

Statement from the Board of the Harry Potter Academic Conference



The Board of the Harry Potter Academic Conference (HPAC) firmly and unequivocally condemns the anti-transgender prejudice of the series' author and her most recent hateful boasting about the UK Supreme Court ruling that attempts to legally erase trans women. For many fans, it's devastating to try to reconcile the creator of this beloved magical world and its message of inclusion with her support and amplification of beliefs, rhetoric, and judicial actions that cause uncalculated harm to trans and nonbinary people, including trans and nonbinary Potterheads and the people who love them.

Some now-former fans have walked away from the Harry Potter fandom in protest of the author's transphobia. But many LGBTQIA2S+ people and their allies still find a home at Hogwarts and at HPAC. As beloved member of the HPAC community Dr. Brent Satterly asks, where does "canceling" the series leave "the Half-Blood Fan," queer people and allies who still consider their Harry Potter fandom an important part of their identity and who still find value in engaging with the series?

HPAC has always been and will always be an open space for critical inquiry of the series and queering the Potterverse. We are a non-profit, academic entity with no formal or financial ties to the author or Warner Bros. Since the author made her politics clear, HPAC has firmly disavowed her and her beliefs through our words, our community, and our conference programming.

HPAC continues to exist in support of the Half-Blood Fan. Through our research, advocacy, and community, we maintain our immovable commitment to keeping our slice of the Potterverse a queer-safe space.

The Board maintains and nurtures the HPAC community in ways that put our collective relationships with each other first, in dignity and worth. We actively embrace our trans and nonbinary Potterheads, allowing space for grief, anger, joy, discourse, and healing. Our message to you, who may be struggling with how—or even whether—to engage with this conference: We love you, and we love the HPAC community we've built together. Nobody, not even the author, can take that away from us.

Mischief Managed.



harrypotterconference.com



harrypotterconference@gmail.com