



Mika Minio-Paluello
@mikaminio

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There've been thousands of tweets full of hate, cruelty & attempts at ridicule directed at me this week. But it's #Pride weekend, queers are & always will be queers, and you can't erase us. Here's me & my kid having fun watching @AidaHDeeDrag story time at #Pride yesterday.



← Post

TUC Trades Union Congress @The_TUC · Jun 30, 2023

Today a member of TUC staff, Mika Minio-Paluello, is being subjected to anti-trans abuse online, because she is a mother.

This is unacceptable.

...

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11:57 PM · Jul 2, 2023 · 1.7M Views

21

601

2.7K

151



Who can reply?





Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



Love and joy and care - that's how I mother my child. And we're surrounded by a loving community of queers & allies, fighting for a better world for everybody.

So bullies can shout and insult and hate on us as much as you want. But ultimately, our love is greater than your hate.



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



This wave of anti-trans hate is a distraction from the actual issue I was interviewed about - we're being ripped off by privatised water companies, on top of profit-driven inflation and falling real wages. We need solidarity and powerful movements to build a more just society.



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



But it needs saying: Adoptive mothers are mothers. Lesbian mothers are mothers, whether they birthed the child or not. Step mothers are mothers. Trans women can be mothers.

It's not up to an MP or anyone else to march into a family & enforce what a child calls their parent.



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



There are now online calls for my child to be taken away.

"How dare there be two dads, or two mums - that's against biology. You're perverts!", they screamed.

"How dare there be a trans mother! It's impossible!", they scream.

JUST LEAVE QUEER FAMILIES ALONE





This wave of anti-trans hate is a distraction from the actual issue I was interviewed about - we're being ripped off by privatised water companies, on top of profit-driven inflation and falling real wages. We need solidarity and powerful movements to build a more just society.



1



77



743



328K



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023

But it needs saying: Adoptive mothers are mothers. Lesbian mothers are mothers, whether they birthed the child or not. Step mothers are mothers. Trans women can be mothers. It's not up to an MP or anyone else to march into a family & enforce what a child calls their parent.



1



223



1K



524K



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There are now online calls for my child to be taken away. "How dare there be two dads, or two mums - that's against biology. You're perverts!", they screamed. "How dare there be a trans mother! It's impossible!", they scream. JUST LEAVE QUEER FAMILIES ALONE

11:58 PM · Jul 2, 2023 · 777.4K Views



1



263



1.1K



15



Who can reply?

Accounts @mikaminio follows or mentioned can reply



Post



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023

Mothers get a tough ride. Childcare provision is a scandal. Maternity services are underfunded. There are so many terrible birth healthcare experiences. Maternity & paternity pay are horribly limited. Gender pay gaps persist. Sexual assault levels by men on women are horrific.



1



63



597



450K



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023

Mothers are always judged for our choices, made to feel guilty for not being perfect, told we shouldn't be working, or aren't working enough. Is this because trans women exist? Or is it because of institutional sexism & patriarchy, years of austerity and centuries of oppression?



1



155



668



490K



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



Okay now let's talk about the interview.

It was an interview about impacts of rising water bills on customers. It was not about impacts on women or mothers. The footage of washing up was because it was about water. [This is obvious to anybody who actually watched it!]



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



ITV: "Will Thames Water scandal impact people?" [They didn't ask about women]

Me: "Soaring bills will be really tough, especially for mothers." [cos you know - structural sexism].

Ppl on Twitter: "Who cares about high bills? The real problem is a trans woman says she's a mum!!"



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



Why did ITV caption me as a Thames Water customer? Good question. ITV contacted me on my TUC email, cc-ed TUC media team, I told them my role at TUC, and in the interview I said "I work for the TUC".

I spoke about how water privatisation threatens workers, customers, and nature.



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



To the people obsessing about how the washing up was done or the washing machine was filled - these were shots for the camera. They wanted running water - I washed the same plates 5 (!) times. The washing machine was not run with 6 items in it. Seriously?!



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



To the people obsessing about the breast pump in the clip - it's my housemate's, who has a 5 month old baby.

Multiple families can share a house.





1

28

463

504K



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023

To the people obsessing about how the washing up was done or the washing machine was filled - these were shots for the camera. They wanted running water - I washed the same plates 5 (!) times. The washing machine was not run with 6 items in it. Seriously?!

2

17

476

547K



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To the people obsessing about the breast pump in the clip - it's my housemate's, who has a 5 month old baby.
Multiple families can share a house.

11:58 PM · Jul 2, 2023 · 609.6K Views



Post

26

502

1



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Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023

But trans women can breastfeed, and I did breastfeed my child. Despite Pilgrim's odd tweet that I "simulated" breastfeeding, I used the standard protocol created for adoptive mothers - it works for trans or cis women. Two parents breastfeeding is actually very helpful & healthy!



Pilgrim Tucker ❤️ @PilgrimTucker · 2d

It's just too bloody ridiculous. Too far down the rabbit hole. Mika was simulating 'breastfeeding' a baby at some point recently, according to reliable mutuals, it's not sane or healthy.



