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PRESS RELEASE - 21 APRIL 2005 GENDER RECOGNITION ACT LITIGANT GOES POLITICAL

John Allman, a litigant in an ongoing Human Rights Act-based Judicial Review case challenging the Gender Recognition Act first brought in February 2005, against the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, in which case a hearing might possibly take place *during the election campaign period*, or just afterwards, is standing for Parliament as one of the Alliance For Change candidates, raising as an election issue the same issue as is being raised in the court case.

The candidate's election address mailing includes the following text:

I'd also like to mention that I am presently taking the Secretary of State For Constitutional Affairs to court, challenging the Gender Recognition Act. I think that you should have the right to know if somebody you are planning getting married to has had a "sex change". Don't you?

This candidate is <u>not</u> a "single issue" candidate, "obsessed" with this one particular human rights issue. His election address leaflet (copy available on request) is actually quite balanced and wide-ranging.

The candidate states: "It is plainly iniquitous to implement a law saying that a bridegroom, for example, has no right to *know* that his bride is really another man, who, because he was suffering from the 'mental illness' of 'gender dysphoria', has had medical treatment, including genital surgery, to disguise his true birth gender, and on whose behalf a government agency has issued a falsified birth certificate, falsely stating that the bride is a real woman. It's simply not fair. In my view, a person's gender is <u>not</u> something that can *really* be changed. Even if gender *were* something that *could* be changed, in any scientifically meaningful sense, people like me should *still* have their strong personal and religious beliefs, that gender cannot *really* be changed, respected, especially when not to respect their beliefs might affect their own private and family lives, even in their own bedrooms."

"The plot of the movie Weapons of Mass Distraction revolved around the tragic plight of a fictitious male character who discovered, to his horror, that he had 'married' a 'transgendered' male unawares, thinking mistakenly that he had married a real woman. Anybody who has been following the Big Brother TV programme should know that this could easily happen in the UK in *real life*, to *anybody*, if the Gender Recogition Act is implemented. That would not be *fair*. The Act leaves utterly defenceless those who merely want to be *allowed to care* what sex their spouses really are, and to be protected from suffering the deception which the fictitious character in the movie suffered. The Act means that practically nobody with the candidate's beliefs (e.g. Moslems, Jews, Christians, and politically incorrect *scientists*) can safely get married *at all*. Hence the essential legal challenge now underway."

For more information, please contact the candidate himself in the first instance, at <u>John.Allman@AllianceForChange.co.uk</u>, or using phone number **+44 7930 519793**, with a view to liaising subsequently directly with the candidate's solicitor.

John Allman

Convenor, The Alliance For Change