

Michael Knowles

Michael Knowles

Semantic Summary

American Daily Wire host and CPAC speaker. Infamous 2023 CPAC speech calling for transgenderism to be "eradicated from public life entirely." Catholic traditionalist framework: gender is divinely ordered, transition violates natural law. Colleague of Matt Walsh at Daily Wire (Ben Shapiro's media company). Represents US conservative intellectual anti-trans wing — distinct from UK gender-critical feminism in its religious rather than feminist framing. Connected to CPAC (same funding network as Posie Parker), US evangelical anti-LGBTQ+ infrastructure.

Overview

- **Full Name:** Michael Knowles
- **Role:** Conservative commentator, Daily Wire host, author
- **Nationality:** American
- **Known For:** "Transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely" — CPAC 2023 speech; Daily Wire podcast host; Catholic traditionalist

Background

Michael Knowles is a conservative political commentator and host at The Daily Wire, the right-wing media company co-founded by Ben Shapiro. He hosts *The Michael Knowles Show* and is a regular speaker at CPAC and conservative events. He represents the US conservative intellectual wing of anti-trans activism — framing opposition to trans rights as a philosophical and moral position rooted in Catholic natural law, rather than the feminist framework used by UK gender-critical activists.

Timeline

- **2016-present:** Host at The Daily Wire

- **2017:** Published *Reasons to Vote for Democrats: A Comprehensive Guide* (satirical empty book)
- **2019:** Debated transgender rights at various universities
- **Mar 2023:** CPAC speech — "Transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely in every institution" — widely condemned by HRC and Rolling Stone
- **2024-2026:** Continued Daily Wire hosting; regular anti-trans content

Ideology & Positions

- Core statement: "Transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely" (CPAC 2023)
- Catholic traditionalist framework: gender is divinely ordered; transition is a rejection of natural law
- Distinction: claims to oppose "transgenderism" (the ideology) not trans people individually — critics note this is a distinction without a difference
- Broader conservative positions: anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ+, pro-Trump

Funding & Affiliations

- **The Daily Wire** — host (Ben Shapiro's media company)
- **CPAC** — regular speaker
- **Young America's Foundation** — university speaking circuit

Online Presence & Reach

- **The Daily Wire:** Daily podcast, millions of listeners
- **X/Twitter:** Active — Daily Wire personality
- **CPAC:** Major platform — 2023 "eradicate" speech became a defining moment
- Web search (Jul 2026): HRC press release documented "hatred at root of vile legislation targeting trans people" at CPAC

Controversies & Criticism

- **"Eradicated" speech (CPAC 2023):** Rolling Stone coverage — "CPAC Speaker Calls for Transgender People to Be 'Eradicated'"
- **HRC condemnation:** Human Rights Campaign documented Knowles' speech as part of "extremists at CPAC [who] laid bare hatred at root of vile legislation targeting trans people"

- **Genocide rhetoric:** Critics argue "eradicate from public life" is eliminationist language that echoes fascist rhetoric
- **ACSLaw analysis:** "We Are All Transgender Now: On Resisting Tyranny" — legal analysis of how Knowles-style rhetoric translates into policy

Sources

- [Rolling Stone — "CPAC Speaker Calls for Transgender People to Be 'Eradicated'" \(Mar 2023\)](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign — "Extremists at CPAC Laid Bare Hatred" \(Mar 2023\)](#)
- [American Constitution Society — "We Are All Transgender Now: On Resisting Tyranny" \(Mar 2023\)](#)
- Web search: "Michael Knowles Daily Wire anti-trans CPAC" (Jul 2026)

Revision #1

Created 2026-08-21 11:57:56 UTC by Admin

Updated 2026-08-21 11:57:56 UTC by Admin