

Court decision finds use of “groomer” slur against drag performers to be rhetoric based on hurtful, and hateful myths and stereotypes

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Toronto, ON – A decision from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in a case that Egale Canada has intervened in found that the term “groomer” is a slur that is used to “allege that drag performers sexualize children and aim to recruit them into the 2SLGBTQI community.” The court ruled that “perpetuating such stereotypes and myths about members of the 2SLGBTQI community is not public interest speech.” The defamation suit by a drag performer and a 2SLGBTQI community organization against an individual who publicly called them “groomers” will continue to trial.

This is an important decision for 2SLGBTQI communities that comes at a time when we are facing unprecedented levels of hate, harassment, and violence fuelled by the spread of misinformation and disinformation. As noted in the court's decision, the term “groomer” is a slur used against drag performers that is “rhetoric based on hurtful, and hateful myths and stereotypes...”

Egale’s intervention argued that because false and baseless accusations of pedophilia have been weaponized against 2SLGBTQI people to deny members of our communities equal rights and opportunities for decades, the law must protect people being targeted by these homophobic and transphobic myths.

[For more information on the case, visit our website at egale.ca.](https://egale.ca)

Quotes

“This decision includes the crucial finding that the term “groomer” is a slur used against 2SLGBTQI communities that is ‘rhetoric based on hurtful, and hateful myths and stereotypes...’ Throughout 2023 we saw an undeniable rise in anti-2SLGBTQI and anti-trans hate fuelled by the spread of misinformation and disinformation – this is why it is so important to combat these hateful and harmful myths.” — Bennett Jensen, Director of Legal, Egale Canada

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Joan Wilson, Egale Canada
jwilson@egale.ca
416-946-6759