

## **Statement in Support of Professor Rachel McKinnon**

One of our departmental colleagues, Professor Rachel McKinnon, has recently been the target of online abuse and harassment as a result of some videos she has posted about transgender issues. The comments and messages she has received have included the relentless use of male pronouns, the questioning of her qualifications to teach, and even accusations of pedophilia.

Professor McKinnon is an established scholar with well-defined research and teaching interests in transgender issues. Her work is obviously an area of legitimate intellectual inquiry and is fully protected by academic freedom. Any disagreement with her claims should take the form of substantive, intellectually responsible argument. The abusive and harassing responses she has received do not even approach this standard. Such responses are inimical to the values expressed in our Affirmation of Academic Freedom (posted 31 January 2017), and our department condemns them in the strongest possible terms.