

CASCADES FEMALE FACTORY FLASH MOB

Carrying on the spirit of the courageous women convicts in 2026

The World Heritage-listed Cascades Female Factory Historic Site, in South Hobart, Tasmania is an important legacy and record of the historical sex-based oppression of women and girl convicts.

The Cascades Female Factory Historic Site houses a photographic display, called the Wall of Women, of modern women who have experiential links to the female convicts who passed through the site. A portrait of a man is included in this display.

The man depicted claims the legal status “female” under the 2019 amendment to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act Tasmania 1999.

The man’s inclusion in this display is an egregious insult to every woman who suffered sex-based torture within the Factory’s walls.

We are calling on the Tasmanian Minister for Heritage, Madeleine Ogilvie, to remove the portrait of the man from the Wall of Women display on the basis of sex.

The historical oppression of women and girls, as depicted in the histories of female convicts at the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site (CFFHS), has routinely exploited female biology and reproductive life as a means of control and domination of women and girls.

From the almost ubiquitously common backstory of being prostituted as a 12-year-old girl, to being raped by “johns” and colonial employers, punished for pregnancy by rape, deprived of medical care in pregnancy, birth, and postpartum, forced separation of the mother-infant dyad, and social neglect and pariah status throughout their lives, the women convicts of the Cascades Female Factory experienced the worst of colonial brutality because of their sex-class.

It is an insult to the legacy of these women and girls to pretend any man who claims to be female could ever be subjected to these brutal forms of oppression which prey uniquely on the biology of women and girls to maintain their status as the lowest in society.

The legal status and definition of ‘woman’ is currently up for debate in Australia in cases such as Tickle vs Giggle. Self-identification legislation is the reason this is possible.

The man included in the Wall of Women display at the CFFHS was instrumental in lobbying for Sex Self-Identification legislation in Tasmania, which now permits any Tasmanian to retrospectively change the sex recorded on their birth certificate. He

additionally lobbied to add gender identity as a protected characteristic under anti-discrimination law, permitting any male to enter female-only spaces without challenge due to fear of legal repercussions.

The man claims to be a woman. Tasmanian legislation permits this legal fiction.

Any discrimination or prejudice a man experiences is as a gender non-conforming man, or a “transwoman”. To claim otherwise is to support the colonisation of the legal and social category and sex-class ‘woman’.

Pretending men can be women is a direct insult to every woman who has strived under threat of death, torture, or vilification for the recognition of women’s intrinsic humanity and dignity as a class of humans distinguished on the basis of sex.

We ask that the female convicts of the Cascades Female Factory be honoured by recognition that their experience was uniquely tied to their female biology and that no man can or will ever have an experience such as theirs.

Tasmanian women continue to have their voices silenced in relation to the issue of the colonisation of womanhood. This is a modern manifestation of the exact method of silencing of women convicts.

This action is aimed at targeting the institutional recognition of men as women, of which the man depicted in the portrait is but a public face and advocate.

We are calling on the Tasmanian Minister for Heritage, Madeleine Ogilvie, to respect the legacy of female convicts in Australia and to remove the portrait of a man from the Wall of Women display on the basis of sex.

Female Factory Flash Mob 2026