

Helen Staniland

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Semantic Summary

British Sex Matters director (since Feb 2024) alongside Maya Forstater, Helen Joyce, and Fiona McAnena. Lowest public profile of the Sex Matters leadership — organisational/policy role rather than media spokesperson. Connected to the Sex Matters network and broader UK gender-critical movement (JK Rowling funding, LGB Alliance, For Women Scotland). Represents the operational backbone of the UK's most politically influential anti-trans organisation.

Overview

- **Full Name:** Helen Staniland
- **Role:** Director at Sex Matters
- **Nationality:** British
- **Known For:** Policy and legal advocacy through Sex Matters

Background

Helen Staniland is one of the directors at Sex Matters, working alongside Maya Forstater, Helen Joyce, and Fiona McAnena. She has a lower public profile than other Sex Matters directors and appears to operate primarily in organisational and policy roles rather than as a public-facing spokesperson.

Timeline

- **2024:** Joined Sex Matters as director (announced Feb 2024: "Sex Matters welcomes two new team members" alongside Fiona McAnena)
- **2025-2026:** Active in Sex Matters' policy and legal work

Ideology & Positions

- Gender-critical feminism aligned with Sex Matters' core positions: opposition to self-ID, advocacy for single-sex services, opposition to conversion therapy bans
- Lower public profile suggests operational/policy focus rather than media-facing role

Funding & Affiliations

- **Sex Matters** — director
- Part of the interconnected UK gender-critical network

Online Presence & Reach

- Limited public presence — does not appear to have a prominent X/Twitter account or media profile
- Role at Sex Matters is organisational rather than public-facing

Sources

- [Sex Matters — "Sex Matters welcomes two new team members" \(Feb 2024\)](#)
- [Lemkin Institute — "Behind the ruling: how Sex Matters is shaping UK policy on trans rights" \(Jun 2025\)](#)

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