

**From:** "Frédéric Mégret, Prof." <frederic.megret@mcgill.ca>

**Date:** January 7, 2023 at 1:17:05 PM EST

**To:** LAWPROFS@lists.mcgill.ca

**Subject:** **Professor Wintemute's talk**

**Reply-To:** "Frédéric Mégret, Prof." <frederic.megret@MCGILL.CA>

Dear colleagues,

Some of you may by now have heard that the invitation of Robert Wintemute to give a talk at the Centre for Human Rights Legal Pluralism entitled "The Sex vs. Gender (Identity) Debate in the United Kingdom and the Divorce of LGBT from T" has elicited significant pushback, notably from McGill's trans community. Professor Wintemute had suggested the talk and the theme, and after reflection we decided that this would be a conversation worth having at the Centre, especially in light of the disagreement such views may provoke. We have invited [Professor Wintemute](#) as a Professor of Human Rights at King's College London for 30 years with a [considerable record of scholarship on gender discrimination](#) and of experience litigating and participating in 15 successful cases alleging discrimination against LGBT individuals before the European Court of Human Rights. Professor Wintemute has in recent years thought about how easy it should be to change legal sex in UK law, whether there may be exceptional situations where one's birth sex should trump one's legal sex, and whether the LGBT and T causes should be split. This will be the broad topic of his reflections based on a talk he has already given without incident at King's College London, Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, and the Università di Bologna (Forlì). Professor Wintemute is also a trustee of a controversial charity, LGBT Alliance, but is not coming in this capacity or as a spokesperson. We have hosted him in the past on an unrelated issue and found him to be an engaging and reflexive academic speaker.

Hosting this event in no way means that the Centre endorses Professor Wintemute's wide ranging views on these issues, let alone the views of LGBT Alliance. Shauna will be chairing and Darren will act as commentator. We have encouraged all those disagreeing with Professor Wintemute's views on this issue, including members of the trans community, to come and voice their disagreement, in the spirit of academic exchange. Please feel free to share this message to people reaching out.

Best,

Nandini & Fred