

Transcript of interview

Greer: I was going to talk about women in power the lesson of the 21-century because I think there is a lot of triumphalist talk that masks the true historical situation. And apparently people have decided that because I don't think that post-operative transgender men are woman. I'm not to be allowed to talk.

Reporter: But surely if a man feels like he would like gender reassignment to make him her feel more comfortable in her body then that's what should be done. They should be allowed to do that.

Greer: I'm not saying that people should not be allowed to go through that procedure. What I am saying is that it doesn't make them a woman. It happens to be an opinion; it's not a prohibition. Carry on if that is what you think you want to do. I've been accused of inciting violence against transsexual people. That is absolute nonsense.

Reporter: Do you feel that the transgender community has too big a voice –are they too strident like the feminist community was accused of?

Greer: Ah but they very seldom were strident alas. I think that a great many women don't think post-operative or non-post-operative male to female transsexual people look like, sound like, or behave like women but they dare not say that.

Reporter: Just because they dare not say that doesn't mean that a transgender person can't feel like that and feels more comfortable with them selves.

Greer: Yes but so what? That is not my issue I don't even talk about it. Not every one does feel comfortable by the way postoperatively. There have been a couple of cases I found very interesting where the actual acceptor of the procedure has felt that it has been a disaster.

Reporter: But for those who do not feel it has been a disaster, and feel more comfortable then do you understand how they might feel that you have been hurtful towards them.

Greer: People are hurtful to me all the time. Try being an old woman. For goodness sake, people get hurt all the time. I am not about to walk on eggshells.

Reporter: You believe in free speech no matter what?

Greer: Well not quite “no matter what”. You don’t have to say everything that is in your mind. With someone who wished to be known as female, I would use female speech forms as a courtesy.

Reporter: Now though, people who are intersex are feeling a little more confident about coming forward and a level of acceptance but for example a woman who outwardly has female genitalia but inside has testicles and doesn’t wish to have them. She should be allowed to remove these?

Greer: We remove undescended testicles from men because they are dangerous. I am sure they would not be allowed to lurk. I think that would be problem I mean physically a problem. But then it is also a problem if what you have to do after gender reassignment is use steroids everyday of your life. That is not a happy outcome either.

Reporter: But it may be a happy outcome for them and they may feel that you are in a way denigrating them for taking that road.

Greer: I don’t even talk about them. They are not my issue. I haven’t published anything about transgendered people for years

Reporter: So how do you feel about the idea that your own college is thinking about not giving you an honorary doctorate apparently because of what you have said about the transgender community?

Greer: There have been two votes at my college on the question of whether I should have an honorary degree, and I’m not going to get one they’ve been turned down which is thought by some people to be astonishing, but not by me

Reporter: Someone like Caitlyn Jenner for example, who is getting an award for glamour women of the year. What do you think about that?

Greer: I think it’s misogynist. Misogyny plays a really big part in all of this -that a man who goes to these lengths will be a better woman than some one who is just born a woman.

Reporter: If he feels more female

Greer: It seems to me that what was going on there was that he/she wanted the limelight that the other female members of the family were enjoying and has conquered it just like that.

Reporter: Will Young has a new video out I don't think you've seen where a transgendered person is going down a road and is abused. Reasonable position?

Greer: Am I mistaken in thinking that this individual is running naked down the road with his hands over his/her genitals. You try running with your sagging breast down the fucking street people will throw a blanket over you and grab you and call the police for fucks sake It is simply not true that intersexual people suffer in a way that other people don't suffer.

Reporter: Would you ever consider saying something more ameliorating?

Greer: NO I'm getting fed up with this you know I've had things thrown at me I've been accused of things I have never done or said. People seem to have no concern about evidence indeed even about libel.

Reporter: If a man is gender reassigned and he feels inwardly as a woman, in your view can he be a woman or not

Greer: NO

Reporter: Do you understand how people view that as insulting?

Greer: I don't care. People get insulted all the time. Australian's get insulted every day of the week.

Reporter: If your safety is guaranteed, will you go to Cardiff?

Greer: I'm getting a bit old for all this I'm 76 I don't want to go down there and be screamed at and have things thrown at me. Bugger it. It's not that interesting or rewarding.