most radically powerful, ongoing, interactive, tracking systems of gender clinics across the globe. 2021, let's rock it, be careful with your pocket, be careful with what you say yes to. And these relationships that we're forming are powerful. They're really powerful so let's keep building it. Thank you, Thistle.