Trades Union Congress @The_T... · 2d

Today a member of TUC staff, Mika Minio-Paluello, is being subjected to anti-trans abuse online, because she is a mother.

...

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669



376

1.2K

2.5M



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



In the end, I only breastfed my child for a few weeks. I then had to stop because I had a cancer relapse and didn't want to poison my child. Here's me on the bus to hospital for the 1st chemo round, feeding my child for the last time



4.6K

1.6K

41M



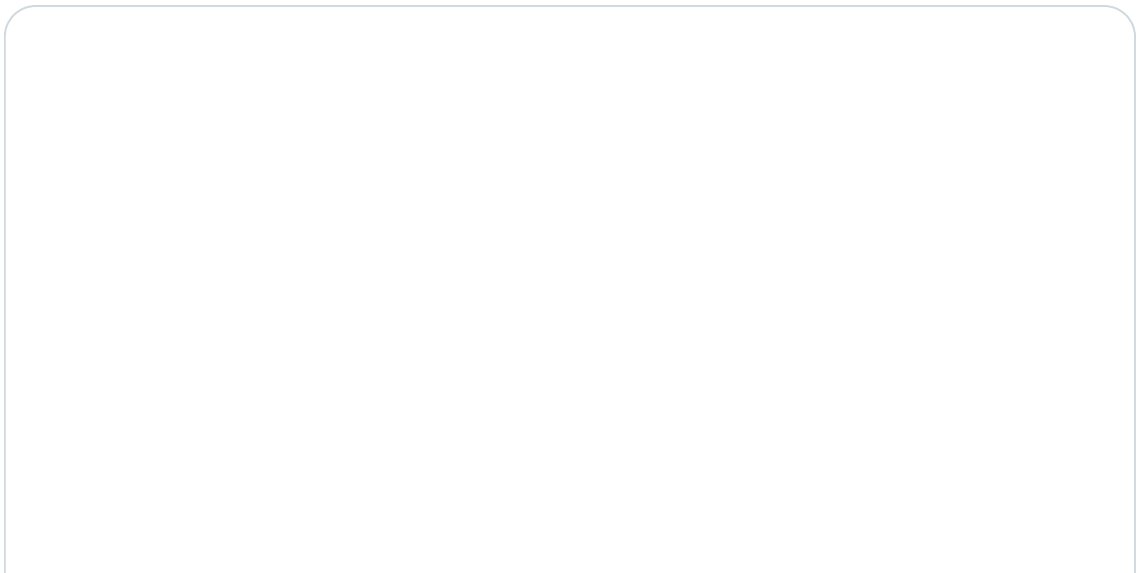


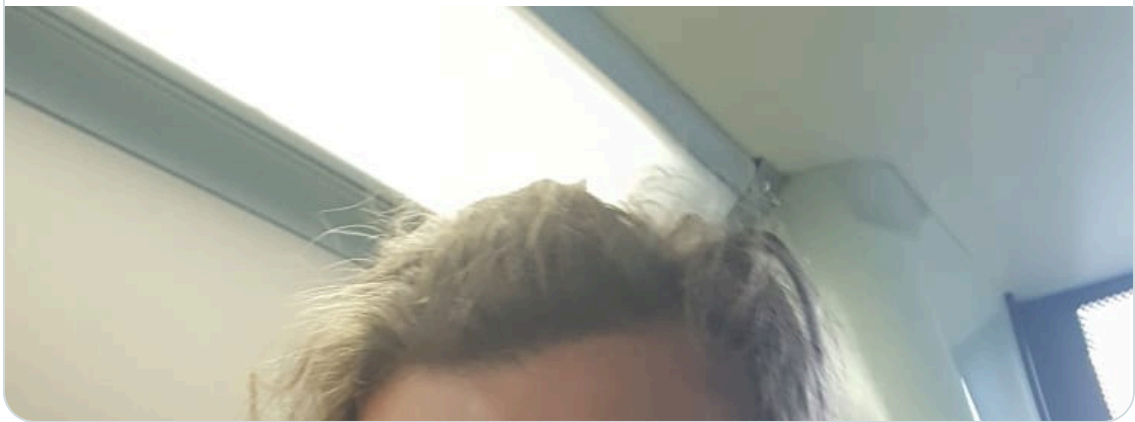
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11:58 PM · Jul 2, 2023 · 41.3M Views

← **Post**



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Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



Ultimately, the weird hate I've faced these past days -is a distraction from the real fight.

Water companies are ripping us off. Inflation soared with corporate profiteering. Real wages have fallen. Austerity has robbed us of safety nets. Nature and climate collapse is here.





1

174

1.1K

994K



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



That's the real fight.

Women, black people, disabled people, queers, workers (and especially those in the intersections) face the biggest burden.

Creating a safe, just, more equal society now and for our children - it's not easy, but it's possible.

1

142

967

1.1M



Mika Minio-Paluello @mikaminio · Jul 2, 2023



Obsessing about a trans mum being interviewed on TV about water bills - that's a classic right wing distraction tactic, to obscure the real struggle.

Don't do it and don't fall for it.

2

287

1.4K

1M

